

The Father

A Bible Study on the Eternal Father

Godhead Study Part 1

Compiled by Dan Augsburg

Psalms 19:1-3 “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.”

Romans 1:20 “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”

1 John 4:8 “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Psalms 103:10-11 “He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.”

Luke 6:36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.”

Ephesians 2:4-8 “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”

Introduction

This is the first of a multi-part Bible study on the Godhead. Made up of three distinct Eternal Persons, the Godhead is revealed throughout the Old and New Testament Scriptures.

The Father is one of these distinct Eternal Persons. You will learn about Him in this first study. The next parts of this study present evidence on, (1) Christ, the Father's representative and self-existent Divine Saviour of the world; (2) the Holy Spirit, Christ's Representative and Successor; and the (3) "Eternal" Three, and "The LORD our God, the LORD is one." An addendum to the second part lists the many quotations of Ellen White attesting to the "everlasting to everlasting," eternal duration, of Christ's life.

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are taken from the KJV. In my personal study I use the NKJV for readability, but since this began as a study of Ellen White's writings, and she primarily used the KJV, I use the KJV version in most of this series of Bible studies.

I let the Scriptures speak for themselves, sharing limited commentary and a few relevant quotations..

Throughout the studies footnotes are added, bringing further clarification on the subject in question, or providing key quotations from the writings of Ellen G. White.

These studies are the result of three years of careful study of the Bible, the writings of Ellen White, and other authors on the subject. To date, more than 1,500 pages of quotations have been collected from the writings of Ellen White on the subject.

In these studies there is some duplication of texts.

Unless stated otherwise, quotations come from the writings of Mrs. White. The verses with asterisks (*) indicate important references.

There are line numbers to help attendees more easily follow the presentation.

I pray you will come away from these studies with new, or renewed, confidence in the Three Persons of the Godhead

Dan Augsburg

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The Mysterious Godhead of the Father

1 The works of creation prove the existence, glory, wisdom
2 and power of the Godhead.

3 *Psalms 19:1-3 “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firma-
4 ment sheweth his handywork. 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and
5 night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor lan-
6 guage, where their voice is not heard.”

7 *Romans 1:20 “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the
8 world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made,
9 even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”

10 The Godhead is a mystery.¹

11 Job 11:7-9 “Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out
12 the Almighty unto perfection? 8 It is as high as heaven; what canst
13 thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know? 9 The measure
14 thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.”

15 Deuteronomy 29:29 “The secret things belong unto the LORD our
16 God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our
17 children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.”

18 The Father is one of three Persons who make up the
19 Godhead.²

1. Regarding “the divine mystery of the essence of God, Christ ever maintained a wise reserve. He did this that He might close the door where human conjectures should not be encouraged.” Manuscript 45, 1900.10.

2. “Although the Old Testament alludes to the Persons of the Godhead, it doesn’t distinguish between them.” P. G. Damsteeg, *Seventh-day Adventists Believe*, (Washington, D.C.: Ministerial Association, 1988), 30.

20 *Matthew 28:19 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing
21 them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy
22 Ghost.”³

23 *The Personhood of the Father*

24 The Father is a person and distinct from Christ.

25 John 4:34 “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that
26 sent me, and to finish his work.”

27 *Matthew 6:9 “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which
28 art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”

29 *John 12:49-50 “For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father
30 which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and
31 what I should speak. 50 And I know that his commandment is life
32 everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto
33 me, so I speak.”

34 Matthew 11:25-26 “At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee,
35 O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things
36 from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes. 26
37 Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight.”

38 John 3:35 “The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into
39 his hand.”

40 *Some Attributes of the Father*

41 The Father is eternal.

42 Genesis 21:33 “And Abraham planted a grove in Beersheba, and
43 called there on the name of the LORD, the everlasting God.”

44 *Deuteronomy 33:27 “The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath
45 are the everlasting arms.”

46 *Psalms 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou
47 hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to

3. “The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave themselves to the working out of the plan of redemption.” Letter 12, 1901.10.

