

Is it the Father, the Son of God, or BOTH? Part 2



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All scriptures are NKJV unless noted otherwise.

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Summary: When we read of “God” or “the LORD” in the Old Testament, who is it referring to? Just God Most High (the Father)? Just the Word of God (Jesus)? Or could it be referring to BOTH of them? If our understanding about God is skewed, we can end up sidelining either God Most High (the Father) or The Word of God (Jesus). How do we explain Deut 6:4 – “The LORD (YHVH) is ONE”? Hebrew “echad”. IS there room for more than one being in the Godhead? Last time I showed from scripture how BOTH the Father and the Son are Creator, BOTH are Savior, and BOTH are God of the Old Testament. Study Part 1 first. In this one, we’ll cover “which one was YHVH” (the LORD)? Who is Alpha and Omega in Revelation? Who is the “I am – I am who I am”? HOW active was God Most High in the Old Testament? You’ll appreciate our Elohim God much more after this.

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Hello everyone. Last time we showed from the Bible how SOME church groups are ending up **sidelining either God the Father or Jesus** – when we isolate descriptions of God to just one or the other, when in so many cases it should include BOTH of them, acting as one.

I asked, WHO or WHICH one, is the Creator? Is the Savior? Is the God of the Old Testament, the God of Israel – God Most High or the Word/Jesus?

I hope I showed how scripture is clear that **God the Father from time immemorial has always had a starting hand, a big hand as he was involved in ALL of those.** GOD Most High- the Father - is also called the Creator (Eph 3:9; Rev 4:9-11), the Savior, and God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (Acts 3:13; 5:30) – or along with Christ, our Father was also “God of the Old Testament”.

If that's not clear to you, or if you missed part 1, please go back and study it.

I'm attempting to put God Most High, MY very own father, back into his rightful place as the originator and absolute leader of all things in the universe, without diminishing, minimizing or cancelling the starring role of Jesus the Messiah. BOTH are so involved.

Please listen to part 1 before listening to this one. And please print out the notes ahead of time to help you follow along as I'm racing through a lot of scriptures.

God the Father is called "God Most High", as Jesus was called **the "SON of the Highest"** (Luke 1:32, 35). EVEN demons (Mark 5:7; Luke 8:28) said Jesus was "Son of the Most High God". There is only ONE "God Most High" and that is the One we are privileged and blessed to know as our Father.

God the Father has always been #1, NOT co-equal with His Son, and has always conceived and designed ALL the plans, all his will – no doubt, many times with the Word beside him. Then He implements his will and his plan through Jesus Christ as I showed last time. *Of course while Jesus was a man on earth, God Most High was the One running the universe, answering prayers, sustaining the universe and life, coordinating world events, and much more.*

Last time I used the notion that Henry Ford was called the MAKER of the cars that bore his name -- but all those cars were actually made by the assembly line workers. In a similar way, GOD Most High created all things through Christ (Ephesians 3:9)

I want to continue that topic today. **We'll cover "echad"** – the Hebrew word used in Deut 6:4 that "YHVH is ONE", one God. First though let's quickly touch on a fundamental understanding that explains this 2 part series:

- **There is "God Most High"** who is also called "God in the Highest" (Luke 2:14) – and that is the One we know now as our Father in heaven. Then there's also the Word of God, who is also uncreated God, who became flesh (John 1:14) and we know him as Jesus, or by his Hebrew name Yeshua. But the Word is with God but not equal in rank to God Most High. Jesus often said, "my Father is greater than I".
- **God Most High is the #1 Being in the universe. He is called God "in the Highest" (Luke 1:32). He is the head of Jesus**

Christ (1 Cor. 11:3). In fact, as I covered last time, **God Most High is also *the GOD of Jesus the Christ* (Eph 1:3,17; John 20:17).** But did you realize even Jesus has a GOD over him? We rarely if ever have that explained to us. Nowhere are we told there is any further “God” over God in the Highest. He IS it, the Highest!

- **God Most High, our Father – sets the plans, the tone, the conditions of everything that happens.** Jesus said he ALWAYS does/did His Father’s will, speaks his Father’s words, and does the deeds and works His father commands him. And he does it perfectly.

