

Your Breathtaking Destiny!

Why you are on earth will take your breath away

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Summary: Have you ever wondered why you were born? What's the meaning and purpose of your life? What is our ultimate destiny? What's this life really all about? Why is God called our "Father" and why are we called "children of God"? What's eternity going to be like? Hear this message and find out the most exciting news from your own Bible. What YHVH (God) has prepared for you and me is beyond our wildest dreams. Hear a glimpse of the mysteries of God being revealed.

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Some years ago, there was a Beatles song that went something like this: "Listen, do you want to know a secret? Do you promise not to tell? Oh--- closer, let me whisper in your ear..."

We all love mysteries and secrets. That's why gossip is so rife! And that's why mystery novels and movies are often big hits. "Murder on the Orient Express" - a big hit.

Why? Because by its very nature, most of us want to be "in" on a big secret!

Even Father in heaven has mysteries and divine secrets! Sure, there's Babylon Mystery Religion, but even Yehowah has His own divine mysteries. And now, ever since Yeshua was resurrected – Father is revealing His mysteries and secrets to His children. He clearly spells it out, especially in the New Testament, though there are clear hints of it in the "Old" Testament. [I refer to "God" as YHVH often – His personal, His most set-apart holy name He gave to His people. It can be written as Yehowah or Yehovah. Some say Yahweh. "God" is not His name. "God" is what He is. But "God" has a holy name. Even Yeshua taught us to pray "hallowed – holy, sacred – be your name.]

Why will you want to hear this message? Because

- some questions have puzzled mankind for millennia. These questions are all answered when we understand our breath-taking destiny.
- You will find a purpose to each day, a new spring in your step
- You will have something to really look forward to, way beyond the typical depictions of heaven. Way beyond that! What we'll speak about today will be backed by numerous scripture. Even Yeshua suffered the pain and torture of crucifixion "for the JOY that was set before Him" (Hebrews 12:2).

Even as a young boy growing up in the Philippines, my parents had instilled in me the desire to understand. I often would walk along the tropical beaches near our home on Luzon, and go for a "walk with God" as I remember it. I would mutter into the wind – "Who are you, God? Are you really there? What do you want us to do? Who am I – when

it's all said and done, and who are you? Please reveal yourself to me, Father. Jesus, please somehow let me understand you and what you're doing....."

I'm sure I'm not alone. Men and women everywhere have had these questions.

I'm referring to questions like:

- Why are we here? Why are YOU here on earth? For that matter, why are you listening to this message today?
- Why has religion become the symbol to so many of the VIOLENCE and carnage tied to religious wars – whether Islamic Jihad or Christian crusades and inquisitions? Why is “church” so boring most of the time, to so many? Why are cathedrals shrouded in mystery, strange goings-on – and lack the ability to inspire and excite us? “Church” done God’s way – the real way – should be fun and exciting – and I hope by the time you hear this message today and the next one, you’ll be overflowing with excitement.
- Is our future really to either be tortured forever in one of the 9 levels of Dante’s inferno – or to go to heaven and stare into the Beatific Vision for eternity, or maybe we’ll get to strum our harps on clouds forever and ever. Is that really what life is all about? I tell you with God’s Word to back me up – absolutely not!
- What’s the purpose of your existence on the earth? Why were you born? What is the meaning to your life?
- Why is our planet the only planet we know for sure has any life on it, has oxygen and water and plant life – and you on it? Why are you on this unique planet in this vast universe?

Is it all just chance? No! ***You are SO unique! There has never been anyone in all of time, like you. You are a very, very special person. Nobody else has your unique fingerprints. Nobody else has your eyes, your DNA or your unique personality. You are special; you are one of a kind. You are not here by chance. That simply can't be! You are part of a Divine plan and purpose, yes you! Yehowah is very excited about you as His unique child. Don't minimize your purpose and your future. I say this no matter where in the world you are. This applies to you whether you're Russian, American, Japanese, Israeli or Kenyan or Chinese or Filipino or from anywhere else! YOU are special to the one true living God.***

Did our complex bodily systems, our complex universe – all just evolve from a Big Bang? Are we really meant to just live for so many years and then die – and that's it? How empty is that, in the end, or-- is there a bigger purpose for YOU?

I'm here to tell you, you're going to be amazed, if your mind has been opened by Yehovah our Almighty Father to see what He has in store for you. (YHVH is sometimes spelled and pronounced with a V and sometimes with a W, so I sometimes write His name as Yehovah,

sometimes Yehowah. I used to say “Yahweh” but now believe more strongly in “Yehowah”.)