48 everlasting, thou art God.”

49 Psalms 93:2 “Thy throne is established of old: thou art from
50 everlasting.”

51 *Isaiah 57:15 “For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth
52 eternity, whose name is Holy.”

53 The Father is self-existent.

54 *John 5:26 “The Father hath life in himself.”

55 Psalms 36:9 “For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we
56 see light.”

57 1 Timothy 6:16 “Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light
58 which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can
59 see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.”

60 The Father is great in His majesty and above all Gods.

61 Psalms 93:1 “The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty.”

62 Psalms 145:5 “I will speak of the glorious honour of thy majesty, and
63 of thy wondrous works.”

64 Hebrews 1:3 “Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express
65 image of his person, ... sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on
66 high.”

67 Psalms 95:1-3 “O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a
68 joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. 2 Let us come before his
69 presence with thanksgiving, and make a joyful noise unto him with
70 psalms. 3 For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all
71 gods. ... 6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before
72 the LORD our maker. 7 For he is our God; and we are the people of
73 his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.”

74 The Father is unchanging (immutable).

75 *Malachi 3:6 “For I am the Lord, I change not.”

76 *James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above,
77 and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no
78 variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

79 The Father is present everywhere (omnipresent).

80 *Psalms 11:4 “The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in
81 heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.”

82 *Psalms 139:7-10 “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall
83 I flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if
84 I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of
85 the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there
86 shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.”

87 The Father is all powerful (omnipotent).

88 *Daniel 4:17,25,35 “This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and
89 the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living
90 may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and
91 giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of
92 men. ... 25 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling
93 shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat
94 grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and
95 seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High
96 ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. ...
97 35 ‘And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he
98 doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the
99 inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him,
100 What doest thou?’”

101 *Matthew 19:26 “But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With
102 men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”

103 The Father is all knowing (omniscient).

104 *Job 37:16 “Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds, the
105 wondrous works of him which is perfect in knowledge?”

106 *Psalms 147:5 “Great is our Lord, and of great power: his
107 understanding is infinite.”

108 *Isaiah 46:9-10 “Remember the former things of old: for I am God,
109 and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10
110 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the
111 things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will
112 do all my pleasure.”

113 Jeremiah 17:10 “I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to
114 give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his

115 doings.”

116 The Father is Wise⁴

117 Job 12:13 “With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and
118 understanding.”

119 Isaiah 40:28 “Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the
120 everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth,
121 fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his
122 understanding.”

123 *Daniel 2:20-22 “Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of
124 God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: 21 And he
125 changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up
126 kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that
127 know understanding: 22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he
128 knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.”

129 The Father is sovereign.

130 Psalms 24:1 “The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the
131 world, and they that dwell therein.”

132 *Psalms 103:19 “The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens;
133 and his kingdom ruleth over all.”

134 Psalms 135:6 “Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven,
135 and in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.”

136 *Daniel 2:20-22 “Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of
137 God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: 21 And he
138 changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up
139 kings.”

140 The Father is true.

141 Ps. 65:16 “That he who blesseth himself in the earth shall bless
142 himself in the God of truth; and he that sweareth in the earth shall
143 swear by the God of truth.”

144 Exodus 34:6b “And abundant in goodness and truth.”

145 Psalms 108:4 “For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth
146 reacheth unto the clouds.”

4. This wisdom is both moral and intellectual.

147 • His word is true.

148 John 17:17 “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

149 Psalms 19:7-9 “The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul:
150 the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. 8 The
151 statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment
152 of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. 9 The fear of the LORD is
153 clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the LORD are true and
154 righteous altogether.”

155 Psalms 119:160 “Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one
156 of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.”

157 Psalms 119:151 “Thou art near, O LORD; and all thy commandments
158 are truth.”

159 • His promises are true.

160 Hebrews 10:23 “Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without
161 wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;).”

162 Psalms 119:90 “Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: thou hast
163 established the earth, and it abideth.”