John 14:10

“Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? *The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.*”

God Most High creates, saves and leads through Jesus Christ. But *neither does God just retire to the sidelines.* As I showed you last time, he was very, very involved with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the nation of Israel. If this is not clear, you should listen to part 1 again.

- Peter and Paul both understood the “God of our fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob” to be God Most High, not Jesus Christ, who glorified his servant Jesus and raised him from the dead.

Acts 3:13

“The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, *glorified His Servant Jesus,* whom you delivered up and denied in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let Him go”.

Acts 5:30

“The God of our fathers *raised up Jesus* whom you murdered by hanging on a tree.”

Even **Melchizedek, priest of God Most High** – who may well have been a revelation of Jesus Christ (Ps. 110:4) – said that Abram was “of God Most High” (Gen 14:18).

So Abram knew about the One we know as the Father. Ps 110:4 says Adonai (Christ) was a “*Priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.*”

Jesus himself used Psalm 110:1 to confound people as to who HE was (Matthew 22:42-46).

Psalms 110:1-2

“YHVH (the LORD) said to my Lord (Adonai),

"Sit at My right hand,

Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

2 The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion.

Rule in the midst of Your enemies!

Peter used Psalm 110:1 on Pentecost to show Yeshua was the Adonai (“my Lord”) in that prophecy (**Acts 2:34-36**) - “God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Let’s read more from Ps 110:

Psalms 110:3-5

Your people shall be volunteers

In the day of Your power;

In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning,

You have the dew of Your youth.

4 The LORD (YHVH) has sworn

And will not relent,

"You are a priest forever

According to the order of Melchizedek."

5 The Lord (Adon, Christ) is at Your right hand; ...”

Isn’t that beautiful? **“In the beauty of holiness”** ... let’s praise God.

So I hope after listening to part 1, that you understand BOTH God the Highest and Jesus Christ are the **Creator**. If you don’t understand that yet, please listen to the sermon again. And both of them are our **Saviour**. And both of them are **the “God of the Old Testament”**. VERY MUCH SO.

But If God or YHVH (the LORD) *appears* to any man, as He did to Abraham in Genesis 12, 17 and 18, then that HAS to be the One who became Jesus, as no human has ever seen the Father (John 1:18; 6:46). So Moses also saw the back of God in glorified state – so much so that Moses shone like a bright light himself for at least a month afterwards. He saw the One who would come as Jesus 1500 years later.

Now I want to show you some scriptures that show that God Most HIGH – not just the Word (Jesus) of God -- was so actively involved with Israel and the prophets. **I hope you have printed off the notes** so you can follow along as I move through this next section quickly.

Abraham, Moses, David, Daniel and the prophets understood about the Most High and how ACTIVE he was! And they actively worshiped and praised God MOST High, not just the Word of God. David CERTAINLY understood there were 2 Beings acting as one - in Psa. 2, 8, 110.

How ACTIVE God Most High (the Father) was in Old Testament

Remember, many teach that God Most High (the Father) was inactive in the Old Testament and that everything was really done by the One who became Jesus. These next few verses will confirm that God Most High was very active indeed! We know this refers to “the Father” because Jesus is called *the Son of the Highest*, the Son of the Most High God.

Deuteronomy 32:8

“When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations,
When He separated the sons of Adam,
He set the boundaries of the peoples
According to the number of the children of Israel.

2 Samuel 22:14

“The LORD (YHVH) thundered from heaven,
And the Most High uttered His voice”.

Psalms 7:17

“I will praise YHVH according to His righteousness,
And will sing praise to the name of the **LORD (YHVH) MOST HIGH”**

Psalms 9:1-2

I will praise You, O LORD (YHVH), with my whole heart;
I will tell of all Your marvelous works.
2 I will be glad and rejoice in You;
I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High”.

Look at God Most High’s ACTIVENESS

Psalms 57:2

“I will cry out to **God Most High,**
To God who performs all things for me.”

Psalms 47:2-3

“For the LORD (YHVH) Most High is awesome;
He is a great King over all the earth.
3 He will subdue the peoples under us,

And the nations under our feet.”

Psalms 78:55-56

“**HE** also drove out the nations before them,
Allotted them an inheritance by survey,
And made the tribes of Israel dwell in their tents.
56 Yet they tested and provoked the Most High God,
And did not keep His testimonies,

Psalms 82:6

I said, "You are gods, And all of you are **children of the Most High.**

Psalms 91:9

“Because you have made the LORD (YHVH), who is my refuge,
Even **the Most High**, your dwelling place..”