And, here are more questions having to do with our DESTINY:

- WHY are we called “children of God”? Every Christian church teaches that, but do they really believe we are LITERAL children of God, or is it just an analogy? What could that mean?
- WHY is Yehowah called “our FATHER”?
- Why is the Hebrew word for “God” – usually from the Hebrew “Elohim” – a PLURAL word, but when referring to God our Maker is always in the singular? And yet the VERB tense, when used with Elohim, is usually in the singular?

What I will speak about today and for at least 1 or 2 more messages, did not originate with me. Peter knew it, Paul was “blown away” by it, Yeshua taught it, and John certainly knew it. And there was a church leader who even 50+ years ago wrote a booklet called “*Why were you Born?*”, and then 30+ years ago he wrote two full-sized books – *Mystery of the Ages*, and *The Incredible Human Potential*. Much more recently, a new writer on the scene, **Joe Kovacs**, has written an exciting book titled, “*the Divine Secret*”. I recommend you buy Kovacs’ book! I’m excited to see others writing on it and discovering this “secret” that scores of thousands have believed already for 50 years or more. I’ve certainly preached elements of it for decades myself. It’s time for me to have my own full in-depth series of sermons to go into the divine mysteries.

So today, I speak on this most exciting topic! Today we uncover our human destiny, our divine purpose in life, why you and I have come to be.

I believe this SERIES I’m giving on Mankind’s Breathtaking Destiny – has be one of the most vital and important series I’ve ever given. I hope you will give it special attention. If this message stirs your heart, please tell others about it and share the good news of our breathtaking destiny – that’s my topic today and this will be at least a 2-part sermon.

WHY this topic MATTERS

Why does this subject matter? Here’s why: **Satan wants to hide the great future YHVH has for us.** Satan has a dismal future. He is a depressed being who knows his time is short so he will do everything in his power to try to thwart Yehovah’s plans for mankind. But look at what he’s done:

- “Church” services should be so exciting. But do most boys really want to grow up to be monks with a vow of poverty, or do most girls want to be nuns cloistered away in an abbey?
- Satan is the one who put into man and woman in the Garden of Eden some totally false concepts. He is the one for example who said, “don’t fear dying if you break God’s commands. You will not surely die...” he said (Genesis 3:4). So too today, he lies to us by teaching us through the churches that “the penalty of unrepented sin is not death – it is not to perish – but to live forever being tortured by Someone who says He is love personified.”

NO! Scripture says the wages of sin is DEATH (Romans 6:23) – called “the 2nd death” (Rev. 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8). We all die the first death, common to man – or are changed at Christ’s return. But the wages of sin is the 2nd death, in a fire that burns us up to ashes (Malachi 4:3) if we don’t first repent and change. The wages of sin is NOT eternal life being tortured in a fire not hot enough to end life but just torture. What kind of God would do that? NOT the dear Abba loving Father I serve! I’ll address that more fully later. John said that God sent His Son into the world so those believing on Him would not PERISH...but have everlasting life (John 3:16). Being burned forever and ever is not perishing! It’s not death! The concept of eternal torture in hell is a lie! *The punishment is eternal, oh yes.* You’ll never live again. *But it is eternal punishment, NOT eternal punishing!* No normal loving person, let alone God, would torture human beings forever and ever.

Even the flip side of this equation – the reward of eternal life – Satan’s also perverted in the churches’ message. I want no part of the unbiblical picture of eternal life the churches give. *I don’t want to spend eternity being bored, do you? I don’t want to spend eternity staring into someone’s face. And most of all – it’s not Biblical.* What the true living God has prepared for us is SO, SO MUCH more than that.

So let’s get down to business! Scripture gives hints that our future is beyond even our wildest imaginations. The true living God made mankind for something really, really good; WAY beyond your wildest dreams.

Of course we also have alluded to all of this for years and years in the sermons about the meaning of the holydays. **The holydays of YHVH reveal His plan of salvation.** It starts with Passover – and being forgiven, and ends with the 8th day *after* the Feast of Tabernacles when all things are made new. Be sure you’ve heard my sermons about the 7th and 8th day Feasts. I’ve taught all this for years, but now let’s make it clearer than ever what exactly Father has in mind for YOU – His child. So let’s start reading what we’re told about our future.

