

THEOS

SEARCH FOR THE ONE TRUE GOD

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Looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of faith, we can lift up our heads and hold fast the profession of our faith, for He is faithful that promised, "I will come again and receive you unto myself!" Rejoice then, and again I say, Rejoice! For your redemption draweth nigh. Perfect love casts our fear, and the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is love! In this is manifested the love of God toward us in that God sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him. Amen!

J.B. in Florida asked for any guidance in Scripture regarding cities and country living. With all the metro-violence in the news this is a timely topic. There are today and ever have been dangers in city dwelling:

Isaiah 5:8 **Woe unto them that join house to house**, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!

Genesis 19:15 Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; **lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city**. (Remember Lot's wife)

1Samuel 4:9 **the hand of the LORD was against the city** with a very great destruction: and he smote the men of the city, both small and great

1Samuel 30:3 his men **came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire**; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. (David experienced this first hand)

Job 24:12-16 **Men groan from out of the city**, and the soul of the wounded crieth out: yet God layeth not folly to them. 13 They are of those that rebel against the light; they know not the ways thereof, nor abide in the paths thereof. 14 The murderer rising with the light killeth the poor and needy, and in the night is as a thief. 15 The eye also of the adulterer waiteth for the twilight, saying, No eye shall see me: and disguiseth his face. 16 In the dark they dig through houses, which they had marked for themselves in the daytime: they know not the light. (Nothing has really changed)

Psalm 55:8-10 I would hasten my escape from the windy storm and tempest. 9 Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues: for **I have seen violence and strife in the city**. 10 Day and night they go about it upon the walls thereof: mischief also and sorrow are in the midst of it.

Psalm 59:5-7 Thou therefore, O LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel, awake to visit all the heathen: be not merciful to any wicked transgressors. Selah. 6 They return **at evening: they make a noise like a dog, and go round about the city**. 7 Behold, they belch out with their mouth: swords are in their lips: for who, say they, doth hear?

Isaiah 19:2-4 And I will set the Egyptians against the Egyptians: and **they shall fight every one against his brother, and every one against his neighbour; city against city, and kingdom against kingdom**. 3 And the spirit of Egypt shall fail in the midst thereof; and I will destroy the counsel thereof: and they shall seek to the idols, and to the charmers, and to them that have familiar spirits, and to the wizards. 4 And the Egyptians will I give over into the hand of a cruel lord; and a fierce king shall rule over them, saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts. (Satan is indeed a fierce king)

Isaiah 24:8-10 The mirth of tabrets ceaseth, the noise of them that rejoice endeth, the joy of the harp ceaseth. 9 They shall not drink wine with a song; strong drink shall be bitter to them that drink it. 10 **The city of confusion is broken down: every house is shut up, that no man may come in**. There is a crying for wine in the streets; all joy is darkened, the mirth of the land is gone. 12 **In the city is left desolation**, and the gate is smitten with destruction. (Sheltering in place comes to mind)

But hardship also comes in every place; likewise blessings come wherever you are...

2Corinthians 11:25,26 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, **in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness**, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

Deu 28:1] And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: 2 And all these blessings shall come on thee...3 **Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field.**

So, "I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content." Philippians 4:11. Because our heavenly Father is Lord of heaven and earth and He "has been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in Thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the cover of Thy wings." Psalm 61:3,4.

New Book!

Actually, a lot of new books. This is just one of many.

Regan Leader, long-time leader in the Advent Movement, recently discovered the true God and has written a respectful and compelling response to Doug Batchelor's book, "Exploring the Trinity." Regan's book is entitled, "**Exploring the True God.**" A PDF copy is attached for those who would like a headstart reading the electronic version.

Printed copies can be obtained from:

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Steve wrote August 1, asking what Ellen White's understanding of "person" in the Godhead and especially the Holy Spirit. He provided several quotations she had written beginning with this one:

“The Holy Spirit will make intercession for the sincere petitioner with groanings which cannot be uttered, and the heart will be softened and subdued by the love of God.” Review and Herald, November 19, 1895.

He wondered why she would say this, for there is one God, and one mediator Go-between.

Yes, 1Timothy 2:5 confirms this. There are not two intercessors. “No one comes to the Father but by Me,” Jesus said. John 14:6. She is restating Romans 8:26.