164 The Father is infinite in love.

165 *1 John 4:8 “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”

166 1 John 4:9 “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because
167 that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live
168 through him.”

169 The Father is merciful.

170 *Exodus 34:6-7 “And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed,
171 The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and
172 abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands,
173 forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means
174 clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children,
175 and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth
176 generation.”

177 *Psalms 103:11 “For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is
178 his mercy toward them that fear him.”

179 Luke 6:35-36 “But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend,
180 hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall
181 be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and

182 to the evil. 36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is
183 merciful.”

184 *Ephesians 2:4-8 “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love
185 wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath
186 quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath
187 raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in
188 Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding
189 riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8
190 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it
191 is the gift of God.”

192 The Father forgives.

193 Micah 7:18-19 “Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity,
194 and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he
195 retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy. 19 He
196 will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our
197 iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.”

198 Jeremiah 31:34 “And they shall teach no more every man his
199 neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for
200 they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of
201 them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will
202 remember their sin no more.”

203 *Isaiah 43:25 “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for
204 mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”

205 Psalms 86:5 “For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and
206 plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.”

207 The Father saves through His Son Jesus Christ.

208 *John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only
209 begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but
210 have everlasting life.”

211 *Romans 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while
212 we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

213 The Father is good.

214 *1 John 1:5 “This then is the message which we have heard of him,
215 and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at
216 all.”

217 Matthew 19:17 “And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good?
218 there is none good but one, that is, God.”
219 James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and
220 cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness,
221 neither shadow of turning.”

222 The Father judges.⁵

223 Genesis 18:25 “Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”
224 *Psalms 82:8 “Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all
225 nations.”
226 2 Chronicles 20:12 “O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have
227 no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither
228 know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee.”

229 *Father Represented Himself Through Christ*

230 No Person has ever seen God.

231 Exodus 33:20 “And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there
232 shall no man see me, and live.”
233 *John 1:18 “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten
234 Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”
235 1 Timothy 6:15-16 “Which in his times he shall shew, who is the
236 blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; 16
237 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can
238 approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be
239 honour and power everlasting. Amen.”

240 The Father represented Himself through Christ.⁶

5. God’s necessary work of judgment is seen in a variety of situations, including Adam and Eve (Genesis 3), the corrupt world of Noah’s day (Genesis 6-8), Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18-19), the Egyptian oppressors with plagues (Genesis 15:14; Genesis 7-12), the Israelites when they worshipped the golden calf (Exodus 32:26-35), Achan (Joshua 7), foreign rulers like Nebuchadnezzar and Belshazzar (Daniel 4 and 5), and in the New Testament on various individuals (Herod, Ananias and Sapphira, Elymas etc.).

6. “After the transgression of Adam, the Lord spoke no longer directly with man; the human race was given into the hands of Christ, and all communication

241 *John 1:14 “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and
 242 we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,)
 243 full of grace and truth.”
 244 *John 1:18 “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten
 245 Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”
 246 John 6:38 “For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will,
 247 but the will of him that sent me.”
 248 John 14:8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it
 249 sufficeth us. 9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with
 250 you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me
 251 hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?”
 252 2 Corinthians 4:6 “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of
 253 darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge
 254 of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”
 255 Colossians 1:15 “Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn
 256 of every creature.”
 257 *Hebrews 1:2-3 “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,
 258 whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the
 259 worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image
 260 of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when
 261 he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the
 262 Majesty on high.”
 263 There is perfect unity between Father and the Son.
 264 *Deuteronomy 6:4 (NKJV) “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the
 265 Lord is one!”
 266 *John 10:30 “I and my Father are one.”

267 *The Father and Creation*

268 The Father was involved in creation.
 269 Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”
 270 *Ephesians 3:9 “And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the

came through him to the world.” *Review and Herald*, November 28, 1893, par. 4.

271 mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God,
272 who created all things by Jesus Christ.”
273 *Hebrews 1:2 “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,
274 whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the
275 worlds.”