BETTER THAN ANYONE CAN IMAGINE

Let’s let God’s word tell us a few HINTS of what’s coming:

1 Corinthians 2:6-11

6 However, among the mature we do speak a wisdom, but not a wisdom of this age, or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 On the contrary, we speak God’s hidden wisdom IN A MYSTERY, which God **predestined before the ages for our glory.** 8 None of the rulers of this age knew it, for if they had known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written:

***What no eye has seen and no ear has heard,
and what has never come into a man’s heart, [BEYOND IMAGINING]
is what God has prepared for those who love Him.***

10 Now God has revealed them to us by the Spirit, for the Spirit searches everything, even the deep things of God. 11 For who among men knows the concerns of a man

except the spirit of the man that is in him? In the same way, no one knows the concerns of God except the Spirit of God.

So we know whatever it is, it's going to be incredibly exciting and something "the natural man" – as he goes on to say, meaning anyone without God's spirit – CANNOT and will not see what we're about to show, nor understand it (verse 14). But if you have God's spirit, you will see spiritual things and this will be very exciting to you.

But what I've read so far just DOESN'T square with a future of staring into a beatific vision for eternity, day in and day out, forever and ever – or floating on clouds all day. That would get boring to me by the 2nd day. No, no – it's far, far better than that.

Ephesians 3:20-21

20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, **21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**

He's able to do things for us – if we'd just get in synch with Him – FAR above anything we would dare ask or even IMAGINE! I certainly know the Good Shepherd – our Messiah – said He came that we might have – not just life, but life MORE ABUNDANTLY. So it's going to be great! (John 10:10).

Romans 8:18-25

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the GLORY that is going to be revealed to US.

19 For the creation eagerly waits with anticipation for God's sons to be revealed. **20 For the creation was subjected to futility—not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it—in the hope 21 that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage of corruption into the glorious freedom of God's children. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together with labor pains until now. 23 And not only that, but we ourselves who have the Spirit as THE FIRSTFRUITS—we also groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.**

So those who now have God's spirit are the "firstfruits" of whatever God is producing. Keep that in mind. Yeshua – Jesus Christ - is what the "first of the firstfruits" represented (Exodus 23:19; 34:26). See also 1 Cor. 15:20-24. I promise, we'll go into much more detail in the next 1-2 sermons.

Whatever this future is, King David was inspired to write in **Psalm 16:11:**

"You will show me the path of life, in your presence is the fullness of JOY, and at your right hand are PLEASURES forevermore!"

Strumming a harp on a cloud for forever and ever is NOT for me – or probably for many of you – “FULLNESS of joy and pleasures forevermore”. And folks, SCRIPTURE nowhere says you will float on clouds as you strum a harp! Nowhere! It’s not in God’s Book. Oh, we’ll meet Him in the Clouds, and when He comes for His Bride He WILL be coming on a cloud.... But that’s not where we’re stuck for eternity!

WHAT ON EARTH OR in the heavens could this incredible future be? But first, let’s confirm that Scripture DOES speak of God’s secrets and mysteries.

FATHER’S MYSTERIES AND SECRETS – NOW BEING REVEALED.

Scripture goes on to say, over and over, that it’s “a MYSTERY”, a SECRET that God has long had, that HE is finally revealing. It’s a MYSTERY that even ANGELS and the prophets of old wanted to understand (1 Peter 1:12), and they were not allowed to see. Even Daniel was told to go his way for the book he wrote was sealed to the time of the end (Dan 12:9, 13).

We’ve already read 1 Cor. 2:6-11 – but let’s read the first part again:

1 Corinthians 2:6-7

6 However, among the mature we do speak a wisdom, but not a wisdom of this age, or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. 7 On the contrary, we speak God’s hidden wisdom **IN A MYSTERY**, which God **predestined before the ages for OUR glory!**

This mystery has been kept secret until the times of the apostles and until now. The apostles got it, they saw it, but then Satan – using big churches—covered it all up again. Here are just a few more of the many verses saying that Father has secrets and is revealing them to His children.

Romans 16:25-26

25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel (good news) and *the preaching of Jesus Christ*, according to the revelation of the MYSTERY kept secret since the world began 26 **but NOW made manifest**, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to ALL nations...

(We’ll cover in more detail how this is not just for Jews or Israelites, but for all nations!)

Colossians 1:26-27

“...the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but **now has been revealed to His saints**. 27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

We will see as we go along that Christ – Yeshua the Messiah – is central to being a part of this incredible future. Without Christ, there is no future, there is no revealed mystery.

Ephesians 1:9 – “having made known to us the mystery of His will....”

Ephesians 3:8-9

To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable **riches of Christ**, 9 and to make all see what **is the fellowship of the MYSTERY, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God** who created all things through Jesus Christ...

