

The Father

A Bible Study on the Eternal Father

Godhead Study Part 1

Compiled by Dan Augsburger

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.”

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 five 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 Father is all powerful (omnipotent). 14
- The Father is present everywhere (omnipresent). 14
- Father is all knowing (omniscient). 14
- The Father is unchanging (immutable). 15
- The Father is self-existent (has life in Himself). 15
- The Father is Sovereign (does whatever He wants). 15
- Father is great in majesty and above all gods. 16
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- The Father represented Himself through Christ. 16
- There is perfect unity between Father and the Son. 17

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The Bible Study

The Mysterious Godhead

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

20 *Matthew 28:19 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing

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.

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 *The Incommunicable Attributes of God*

41 *In the verses that follow you will find the attributes of God that are*
42 *only found in God and cannot be communicated to lesser beings.*

43 God is love.

44 *1 John 4:8 “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love. 16
45 “And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God
46 is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.”

47 *Jeremiah 31:3 “The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying,

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 Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with
49 lovingkindness have I drawn thee.”⁴

50 *John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begot-
51 ten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have
52 everlasting life.”

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

55 God is Eternal (exists from everlasting to everlasting).

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

58 Psalms 41:13 “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting,
59 and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen.”

60 *Psalms 90:2 “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou
61 hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to ever-
62 lasting, thou art God.”

63 *Psalms 93:2 “Thy throne is established of old: thou art from
64 everlasting.”

65 Isaiah 40:28 “Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, the everlast-
66 ing God....”

67 God is Holy.

68 *Exodus 15:11 “Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods?
69 Who is like thee, glorious in holiness....”

4. “The love of God is a golden chain, binding finite human beings to Himself. This love passes our knowledge. Human science can not explain it. Human wisdom can not fathom it. Parents love their children, but the love of God is larger, broader, deeper, than human love can possibly be. All the paternal love that has come down from generation to generation, through the channel of human hearts, all the springs of tenderness that have opened in the sons of men, are but as a tiny rill to the boundless ocean, when compared with the infinite, exhaustless love of God. Tongue can not utter it; pen can not portray it. You may meditate upon it every day of your life; you may search the Scriptures diligently in an effort to understand it; you may summon every power and capability that God has given you; and yet there is an infinity beyond. You may study that love for ages, and yet you can never fully comprehend the length and breadth and depth and height, of the love of God.” *Signs of the Times*, July 13, 1904, par. 1.

70 *Psalms 145:17 “The LORD is righteous in all his ways, and holy in
71 all his works.”

72 Isaiah 6:3 “And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is
73 the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.”

74 Revelation 4:8 “and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy,
75 holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”

76 God is all powerful (omnipotent).

77 Genesis 17:1 “And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the
78 LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God;
79 walk before me, and be thou perfect.”

80 *Genesis 18:14 “Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time
81 appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and
82 Sarah shall have a son.”

83 *Daniel 4:35 “And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as
84 nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and
85 among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say
86 unto him, What doest thou?”

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

89 Revelation 19:6 “And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude,
90 and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty
91 thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.”

92 God is present everywhere (omnipresent).⁵

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

95 2 Chronicles 2:6 “But who is able to build him an house, seeing the
96 heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain him? who am I then,
97 that I should build him an house, save only to burn sacrifice before
98 him?”

99 Jeremiah 23:24 “Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not
100 see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the
101 LORD.”

5. “He is infinite and omnipresent. No words of ours can describe His greatness and majesty.” Manuscript 132, 1903.35.

102 Matthew 28:19 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them
103 in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20
104 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded
105 you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.
106 Amen.”

107 God is all knowing (omniscient).⁶

108 1 Kings 8:39 “For thou, even thou only, knowest the hearts of all the
109 children of men.”

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

112 *Isaiah 46:9-10 “Remember the former things of old: for I am God,
113 and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10
114 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the
115 things that are not yet done.”

116 God is unchanging (immutable).

117 Psalms 102:27 “But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no
118 end.”

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

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

123 God is Sovereign (does whatever He wants).

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

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

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

6. “Nothing can happen in any part of the universe without the knowledge of Him who is omnipresent. Not a single event of human life is unknown to our Maker. While Satan is constantly devising evil, the Lord our God overrules all, so that it will not harm his obedient, trusting children.” *Signs of the Times*, July 14, 1881, par. 8.

130 Isaiah 46:10 “I will do all my pleasure.”

131 *Daniel 2:20-21 “Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of
132 God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: 21 And he
133 changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up
134 kings.”

135 Ephesians 1:11 “Who worketh all things after the counsel of his own
136 will.”

137 *Additional Attributes of God*

138 God is true.

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

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

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

145 • His word is true.

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

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

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

156 • His promises are true.