276 *The Father and Humankind*

277 God is referred to as “Father” in numerous Scriptures.

278 *Deuteronomy 32:6 “Do ye thus requite the Lord, O foolish people
279 and unwise? is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not
280 made thee, and established thee?”

281 Isaiah 63:16 “Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be
282 ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O Lord, art our
283 father, our redeemer; thy name is from everlasting.”

284 Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see
285 your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

286 *Matthew 6:9 “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which
287 art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”

288 Matthew 7:11 “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts
289 unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in
290 heaven give good things to them that ask him?”

291 John 5:30 “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and
292 my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of
293 the Father which hath sent me.”

294 *Romans 8:15 “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to
295 fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry,
296 Abba, Father.”

297 Humankind are referred to in a variety of ways, including
298 “sons,” “daughters,” and “children.”

299 *Exodus 4:22 “And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the Lord,
300 Israel is my son, even my firstborn.”

301 Deuteronomy 32:19 “And when the Lord saw it, he abhorred them,
302 because of the provoking of his sons, and of his daughters.”

303 Hosea 11:1 “When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my

304 son out of Egypt.”

305 *2 Corinthians 6:18 “And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be
306 my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

307 *The Father's Love for Humankind*

308 The Father sought to be in relationship with humankind.

309 *Genesis 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after
310 our likeness.”

311 Exodus 25:8 “And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell
312 among them.”

313 Deuteronomy 7:7-8 “The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor
314 choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye
315 were the fewest of all people: 8 But because the Lord loved you, and
316 because he would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers,
317 hath the Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you
318 out of the house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of
319 Egypt.”

320 *Jeremiah 31:3 “The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea,
321 I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with
322 lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”

323 *John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only
324 begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but
325 have everlasting life.”

326 *1 John 4:19 “We love him, because he first loved us.”

327 The Father made wonderful promises.⁷

328 *Genesis 3:15 “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman,
329 and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou
330 shalt bruise his heel.”

331 Genesis 9:8-15 “And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him,
332 saying, 9 And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with
333 your seed after you; 10 And with every living creature that is with you,
334 of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you;

7. The word “covenants” refers to agreements that includes mutual obligations.

335 from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. 11 And I
336 will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off
337 any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a
338 flood to destroy the earth. 12 And God said, This is the token of the
339 covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature
340 that is with you, for perpetual generations: 13 I do set my bow in the
341 cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the
342 earth. 14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the
343 earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: 15 And I will remember
344 my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature
345 of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all
346 flesh.”

347 *Genesis 12:1-3 “Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of
348 thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a
349 land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation,
350 and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a
351 blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that
352 curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

353 *Jeremiah 31:33 “But this shall be the covenant that I will make with
354 the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law
355 in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God,
356 and they shall be my people.”

357 *Hebrews 8:10 “For this is the covenant that I will make with the
358 house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into
359 their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God,
360 and they shall be to me a people.”

361 The Father commands our worship.

362 *Exodus 20:3-6 “Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou
363 shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any
364 thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is
365 in the water under the earth.”

366 Exodus 34:14 “For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord,
367 whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”

368 Deuteronomy 5:29 “O that there were such an heart in them, that they
369 would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might
370 be well with them, and with their children for ever!”

371 *Deuteronomy 6:5 “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all

372 thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”
373 Deuteronomy 10:20-21 “Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God; him shalt
374 thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name. 21
375 He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great
376 and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.”

377 *Respond*

378 Reason with God.

379 Isaiah 1:18 Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD:
380 though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though
381 they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

382 Return to God.

383 Isaiah 44:21-22 (KJV) 21 Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for
384 thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel,
385 thou shalt not be forgotten of me. 22 I have blotted out, as a thick
386 cloud, thy transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for
387 I have redeemed thee”

388 Isaiah 51:11 “Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return, and
389 come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be upon their
390 head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning
391 shall flee away.”

392 Jeremiah 24:7 “And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am
393 the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for
394 they shall return unto me with their whole heart.”