Ephesians 5:32

This is a **great MYSTERY, but I speak concerning Christ and the church**
[church = ekklesia, the body of called-out believers who are led by His Spirit]

So as we go through this message today, the role of Christ – Yeshua the Messiah – and our relationship to Him, is going to be paramount. It's all based on having a close relationship with your Savior. Life is all about relationship. When our relationships are smashed, there's really no life. We are part of His body (Col. 1:24), and who and what Yeshua is today plays a huge role in our being a part of this great mystery that is SO exciting!

When will the last chapter of this mystery novel be opened?

Revelation 10:7

*“but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, **the mystery of God would be finished**, as He declared to His servants the prophets.”*

So this mystery being unlocked now, will be crystal clear at the sounding of the 7th angel upon the return of our Beloved King of Kings, our Husband (the called-out ones will be marrying Yeshua; the church will marry Christ. Much more on this later.)

MORE HINTS FROM SCRIPTURE AND YHVH OUR GOD

With any mystery or secret, there are “hints”. The Bible is loaded with hints as to what our destiny is.

Most Christians (or even Hebrew Roots folks) have no problem using “family language” in reference to relationships that involve God. So they have no problem....

- calling God their “Father”. They all speak of “God the Father”.
- Most Christian churches and even “Hebrew roots” folks would acknowledge that believers are CHILDREN of God.
- Therefore, in many churches, the attendees are referred to as “brethren” – an old KJV word meaning “brothers and sisters”. If we’re all children of God, we’re brethren.
- Christianity everywhere for the most part acknowledges Jesus Christ as the “Son of God”.

Is God in the Highest really our Father? Or is that just allegorical? Is He just “kinda a father, but not really a true Father in the sense of a real family”? The correct answer has *everything* to do with this mystery being revealed. The correct answer is whatever scripture actually says, right? So strap on your seatbelt because we’re going for a thrilling adventure into verses that have been there all this time but we’ve just read right over.

LET'S BEGIN AT THE BEGINNING, GENESIS 1

The Scriptures begin with the words “In the beginning God...”-- Genesis 1:1.

Before anything was created, there was God – Elohim in Hebrew. God was in the beginning. This true living God is said to be SPIRIT – not flesh and blood.

John 4:24 – “God is spirit....”

Hebrews 1:7 says God – who is spirit – created *spirit* beings called angels, long, long ago, for they sang ecstatically as they watched the creation unfold (Job 38:4-7, especially verse 7) . They are not flesh and blood either. My hunch is that “heavenly Jerusalem” itself is made of spirit, though I don’t have a scripture that says that, but many which imply it. (Check out Jeff Niccum’s sermon on “the Big Picture” – in the prophecy section, which goes a lot into the Heavenly Jerusalem.)

Scripture also says Elohim – God – is immortal, eternal and invisible to the human eye.

1 Timothy 1:17

Now to the King **eternal, immortal, invisible**, to God who alone is wise, be honor and **glory** forever and ever. Amen.

1 Timothy 6:16

...who **alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light**, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

The word for “God” in Genesis 1:1 is a Hebrew PLURAL word – Elohim. When referring to the Creator living God, it is *always* translated in English in the singular, as “God” with a capital G. But the word “Elohim” is not the singular “El” or “Eloah”, but Elohim – plural. It’s not “uniplural” as one used to teach. I don’t believe there’s such a real word as “uniplural” anyway. The Hebrew word Elohim - is plural. We HAVE to ask ourselves why is the word that’s inspired to represent “God” Elohim in Genesis 1 – and not the singular Eloah or El?

Elohim is literally translated in the plural as “gods” with a little g, when referring to pagan idols or “gods” – as you’ll find for example in **Genesis 35:1-2**. Here it says in Hebrew that Elohim the living God says to Jacob, “Put away all your strange gods [“elohim”] that are among you...”

“Elohim” literally means “mighty ones” or “strong ones”, and since it was presumed that gods would be “mighty ones”, it is translated as “gods” – except when referring to the Creator. Then it’s translated in the singular as “God”.

YHVH the Living Elohim, when describing His purpose in the final plague, the 10th plague against Egypt in **Exodus 12:12** says, “Against all the gods [plural, Hebrew word once again is “elohim” again] of Egypt I will execute judgment; I am YHVH”

*So my point is, the word “elohim” is translated in the plural – “gods” – **except** when referring to the living God.* This is a huge hint, I believe. You can find other examples of “elohim” being translated as “gods” in these passages, and many more: **Ex. 18:11; 20:3;**

Ex. 20:23; 32:1,4,31; Ex 34:16; Lev 19:4; Num 25:2; Deut 6:14 and many, many other verses.