Psalms 83:18

“That they may know that You,
whose name alone is YHVH (the LORD),
Are **the Most High** over all the earth.”

Psalms 91:1

“He who dwells in the secret place **of the Most High**
Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.”

Luke 8:28-29

“When he (the demon) saw Jesus, he cried out, fell down before Him, and with a loud voice said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, **Son of the Most High God?** I beg You, do not torment me!"

**But what about Deut 6:4 – “The LORD (YHVH) is ONE...”
(echad in Hebrew). So how can we be talking about TWO?**

ECHAD – story

Let me tell a story to best illustrate this. Those of you who are using notes alone may miss a lot if you’re not also listening to the audio or video, as I simply cannot write out every word of the story, but I’ll have the gist of some of it.

Of course right in Genesis 1 we read how God – from the plural Hebrew word “Elohim” – said, “Let US make man in OUR image, according to OUR likeness” (Genesis 1:26a). Right off the bat there is an implication that God is more than One. Singular for Elohim is simply “El”, meaning “Strong One”.

About early 2000's, I was visiting my sister in Redding, CA at the time. Her daughter was there visiting too, with her rabbi husband – of course of the Jewish faith. So they had to eat separately from us, have their own plates, etc.

At some point I asked the rabbi if I could speak with him to better understand the Hebrew meaning of a word.

The Rabbi became belligerent with me – “Now Philip, don't be trying to convert me to your Jesus. Jesus can't be God. Nor can he be Messiah. He died. God doesn't die. Messiah doesn't die. And there is only ONE God. You know Deuteronomy 6:4 don't you? ‘The LORD is ONE’. ONE, Philip – not two, not three, not more. ONE. That's it. And that ONE is God. That ONE is not Christ. Got it? It can't include Jesus because God is just ONE.”

I thanked him and opened to Deut 6, as we read Deut 6:4 together.

Deuteronomy 6:4

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!"

So when Jesus said he was the Son of God, the Jews understood him to say that HE was also God, for the “son of” something is of the same kind.

I showed him my NKJV had an asterisk next to “one” – and it said, “The LORD is our God, the LORD alone.”

He didn't seem to like that alternative reading. Of course I was not saying “Yehovah or Yahweh” to him as that would have been offensive to a Jewish Rabbi. Orthodox Jews misunderstand the 3rd commandment and so never say God's name YHVH out loud. They don't even write it. Instead they change the original word and original name God (Elohim) used - which was YHVH – and change it to Adonai – a totally different word that means “My Lord”.

Rabbi: “See there, just like I told you. ONE, Philip! The LORD is ONE.”
(So I read from the CJB Hebrew, which he seemed to appreciate):

Deuteronomy 6:4

“Sh'ma, Yisra'el! Adonai Eloheinu, Adonai echad”

[English: “Hear, Isra'el! Adonai our God, Adonai is one”];

Me: I asked him, “And ‘echad’ means...?”

He thrust his index finger straight up – right in front of my face – “ONE Philip, Just one! Always one. NOT two. Not three. Get it?”.

I must point out to all of YOU, that in Hebrew the word about the one speaking in Deuteronomy 6:4, says “YHVH” – NOT “Adonai”.

So *I* would normally say – “Sh’ma, Yisrael! Yehovah Eloheinu, Yehovah echad”. But because they misunderstand the 3rd commandment, they changed God’s personal name there from YHVH to Adonai! YHVH can also be spelled YHWH.

NEVER TINKER WITH GOD’S UNIQUE HOLY NAME YHVH.

But God tells us in Jeremiah 31 that the time is coming when nobody will have to be asked if they “know YHVH (the LORD), because the whole world will know him as YHVH”. It’s clear here and in so many other places, that God wants His personal name known.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

"Behold, the days are coming, says YHVH, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah — 32 NOT according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says YHVH.

33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, **says YHVH: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts;** and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

34 No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, '**Know YHVH,**' **for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says YHVH.** For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."

By the way, **Hebrews 10:15** says the Holy Spirit will write God’s laws in their hearts. Here we see Holy Spirit again is actually GOD himself writing on our hearts in Jeremiah 31:33.