395 Anticipate a new life.

396 Jeremiah 31:33 “But this shall be the covenant that I will make with
397 the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law
398 in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God,
399 and they shall be my people.”

400 Ezekiel 11:19-20 “And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new
401 spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and
402 will give them an heart of flesh: 20 That they may walk in my statutes,
403 and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people,
404 and I will be their God.

405 “Ezekiel 36:25-27 “Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye
406 shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I
407 cleanse you. 26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will
408 I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh,
409 and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within
410 you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judg-
411 ments, and do them.

412 Commit to an ongoing relationship with God.

413 Revelation 3:20 “Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man
414 hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup
415 with him, and he with me.”

416 *A Few Quotations*

417 God always has been.

418 “God always has been. He is the great I AM. The psalmist declares,
419 ‘Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed
420 the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting Thou art
421 God.’ [Psalm 90:2.] He is the high and lofty One that inhabiteth
422 eternity. ‘I am the Lord, I change not,’ He declares. [Isaiah 57:15;
423 Malachi 3:6.] With Him there is no variableness, neither shadow of
424 turning. He is ‘the same yesterday, today, and forever.’ [James 1:17;
425 Hebrews 13:8.] He is infinite and omnipresent. No words of ours can
426 describe His greatness and majesty.” Manuscript 132, 1903.35.

427 The Father cannot be fully understood.

428 “We can never by searching find out God. He does not lay open his
429 plans to prying, inquisitive minds. We must not attempt to lift with
430 presumptuous hand the curtain behind which he veils his majesty. ...
431 No mortal mind can penetrate the secrecy in which the Mighty One
432 dwells and works. We can comprehend no more of his dealings with
433 us and the motives that actuate him than he sees fit to reveal. He
434 orders everything in righteousness, and we are not to be dissatisfied
435 and distrustful, but to bow in reverent submission. He will reveal to us
436 as much of his purposes as it is for our good to know; and beyond that
437 we must trust the hand that is omnipotent, the heart that is full of
438 love.” *Review and Herald*, April 7, 1885, par. 12.

439 The Father is a person.

440 “God is a spirit; yet He is a personal being, for man was made in His
441 image. As a personal being, God has revealed Himself in His Son.
442 Jesus, the outshining of the Father’s glory, “and the express image of
443 His person” (Hebrews 1:3), was on earth found in fashion as a man.”
444 *Education*, 131.6.

445 The Father represented Himself through Christ.

446 “Christ, the outshining of the Father’s glory, came to the world as its
447 light. He came to represent God to men, and of Him it is written that
448 He was anointed ‘with the Holy Ghost and with power,’ and ‘went
449 about doing good.’ Acts 10:38.” *Christ's Object Lessons*, 416.2.

450 The Father revealed His Love through Christ.

451 “The atonement of Christ was not made in order to induce God to love
452 those whom he otherwise hated; it was not made to produce a love that
453 was not in existence; but it was made as a manifestation of the love
454 that was already in God’s heart, an exponent of the divine favor in the
455 sight of heavenly intelligences, in the sight of worlds unfallen, and in
456 the sight of a fallen race.” *Signs of the Times*, May 30, 1895, par. 6.

457 The Father suffered and gave Himself with Christ.

458 “Christ submitted to crucifixion, although the heavenly host could
459 have delivered Him. The angels suffered with Christ. God Himself
460 was crucified with Christ; for Christ was one with the Father.” *Bible*
461 *Echo*, August 6, 1894, par. 5.

462 “That this redemption might be ours, God withheld not even the
463 sacrifice of Himself. He gave Himself in His Son. The Father suffered
464 with Christ in all His humiliation and agony. He suffered as He saw
465 the Son of His love despised and rejected by those whom He came to
466 elevate, ennoble, and save. He saw Him hanging upon the cross,
467 mocked and jeered at by the passers by, and He hid as it were His face
468 from Him. He saw Christ bearing the sin of the world and dying in the
469 sinner’s stead.” Manuscript 21, 1900.11.

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