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

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

161 God is merciful.

162 Exodus 34:6-7 “And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed,
163 The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and
164 abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands,
165 forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means
166 clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children,
167 and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth
168 generation.”

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

171 Luke 6:35-36 “But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend,
172 hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall
173 be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and
174 to the evil. 36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is
175 merciful.”

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

184 God forgives.

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

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

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

197 Psalms 86:5 “For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and

198 plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.”

199 God is good.

200 *1 John 1:5 “This then is the message which we have heard of him,
201 and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at
202 all.”

203 Matthew 19:17 “And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good?
204 there is none good but one, that is, God.”

205 *The Attributes of the Father Mentioned By Christ*

206 *In the following list, we find the attributes of the Father mentioned by*
207 *Christ in the course of His ministry on earth, or mentioned otherwise.*
208 *These attributes are not exclusively the Father’s and are in fact*
209 *manifested by all three Persons of the Godhead.*

210 The Father loves.

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

214 Matthew 18:13 “It is not the will of your Father which is in heaven,
215 that one of these little ones should perish.”

216 *John 3:16-17 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only be-
217 gotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but
218 have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to
219 condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”

220 *1 John 3:1 “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed
221 upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world
222 knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”

223 The Father is eternal (exists from everlasting to
224 everlasting)

225 John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
226 and the Word was God.”

227 John 17:5 “And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self
228 with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”

229 Matthew 6:13 “For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

230 for ever. Amen.”

231 The Father is holy.

232 *Matthew 5:48 “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is
233 in heaven is perfect.”

234 John 17:11 “And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the
235 world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name
236 those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

237 The Father is all powerful (omnipotent).

238 Matthew 5:45 “That ye may be the children of your Father which is in
239 heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and
240 sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”

241 Matthew 26:53 “Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father,
242 and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?”

243 Ephesians 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus
244 unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should
245 walk in them.”

246 The Father is present everywhere (omnipresent).

247 Matthew 6:6 “But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and
248 when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and
249 thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.”

250 Father is all knowing (omniscient).

251 Matthew 6:8 “Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father
252 knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.”

253 Matthew 10:29 “Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of
254 them shall not fall on the ground without your Father.”

255 Matthew 11:25 “At that time Jesus answered and said, “I thank You,
256 Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things
257 from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes.”

258 *Matthew 24:36 “But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not
259 the angels of heaven, but my Father only.”

260 Ephesians 1:9-11 “Having made known unto us the mystery of his
261 will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in
262 himself: 10 That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might

263 gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven,
264 and which are on earth; even in him: 11 In whom also we have
265 obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose
266 of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.”

267 The Father is unchanging (immutable).

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

271 The Father is self-existent (has life in Himself).

272 *John 5:26 “For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to
273 the Son to have life in himself.”

274 The Father is Sovereign (does whatever He wants).

275 *Matthew 6:10 “Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is
276 in heaven.”

277 *Matthew 7:21 “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall
278 enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my
279 Father which is in heaven.”

280 Matthew 18:14 “Even so it is not the will of your Father which is in
281 heaven, that one of these little ones should perish.”

282 Ephesians 1:3-4 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
283 Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly
284 places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the
285 foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame
286 before him in love.”

287 Romans 8:28-29 “And we know that all things work together for good
288 to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his
289 purpose. 29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be
290 conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn
291 among many brethren.”

292 Hebrews 1:2-3 “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,
293 whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the
294 worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image
295 of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when
296 he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the
297 Majesty on high.”

298 Father is great in majesty and above all gods.
299 *Matthew 16:27 “For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his
300 Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according
301 to his works.”

302 Father is true.
303 *John 7:28 “Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye
304 both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of
305 myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not.”

306 *Father Communicated Through Christ*

307 No Person has ever seen God.
308 Exodus 33:20 “And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there
309 shall no man see me, and live.”

310 *John 1:18 “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten
311 Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”

312 1 Timothy 6:15-16 “Which in his times he shall shew, who is the
313 blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; 16
314 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can
315 approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be
316 honour and power everlasting. Amen.”

317 The Father represented Himself through Christ.⁷

318 *John 1:14 “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and
319 we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,)
320 full of grace and truth.”

321 *John 1:18 “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten
322 Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”

323 John 6:38 “For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will,
324 but the will of him that sent me.”

325 John 14:8 “Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it

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

326 sufficeth us. 9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with
327 you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me
328 hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?"

329 2 Corinthians 4:6 "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of
330 darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge
331 of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

332 Colossians 1:15 "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn
333 of every creature."

334 *Hebrews 1:2-3 "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,
335 whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the
336 worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image
337 of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when
338 he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the
339 Majesty on high."