But back to my discussion with my Rabbi friend about “echad”.

So I put up my index finger too – “ONE. Echad means ONE, you say”. Rabbi: “YES”, he replies – “ONE. I’m the Hebrew expert remember.”

ME: “Yes sir, that’s why we’re talking. You’re the expert.”

He: That’s right.

ME: I have a question. I looked up other places where it’s described as “one”.

Genesis 2:24 – “This is why man leaves his father and mother and bonds with his wife and THEY become ONE flesh.” Rabbi, tell me. What is the word there for “ONE”?

Rabbi: it is also echad.

Me: But I thought you said “echad” has to be just ONE, one being. Here you have TWO, a man and his wife, but they are said to be “echad” – “one”.

(He is pondering)

Me: I have another scripture I wish to ask you about, please – Gen 11 and the tower of Babel.

Genesis 11:5-7

“But the LORD (YHWH) came down to see the city and the tower which the sons of men had built.

6 And the LORD (YHWH) said, "Indeed the people are ONE and they all have one language, and this is what they begin to do; now nothing that they propose to do will be withheld from them.

In verse 6, what's the Hebrew word there for “ONE”?

Rabbi: It's also echad.

Me – but now we're talking about at least HUNDREDS, maybe more, who are being described as “ONE” – as ECHAD”. How can that be? Is this saying that it IS possible in Hebrew to have more than one person, and still describe them as ECHAD, AS ONE – as in a man and wife, or as in a group of people acting in total unity?

Long pause... Checking his source books, as I waited.... “I'll have to see what **Rabbi Maimonides** has to say about this.” *And we never spoke of it again.*

There are so many more examples of MANY people so united in focus that they are described as “echad”, as “ONE”.

Exodus 24:3

“So Moses came and told the people all the words of YHVH and all the judgments. **And all the people answered with ONE voice** and said, "All the words which the Lord has said we will do."

So we know we have God Most High, and we have the Word, who was God, and was with God (**John 1:1-3**). TWO beings as ONE God. The Holy Spirit is not a separate being but is a part of God Most High and The Word. See my sermon on “Who-or-What- is the Holy Spirit?’ ***Holy Spirit is not even mentioned in John 1:1-3.*** It didn't need to be, as Holy Spirit is part of God, but not separately.

OT:259 ECHAD (*emphasis mine*)

From “Complete Word Study Dictionary of the Old Testament

A numerical adjective meaning one, first, once, the same. It may mean simply one of various things: e.g., place (Genesis 1:9); soul, or person (Leviticus 4:27); a person from among many (Genesis 3:22; 42:19; 1 Samuel 26:15). ...The Lord is one (Deuteronomy 6:4). It expresses agreement or unity among persons (Exodus 24:3) or physical unity (Zephaniah 3:9).... **The word is pluralized to mean several, few, or a while (Genesis 11:1; 27:44).**

Also keep in mind in John 17 that Jesus told his remaining 11 disciples to all be ONE, all eleven of them, as one as Jesus and His Father were one. (John 17:

SO I hope it's obvious now that “echad” – or “one” can include far more than just one being, or one person of the Godhead.

YHVH – WHICH ONE was “YHVH” or “the LORD”?

Let's talk now about “Which one is the one called “YHVH” – or “the LORD”? Is it always God Most High, or is it the Word of God (Jesus) – or both?

Nobody has seen God the Father – but many have seen YHVH

Now combine all that with a couple more verses that say NOBODY, no human, has ever seen the Father, period. And yet clearly, as I showed last time, people have seen someone depicted and described as being “the LORD” – or YHVH.

So those times when YHVH is seen – could not have been God the Father.

John 1:18

“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”

1 John 4:12

“No one has seen God at any time. If we love one another, God abides in us, and His love has been perfected in us.”

John 6:46

“Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.”

Has any human heard the Father's VOICE”?

Let's talk about this verse. HERE Jesus says nobody has seen OR heard the Father's voice. **Note to whom Jesus was speaking.**

John 5:37-38

“And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. YOU have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form.

38 But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe.”

TO whom was all this said? We have **to go back to verse 16**. Jesus had just healed a man paralyzed for 38 years, but on the sabbath. There's no commandment saying we can't heal on the sabbath, but the Pharisees defined healing as “work”, so to them, Jesus had broken their own oral law. But not God's commandments!