“The Holy Spirit is a person, for He beareth witness with our spirits that we are the children of God. When this witness is borne, it carries with it its own evidence. At such times we believe and are sure that we are the children of God.” Ms20-1906.31 Another reference to Romans 8:16.

Indeed this is true. The Spirit of Christ is just as much a person as Christ is a person; for Christ is the express image of his Father’s person (Heb 1:3). The next paragraph continues...

The Holy Spirit has a personality, else He could not bear witness to our spirits and with our spirits that we are the children of God. **He must also be a divine person**, else He could not search out the secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God. “For what man knoweth the things of a man save the spirit of man, which is in him; even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.” [1 Corinthians 2:11.] Ms20-1906.32

Person and personality are both true. Jesus has two personalities: his personality of divinity as the Son of God, and his personality of humanity as the Son of man. “The Holy Spirit is Himself divested of his personality of hummanity” (Lt119-1895.18) and is “that element which is all divine...the heavenly Guest...Lord Jesus” (Lt124-1897.4) coming to us as the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of truth. “Christ was the Spirit of truth.” Ms44-1897.8

Ellen White informs us that God came to this earth “in the person of His Son”.

“God displayed His power and wisdom in the work of creation. He revealed His majesty in the giving of His law. And finally, in the person of His Son, He came to the world to show His love and sympathy.” Lt175-1902.10

“God has adopted human nature **in the person of His Son**, and has carried the same into the highest heaven.” DA p. 25.3; Y11897July29.7

“Oh, the depth of the riches of the love of God that hath abounded to man in the person of his Son! **God in Christ, and Christ in God, and Christ abiding by faith in man**, is so large a truth that the mind cannot fully comprehend it.” ST1891May18.4

Then Steve shared this quote:

“The Lord has fulness of grace to bestow on every one that will receive **the heavenly gift. The Holy Spirit** will bring the God-entrusted capabilities into Christ's service, and will mold and fashion the human agent according to the divine Pattern, in proportion as the human agent shall earnestly desire the transformation. *Youth's Instructor*, July 5, 1894.

This reminded me of these statements about “the Heavenly Guest”.

“Open the door of the heart to the knock of **Christ**. Welcome **the heavenly Guest**.” RH1904Mc24.18

“He who is a citizen of the heavenly kingdom will be constantly looking at things not seen. The power of earth over the mind and character is broken. He has the abiding presence of **the heavenly Guest**, in accordance with the promise, “I will love him, and will **manifest myself** to him.” RH1910No10.7

“When, with grateful appreciation of his love, we open the door of our heart to **Jesus**, saying, “Come in,” the **heavenly Guest** is with us.” ST1890Se22.9

“The soul must be emptied of self, that **Christ** may pour **his Spirit** into the vacuum. **Christ** must be chosen as **the heavenly guest**. ...It is Jesus enthroned in the soul that makes every action easy in his service. He is the fountain of all righteousness, the source of all happiness, the reservoir of all power. There must be a full trust in Christ's words, and Christ must be all in all to the receiver.” ST1891De28.2

““Behold, I stand at the door and knock.” Revelation 3:20. Every warning, reproof, and entreaty in the Word of God, or through His delegated

messengers, is a knock at the door of the heart; it is **the voice of Jesus**, asking for entrance. ... **The heavenly Guest** is standing at your door, while you are piling up obstructions to bar His entrance. Jesus is knocking through the prosperity He gives you." Lt125-1886.9

[Revelation 3:20 quoted] "You hear His tread before the door, waiting for you to respond to His knock. He has invited His entrance into your heart. Will you let Him in? **He is the heavenly Guest**, and you cannot close the door against Him without ruin to yourself. May your hearts go out in earnest prayer that **Christ** will take possession of your souls, and He will do it." [Ms79-1886.22]

"Now is the time when we must keep our own souls in the love of God, keep the door of the heart closed against temptation, and open to **Jesus, the heavenly Guest**." [Lt43-1894.9]

"Do not forget that **you have a Comforter, the Holy Spirit**, which Christ has appointed. You are never alone. If you will **listen to the voice that now speaks to you**, if you will respond without delay to the knocking at the door of your heart, "**Come in, Lord Jesus**, that I may sup with thee and thee with me," **the heavenly Guest** will enter. [See Revelation 3:20.] When **this element, which is all divine**, abides with you, there is peace and rest. It is the kingdom of heaven come nigh unto you." [Lt124-1897.4]

The Spirit is a person. There is no question about that. But the identity of the Spirit is confused by those who suggest or even teach that this represents another separate person other than **the Spirit of Christ** (1Peter 1:10,11; Romans 8:10) or the **Spirit of the Father, the Spirit of God**. (Matt 10:20).