(By the way, “elohim” is also translated as “judges” in a number of verses like Ex. 21:6; Ex. 22:8-9. But again, it’s in the plural.)

WHY am I going through all this about “God” coming from the word “Elohim”, a plural word? Because this has EVERYTHING to do with the MYSTERY OF GOD revealed by Christ in us! So bear with me. We’re being told that “God” is Elohim... but it’s translated in the singular.

After reading that “in the beginning Elohim created the heavens and earth”, we read about the creation of the various KINDS of fish and animals, and how each was to reproduce after its kind (loosely similar to our word “species” but not as precise). For now we’re getting the high-level view but I will come back to this word “animals after their kind” in more detail in the next sermon. But for now let’s read it for a foundation. Notice how Elohim SPOKE things into existence with HIS spoken WORD. Everything you see around you was spoken into existence – with 2 exceptions.

Genesis 1:11-13 – on the 3rd day

11 Then God **said**, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit **according to its kind**, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so. 12 And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed **according to its kind**, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself **according to its kind**. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:20-22 on the 5th day/BIRDS AND FISH

Then God **said**, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens." 21 So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, **according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind**. And God saw that it was good.

Genesis 1:24-25 first part of 6th day

Then God said, "**Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind**"; and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

So the grasses and animals came out of the ground, as commanded by this Elohim who was using His spoken words to cause things to happen.

We see animals are made after the animal kind. Fish after the fish kind. Trees after the tree kind. Are we getting it? Now evolutionists want you to believe a dastardly horrible lie that you and I are also just another animal -- of the animal kind -- that we are the highest version of mammals.

I'm here to tell you right now, straight from your Creator's word, that you and I are NOT of the animal kind! Let's read the next verse. It dramatically changes in tone.

THEN... MANKIND IS MADE IN ELOHIM'S IMAGE AND LIKENESS

Genesis 1:26

26 Then God (ELOHIM) said, "**Let US make man [mankind] in OUR image, according to OUR likeness**; let them have dominion OVER the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

First notice that this plural word Elohim- translated God – now speaks in the plural. He speaks of “us” and “our”. So many want to dismiss the “US” and “OUR” here to be referring to the single God Being who is talking to angels; He’s supposedly just including them in the discussion. That’s well and good, but even a quick study of what some angels look like in their spirit form will quickly show you that mankind is not made in their image or likeness. Some angels have 4 faces. Some are like an eagle, some are like powerful white chargers.

You and I have not been made in the image of any angels. We must get that. The next verses make crystal clear in whose image we are made. [But also note how it moves from plural Elohim to singular “He” in English, from the untranslatable “et” in Hebrew – actually aleph-tav, which we’ll discuss more next time. The word “own” is not in the original in v. 27]

Genesis 1:27-28

27 **So God (Elohim – plural) created man in His [singular] image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.** 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

You and I are not of the animal kind. We are not of the angel kind. We are not of the grass, trees or fish kind. So what are we?

Are you getting the picture? Are you taking the hints? God was creating everything after its own kind, up to this point.

We were created for ruling the earth, right from the beginning, and we are made to look like and BE like – GOD. You and I look like God in appearance. Elohim does not look like us; we look like HIM. He was here first. That’s the first clue. And this “Elohim” is saying “WE” and “US”. We’ll certainly look at that much more closely in future messages.

JOHN 1 -- SIMILARITY TO GENESIS 1 – WITH MORE HINTS

To compound this discussion, let's see how the Apostle John (Yohanan) describes the beginning in John 1:1-3. (I can see now that this clearly will become a 2-3 part sermon series!) He clearly describes there being more than one Being present at creation. No doubt John had Genesis 1:1 in mind when he started writing John 1:1.

Remember Genesis 1:1 says “in the beginning GOD (Elohim)....”

In the beginning, there was nothing but God! And that word “Elohim” is plural. Could there have been more than one Being there – and somehow still be ONE? Let’s see what John says in John 1.

We’ll discuss “echad” – the Hebrew for “one”, that God is echad/one in the next message.

John 1:1-3

“In the **beginning** was the Word, and the Word **WAS WITH** God, and the Word **WAS** GOD. 2 *He was in the beginning with God.* 3 ALL things were made through Him [the Word], and **without Him nothing was made that was made.**”

JOHN goes straight to the heart of this concept of the plural Elohim and says in fact there are TWO beings here – the Word, and God, and the Word was also God. He says the “Word” – the LOGOS, in Greek – was the one *who did the actual creating by spoken word* that we can read about in Genesis 1. So the Being who spoke the words “Let there be light” – was the Word. Note that John does not mention the Holy Spirit here in John 1 as being “God”. IN the book of Genesis, the Holy Spirit is described as “hovering over the face of the waters” however (Genesis 1:2b).