John 5:16-18

“For this reason the Jews persecuted Jesus, and sought to kill Him, because He had done these things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, "My Father has been working until now, and I have been working."

18 Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.”

So Jesus said “YOU haven't seen God or heard his voice” -- to a group of Jews who wanted to kill him. Of course they'd never seen God or heard His voice. Of course not.

But it's also clear that several people have heard God's voice.

- **At Jesus' baptism**, there was a voice from heaven saying, “This is my beloved son...” (**Matthew 3:17**)
- **At the Mount of Transfiguration**, Peter, James and John heard the Father's voice there too. “This is my Son. Hear HIM.” **Matthew 17:5**. Only one can say, “this is my Son”. This was not an angel speaking but God the Father.
- **Peter openly confesses he HEARD the Father's voice on the Mount of Transfiguration**. Maybe just Jesus heard the words at his baptism, based on Peter's wording in 2 Peter 1:17.

2 Peter 1:17-18

“For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

18 And WE heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.”

So there you have it. Some of God's people HAD heard the Father's voice, but NOBODY has seen his form or shape. (Another time was John 12:27-37).

BUT IT'S CLEAR – PEOPLE DID SEE YHVH at times.

SO many verses say that “the LORD (YHVH) APPEARED to....”

Gen 12:7; 17:1; 18:1; – Abram

Gen 26:2, 24; – to Isaac

Deut 31:15 – the LORD appeared in a pillar of cloud

1 Samuel 3:21 – “YHVH appeared again in Shiloh...”

1 Kings 3:5; 9:2 – YHVH appeared to Solomon in a dream

Isaiah 6:1—Isaiah saw the Lord in glory on his throne

Ex 24:10 -- “they saw the God of Israel”

The answer to the question of who was YHVH is this:

- **It depends on context.**
 - **If YHVH is SEEN, then it could not have been God Most High for nobody has ever seen Him.**
 - **If YHVH is seen, then it has to be the Word, who is also God.**

Psalm 110:1 – clearly YHVH here is God Most High speaking to his Second in command, the Word, Adonai (the Lord) to sit at his right hand.

Gen 18:1, on the other hand, has to be the Word of God, the One who became Jesus, because YHVH here is SEEN and eats with Abraham.

Ex. 24:10 – They all saw the God of Israel”. This obviously must also be the Word of God for here God is seen.

God in the Highest (Father) and the Word (Jesus) are not one

Being – but one in unity. TWO Distinct persons but acting and living as ONE.

John 10:30

“I and My Father are one.”

John 14:8-11

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10 Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; **but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.**

11 Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves."

My point in reading all that is to remind us that Jesus says over and over in different ways – that he and Father were always doing the same thing: the Father's will. Jesus said every word he spoke and every deed he did, were doing the Father's will, AND... that it actually was the FATHER living in him doing the works! That's a huge statement.

John 12:49-50

“For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command, what I should say and what I should speak.

50 And I know that His command is everlasting life. Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.”

But Jesus/Yeshua and Abba – the Father – were as ONE, though two Beings.

So I hope you're understanding that when you read of "the LORD" (in all Caps; really "YHVH"), **that could be either God Most High the Father, or the Word of God Jesus the Son of the Highest. Either one. Or both.** BOTH are Creator. Both are very interested in being involved in Israel and wherever else God was working. BOTH are God of the Old Testament. Both are Savior.

And BOTH are YHVH – depending on context. (Or YHWH – W and V interchangeable). OK? YHVH could not have been the Father when He was seen. Those times would have to be Yeshua, the Word of God. But other

times, **like Ps 110:1, and Psalm 2 and 8**, there the YHVH is God the Father, talking about his Son. I'm repeating myself for clarity.

And the two of them are SO united, **they are 'ECHAD'** – like a man bonding with his wife, like a group intent on building the Tower of Babel were “echad” – ONE, though many persons.

WE, God's children, must also have ONENESS and loving kindness

God's own **loving ONENESS must be what is seen in US**. Their LOVE for each another – is what people MUST see in our Body of believers.

Reminder: regardless of ethnicity, color or race. God pours out into us the “love of God” (Romans 5:5) and this love is intense in uniting God's children; the same love they had – two Beings, as ONE.