Insulting Jehovah

V.G.H. in Texas asked why Ellen White would write that keeping "the national festival of the Jews" would be "an insult to Jehovah" in a July email. Ellen lists a number of things that are an insult to Jehovah:

When Aaron made the golden calf and announced, "These be thy gods."

PP317.1; 1SG244.1; 3SG275.1; ST1880May13A.10

"National fasts" proclaimed during the US Civil War. 1T256.1

To claim to be Christians yet speak and act as worldlings. GH1899Dec1.2

When Pharaoh defied God saying, “Who is the Lord (Jehovah) ?” Lt209-1899.23

But the one in question pertained to keeping the festival of the Jews. The setting is given in chapter 72 of the *Desire of Ages* which contains this important paragraph:

Christ was standing at the point of transition between two economies and their **two great festivals**. He, the spotless Lamb of God, was about to present Himself as a sin offering, that He would thus bring to **an end the system of types and ceremonies** that for four thousand years had **pointed to His death**. As He ate the Passover with His disciples, He instituted **in its place** [at the same time] the service that was to be the **memorial** of His great sacrifice. **The national festival of the Jews [killing lambs]** was to **pass away forever**. The service which Christ established was to be observed by His followers **in all lands** [not just Jerusalem] and through **all ages**. [DA652.2]

But it was a manuscript written the year prior that contains the strong “insult to Jehovah” language (Ms19-1897.19). It was published as part of a series of articles in the *Review and Herald* four months before the *Desire of Ages* was printed. The third article on June 14 included this additional material:

This ordinance [of foot washing] does not speak so largely to man’s intellectual capacity as to his heart. His moral and spiritual nature needs it. If his disciples had not needed this, it would not have been left for them as **Christ’s last established ordinance in connection with, and including, the last supper**. It was Christ’s desire to leave to his disciples an ordinance that would do for them the very thing they needed,—that **would serve to disentangle them from the rites and ceremonies which they had hitherto engaged in as essential, and which the reception of the gospel made no longer of any force**. **To continue these rites would be an insult to Jehovah**. **Eating of the body, and drinking of the blood, of Christ**, not merely at the sacramental service, but daily partaking of the bread of life to satisfy the soul’s hunger, **would be in receiving his word and doing his will**. [RH1898Jn14.16]

Several points are made. (1) Two festivals: one, the national festival of the Jews [which involved slaying a lamb, eating its roasted flesh with unleavened bread] and another, the Christian festival of foot washing and

the drinking and eating symbols of Christ's blood and body as unfermented grape juice and unleavened bread, which was instituted **in place of** the first. (2) Christ became the sin offering, the Lamb of God, **in place of** the Jewish offering, a slain lamb. (3) His death brought an end to the sacrificial system of killing lambs, and bulls, and goats (Hebrews 10:1,2) so that they "ceased to be offered" as he did "cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease" (Dan 9:27). (4) To continue killing lambs on Passover would indeed be an insult to Jehovah, denying acceptance of His Son, the Lamb of God, the "unspeakable Gift" (2Cor 9:15), an effective slap in the face of Him "who spared not His own Son but delivered him up for us all" (Romans 8:32).

There is no indication that Jesus replaced the timing of this new festival. It was, after all, to replace the old one, and **commemorate** His death till He comes. What possibly could be offensive to Jehovah for the followers of His Son to remember the greatest event in salvation history on the actual day that Jesus himself proscribed for it to be observed? There is no instruction as to when or how often the Lord's Supper was to be observed, but at least on the 14th day of the first month should be one of those times—How appropriate, how proper!

Grace be with you, mercy, and peace,
from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ,
the Son of the Father, in truth and love. 2John 3

Blessings,
Gary Hullquist