2 Peter 3:5

“**...By the word of God the heavens were created....**”

(Should we capitalize “word” and make it “Word”? Same thing below.)

Hebrews 11:3

“By faith we understand that **the worlds were framed by the word of God**, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. “

We know through Hubble and other telescopes and astronomy that there is something called “dark matter” or “dark energy” that holds the universe together. I was watching a program on TV about it. It was fascinating.

Elohim SPOKE most of creation into existence EXCEPT one vital part. John says it was a Being He is calling the “Logos” (in Greek) – the WORD. The Word SPOKE everything into existence except the man – whom He personally fashioned with His own hands and then blew into his nostrils the breath of life (Genesis 2). He later personally fashioned the woman. We don’t have any scripture saying “And God said, ‘Let there be man’ and behold there was a man.” It’s not there. WE humans were HAND MADE by the hands of Yehowah Elohim. NO OTHER PHYSICAL CREATION – as far as I can tell – was hand-made by God. We’re told of NO other physical creation which had THE DIVINE BREATH blown into it, of which we’ll speak next time.

Genesis 2:7

And Yehowah Elohim (LORD God) formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

WHO was this “Word” who was creating all things? Let’s continue reading in John. **Let’s start in v. 14**, and then backtrack: **“the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...”**. Hmm. I wonder who that could be!?

John is saying the One who created all things and spoke creation into existence – was Jesus Christ. And yet YHVH is “One”. *I promise you I will address this important issue of “one God” and the Hebrew “echad” a lot in the next message.*

Can there be more than one God Being – and YHVH still be “echad”, or “one”? Understanding this is CENTRAL to having your mind opened to your breathtaking destiny! Jews – though without Biblical command to do so – recite the Shema (Deut 6:4) 2x a day – that YHVH is ONE, and so believe that the Hebrew word “echad” translated “one” means only one unit. We will see. But let’s get back to what John is saying, because JOHN is saying that the One who SPOKE things into existence was called the WORD of God, and was WITH God and WAS God.

We also know this living “Word” who becomes flesh later is called the SON of God. When the angel told Mary she would give birth to Yeshua, here’s part of what he said to her:

Luke 1:35-36

And the angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called **the Son of God.**”

That opens up a HUGE area for discussion. This Word, he goes on to say, was Jesus Christ, Yeshua the Messiah. Remember ELOHIM in Gen 1:26 said “let US make man in OUR image” and then Gen 1:27 says so Elohim does just that! So let’s go back to John 1:10-14.

John 1:10-14

10 He was in the world, and **the world was made through Him**, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave **the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born**, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but **of God.** (repeat v. 12-13)

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

So first of all, he reiterates that this Word spoke the world into existence. Then we’re told that *God wants CHILDREN! HOW? This “Word” who was with God and was God – YESHUA, Jesus CHRIST – IS CENTRAL to your opportunity to become a CHILD of God! It says in verse 12 that those who believe in His name and receive Him, **are given the RIGHT to become children of God. He ends by saying “who were born...OF GOD.”** [The Greek for “were born” here is the word that also can mean “were begotten”]*

Then in V. 14- the One who CREATED all things, the Word in other words, becomes flesh and dwelt among us. GOD becomes a man. Immanuel means “GOD with us”. The Being who was WITH God and who was ALSO God (John 1:1-2) becomes a mere mortal.

Yeshua – Jesus – pretty much repeats this theme in his Passover prayer after their final dinner and after the footwashing, He says this in John 17:

John 17:1-5

Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, 2 as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. 3 And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. 4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, **with the glory which I had WITH You before the world was.**

[remember John 1:1-2- the Word was WITH God...and WAS God.]

So who really was Yeshua? SCRIPTURE IS CLEAR – especially in the New Testament – that Yeshua created all things when He was the Word with God. We've already read John 1:3 that ALL things that have been made were made by Him. HE was the YHVH who spoke creation into existence.

Who was the one speaking, creating, molding mankind and everything we see or know about? (light, metals, planets, the universe, animals, people, trees, angels, everything?)

Colossians 1:15-18

15 **He [Christ, Yeshua] is the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn over all creation.