John 13:34-35

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; **as I have loved you**, that you also **love one another**. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”

God Most High and His Son of the Highest – set the pattern for ONENESS.

At the end of the Lord's Supper Passover, Yeshua was impressing on the disciples there – and to us now -- that **they** also needed to be united more, more “one”, as “one” as He and God the Father were one. That united.

John 17:20-23

"I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word;

21 that they all may be ONE, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be ONE in US, that the world may believe that You sent Me.

22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, **that THEY may be ONE just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in ONE, and** that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”

So YHVH can mean both of them acting as One, depending on context. If YHVH is seen, that is the One who became Christ. If YHVH is not seen, could be either the Most High God or Christ. Look carefully at context. Are you ready for the next one?

“I AM” is also both

You can study this more on your own. When YHVH spoke to Moses, this was the One who also showed his glorified back to Moses, so this was Jesus. The name this YHVH gave as his name was “I am who I am”. The Great I am. Meaning he will be what he’s always been and will always be in future. I am. Some translate YHVH as “the Eternal”. Remember, there was no “the” before his holy name.

But it clearly is also a name owned by Jesus. When Jesus was illegally arrested in Gethsemane, he asked whom the thugs/officers were seeking. When they said “Jesus” – he said, in the original, simply “I AM”. Your Bible will say “I am He”, but “he” in KJV and NKJV is *in italics*, showing it was not in the original Greek. He simply said, “I am”. That’s the name of God. And the Word was God too, remember (John 1:1-3). So here’s the dialogue upon his arrest, but I’ve taken out “*He*” as in “I am he”. He just said, “I am”. Notice verse 6.

John 18:4-8

Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?"

5 They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus said to them, "I am". And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them.

6 Now when He said to them, "**I am**" they drew back and fell to the ground. 7 Then He asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?"

And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth."

8 Jesus answered, "**I have told you that I am**. Therefore, if you seek Me, let these go their way,"

Of course Jesus used “I am” in so many ways. Such as “I AM the Light, the door, the Good Shepherd, the Bread from Heaven, The way, the Truth, the Life... etc.

HOW ABOUT ALPHA AND OMEGA? First and Last?

Even “the alpha and the omega (A and Z), the first and the last” – refers to BOTH Jesus Christ and God our Father.

Referring to the Christ:

Revelation 1:10-11

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to

the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

Revelation 1:17-18

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

Here though, it refers to God the Father:

Revelation 21:5-8

"Then **He who sat on the throne (God the Father)** said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son."

Revelation 22:12-13 Here, it reverts back to Christ again:

"And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. 13 **I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.**"

A few verses later:

Revelation 22:16

"**I, Jesus**, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

Those are not contradictions. They are BOTH the Alpha and Omega, the A and Z, the Alef and Tav acting as ONE. Both are "first and last".

But let's be sure we never sideline Jesus Christ, as a few groups have done. **Let's never sideline God the Father.** God Most High, our Father, is #1, first, greatest, highest and is always active. "My Father works, and I work" – as Jesus said. He's working through his son Jesus Christ. PRAISE God.

Here's another point. **Even the idea of God as our Father**, though I don't have time to elaborate on it, was not a foreign concept to Israel.

GOD as FATHER

Did Israel really not know of God as a FATHER? Not in the same intimate sense as a “daddy” perhaps , but the concept was not foreign, either.

Malachi 2:10a

“Have we not all one Father? Has not one God created us?”

Malachi 1:6a

"A son honors his father, And a servant his master.

If then I am the Father, Where is My honor?”

Isaiah 63:16

“Doubtless You are our Father, Though Abraham was ignorant of us, And Israel does not acknowledge us.

You, O Lord, are our Father;

Our Redeemer from Everlasting is Your name”.

Psalms 2:7

"I will declare the decree: YHVH has said to Me,

'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'

Psalms 2:12a

12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, (some: embrace the Son).

And as a father corrects the son he delights in, Prov. 3:12, or as a father pities his children, so the Lord pities those who fear him (Ps 103:13).

I hope you now more perfectly see our wonderful Father and Son in new and glorious light. Most of the times, the titles and the work being done, is referring to BOTH. Praise our God in heaven.

Closing prayer.