16 **For by Him ALL things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him** and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Hebrews 1:1-3

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by **His Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, **through whom also He made the worlds;**

(So God the Father created through Yeshua).

Ephesians 3:9

and to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden **in God who created all things through Jesus Christ**;

So is this becoming clear? The One who talked with Adam and Eve, who actually created them, the One who thundered the 10 commandments to Israel at Mt Sinai, the One who walked and talked with Abraham and Moses and spoke to Hagar in the wilderness, and who corrected Sarah for laughing.... Was Jesus Christ. Jesus was God the Word, the executive creator of all things under God the Highest, the One we know as God the Father.

The Word became flesh and GOD the Son died for us to pay the penalty for all our sins. His ONE life could not cover us all unless He WAS GOD! God the FATHER resurrected Yeshua (Romans 8:11, etc.) and by that resurrection He became the BORN son of God.

Let's read that:

Romans 1:1-4

*1 Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to the **gospel of God** 2 which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, 3 **concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, 4 and declared to be the Son of God** with power according to the Spirit of holiness, **BY the resurrection from the dead.***

So now we have a SPIRIT BORN SON OF GOD, to whom we also pray and worship as God – who went back to heaven, now seated on the right hand of God the Father (1 Peter 3:21-22).

But is Yeshua the ONLY one who will be a literal Son of God or child of God?

But it's this very concept that understandably DRIVES JEWS AWAY from accepting Yeshua: how can He be "the Word" WITH God and also BE God, when God is "echad" – God is ONE? They say the Shema morning and evening –that YHVH is ONE! We'll cover that in detail next time.... It's a very good question and must be asked and answered! And I shall – in the next message.

But let's make clear that Yeshua was worshiped as GOD even as a man, and certainly was and IS God after His resurrection to glory and power. Angels worshiped Him at His birth. You know that. Many times PEOPLE worshiped him – the shepherds at His birth, the magi, blind man who was healed, and many others.

Was Yeshua also "God" while in the flesh? It would have been a sin to worship anything or anyone who is NOT God. Yeshua said that himself – "WORSHIP GOD" (Matthew 4:10). It would have also been a sin for Yeshua to have let himself be worshiped if He wasn't God. But Yeshua often let Himself be worshiped (see John 9:35-38 for one example).

SO if Yeshua was the first Son of God, will there be more?

Romans 8:29

"For those He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY brothers."

Saying someone is your "FIRST born" implies there were, or would be, *other* children.

Hebrews 2:10 – which we'll go in depth into much more next time – says God wants to bring MANY SONS/children TO GLORY. MANY! YHVH also says He wants to call us His Sons and DAUGHTERS!

You ladies are not left out! You are part of the promises. Men and women are heirs together of the grace of life (1 Peter 3:7). There is no longer male or female as far as spiritual

things are concerned in Yeshua (Galatians 3:27-28). *You women can have as high a reward as any man if your relationship with Father is what it should be.*

2 Corinthians 6:18

**'I will be a Father to you,
And you shall be My sons and daughters,
Says the Lord Almighty.'**

Next time I'll go in much more depth next time into the reality of God as our real Father!

WHO are "children of GOD"? Is everybody a "child of God"?

Do you think of God the Father as being a real Father who has a family started and loves family? Do you think of Him as wanting children? What would His "children" be like? WHO would they be?

Though it's true that **angels** are also called "sons of God" a few times (Job 1:6; 38:7), generally they are not put into the classification of being a part of God's "family" as children, but more in the category of messengers or servants. Even "angel" means "messenger" in the original Hebrew and Greek language. We'll see that clearly later. If you want to get a head start, be reading **Hebrews 1:5-7** before the next sermon.

It's popular to hear "in church" that all of us are "children of God"; or "we are all God's children". Is that true, according to scripture? We are all made in the image of God, that's true. But are we all "God's children" --right now at least?

I thought for someone to be my brother or sister, we both have to have the same father and mother, right? Do all 6 billion people out there honor YHVH as their Father? NO.

This may come as a rough surprise to some of you: *NOT every human being is presently a "son of God" or "child of God"*. Even Yeshua (Jesus) said that to Jews of His day. He told them they were of their "father, the Devil" (John 8:44). Let's read it:

John 8:44

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him.

I hate to break the news, but when our father and mother Adam and Eve decided to reject YHVH as their Guide and God, they moved into the enemy camp and were expelled from the Garden of Delights (Eden). Remember the word picture for Eden in Hebrew is "See the Door to Life". So that door was closed to them and their children generally. Only a few were chosen by YHVH to be ones He would work with – like Seth, Enoch, Noah, Abraham and so on. If we go back to **Gen 3:15** we see that the Serpent (Satan – Rev 12:9; 20:12) has his own "seed" who would be at war with the Seed of righteousness to come (the Messiah). So Cain, for example, who slew Abel, was said to be "*of the wicked one*" (1 John 3:12). Are we getting the picture?

So WHO are the children of God? This is crucial in understanding what our breathtaking destiny is all about. ***Eventually MOST of mankind will become children of God when they have their minds open and repent and receive the Holy Spirit.*** But for now, there are only a limited small first harvest of souls. Over and over in scripture, they are called “firstfruits” of the spiritual harvest. The harvest portion called “first fruits” is just a tiny part of what eventually is a much larger harvest. God is not losing any war for souls. He will call people in His time and His way. The sermons I gave on Pentecost and Feast of Tabernacles and the 8th Day – all go into this in detail.

So here’s what SCRIPTURE says about who the children of God are:

- They have God’s holy Spirit and they let God’s Spirit lead them. Let’s read Romans 8:14-16 and let God’s spirit speak to you about what is clearly being said here. You’ll notice we’re going to read about how our spirit – the spirit in man – interfaces with God’s Spirit ... well, let’s read it. Let His Spirit speak to you:

Romans 8:14-17

For as many as are LED by the Spirit of God, THESE are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom **we cry out, "Abba, Father."** 16 The Spirit Himself bears witness ***with our spirit*** that **we are children of God**, 17 and if children, then heirs — **heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ**, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. (read 2x)

- With this Holy Spirit they cry out to God, “Abba, father” – Gal. 4:6
- With the spirit we become partakers of a small portion of the Divine Nature and receive His “Seed”. I liken it to receiving a portion of the divine DNA!

2 Peter 1:2-4

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as **His divine power has given to us all things** that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these ***you may be partakers of the divine nature***, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1 Peter 1:22-24

“Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, 23 **having been born [Greek can also mean ‘begotten’] again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible**, through the word of God which lives and abides forever...”

So we have a SEED of the incorruptible God who calls Himself our Father. That Seed is the Holy Spirit. All we have right now is what’s termed a downpayment, an earnest of the Spirit. When we are resurrected or changed to glorious immortal beings at the return of Christ, the full balance of the Spirit is given and we become spirit. When we are fully born of God at the resurrection, it is at THAT time that Paul says in 1 Cor. 15 that our corruptible

mortal bodies shall put on incorruptible, immortal bodies. I'll read it directly later in this sermon and discuss it at greater length later.

For now, the children of God are ONLY those who have and are led by the Spirit of their Father – God the Father. It's the same spirit that is in Christ and so it is sometimes called the "Spirit of Christ". It's the same Spirit, for there is only one Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:4), not to be confused with the "7 spirits of God" (described in Rev. 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6).

Be turning to Romans 8:9. Read that whole amazing chapter later on so you get the whole context. I'm reading all these verses which clearly state who are, and who are not the children of God, because it's essential to know **God has children!** God in the Highest wants a FAMILY – and HIS WILL is going to be done.

Romans 8:9

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Galatians 3:26

For you are all sons of God **through faith in Christ Jesus**.

John 1:12

But as many as received Him (Jesus), to them He gave **the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name;**

So the children of God are those who, and ONLY those who, have the Father's SEED in them (the Holy Spirit), are led by that Spirit, they have God's divine nature in them – just like a fetus has the DNA and genetics of his Dad/Mom – and BELIEVE IN and accept Jesus Christ (or Yeshua the Messiah) as their Savior and soon coming King. There IS coming a time when the REST of the world will be given that opportunity that is, for now at least, just being offered to a select few – the called-out ones. Your calling, my brethren, is very high and very precious – and has a LOT to do with this breath-taking DESTINY I am explaining.

I'm out of time... but this will continue for probably at least 2 more sermons. Next time we will get into far more depth on:

- **Who exactly was and is Jesus** – or Yeshua as I prefer to call him
- We'll definitely discuss **this matter of "echad"** – one, as in "YHVH your Elohim is one".
- What exactly does it mean to be a child of God?
- What will we be like if we are born of God and become children of God
- We'll define with clarity what Yehowah's secret, what His mystery, really is.

Listen, do you want to know a secret? Next time, we reveal clearly what that secret is.

Until next time, may Yehovah bless you, guide you and lead you and beam with joy when thinking of you, His unique child. This has been your brother in Christ – Philip Shields.

(If this message has made you think, and given you some exciting possibilities, tell others.)