340 There is perfect unity between Father and the Son.

341 *John 10:30 "I and my Father are one."

342 John 17:21 "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I
343 in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe
344 that thou hast sent me."

345 *The Father and Creation*

346 The Father was involved in creation.

347 Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."

348 *Ephesians 3:9 "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the
349 mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God,
350 who created all things by Jesus Christ."

351 *Hebrews 1:2 "Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,
352 whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the
353 worlds."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

375 God’s earthly children are referred to in a variety of
376 familial ways, including “sons,” “daughters,” and
377 “children.”

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

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

382 Hosea 11:1 “When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my
383 son out of Egypt.”

384 *2 Corinthians 6:18 “And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be
385 my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

387 *In the sections that follow you will learn more about the desires and*
 388 *efforts made for relationship with human beings..*

389 The Father sought to be in relationship with humankind.

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

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

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

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

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

407 *1 John 4:19 “We love him, because he first loved us.”

408 Wonderful promises were made.⁸

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

412 Genesis 9:8-15 “And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him,
 413 saying, 9 And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with
 414 your seed after you; 10 And with every living creature that is with you,
 415 of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you;
 416 from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. 11 And I

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

417 will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off
418 any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a
419 flood to destroy the earth. 12 And God said, This is the token of the
420 covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature
421 that is with you, for perpetual generations: 13 I do set my bow in the
422 cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the
423 earth. 14 And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the
424 earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: 15 And I will remember
425 my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature
426 of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all
427 flesh.”

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

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

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

442 We are commanded to worship.

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

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

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

452 *Deuteronomy 6:5 “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all
453 thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”

454 Deuteronomy 10:20-21 “Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God; him shalt
455 thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name. 21
456 He is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great
457 and terrible things, which thine eyes have seen.”

458 *Respond*

459 Reason with God.

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

463 Return to God.

464 Isaiah 44:21-22 “Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my
465 servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt
466 not be forgotten of me. 22 I have blotted out, as a thick cloud, thy
467 transgressions, and, as a cloud, thy sins: return unto me; for I have re-
468 deemed thee”

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

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

476 Anticipate a new life.

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

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

486 Ezekiel 36:25-27 “Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye

487 shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I
488 cleanse you. 26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will
489 I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh,
490 and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my spirit within
491 you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judg-
492 ments, and do them.”

493 Commit to an ongoing relationship with God.

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

497 *A Few Instructive Quotations*

498 God always has been.

499 “Again and again during my experience in the Lord’s work, I have
500 been called upon to meet these erroneous sentiments. In every case,
501 clear, powerful light has been given that God is the eternal, self-
502 existent One. From my girlhood I have been given plain instruction
503 that God is a person, and that Christ is “the express image of His
504 person.” [Hebrews 1:3.] God always has been. That which concerns us
505 is not the how or the wherefore. {Ms137-1903.3} In the Word God is
506 spoken of as the everlasting God. This name embraces past, present,
507 and future. God is from everlasting to everlasting. He is the Eternal
508 One. “The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the
509 everlasting arms; and He shall thrust out the enemy from before thee;
510 and shall say, Destroy them. Israel shall dwell in safety alone; the
511 fountain of Jacob shall be upon a land of corn and wine; also his
512 heavens shall drop down dew. Happy art thou, O Israel; who is like
513 unto thee, O people saved by the Lord, the shield of thy help, and who
514 is the sword of thine excellency.” [Deuteronomy 33:27-29.]
515 Manuscript 137, 1903.4.

516 The Father cannot be fully understood.

517 “The finite minds of men are inadequate fully to comprehend the plans
518 and purposes of the Infinite One. We can never by searching find out
519 God. We must not attempt to lift with presumptuous hand the curtain
520 behind which He veils His majesty. The apostle exclaims: “How
521 unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!”

522 Romans 11:33. We can so far comprehend His dealings with us, and
523 the motives by which He is actuated, that we may discern boundless
524 love and mercy united to infinite power. Our Father in heaven orders
525 everything in wisdom and righteousness, and we are not to be
526 dissatisfied and distrustful, but to bow in reverent submission. He will
527 reveal to us as much of His purposes as it is for our good to know, and
528 beyond that we must trust the Hand that is omnipotent, the Heart that
529 is full of love.” *The Great Controversy*, p. 527.1.

530 The Father is a person.

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

536 The Father represented Himself through Christ.

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

541 The Father revealed His Love through Christ.

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

548 The Father suffered and gave Himself with Christ.

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

553 “That this redemption might be ours, God withheld not even the
554 sacrifice of Himself. He gave Himself in His Son. The Father suffered
555 with Christ in all His humiliation and agony. He suffered as He saw
556 the Son of His love despised and rejected by those whom He came to
557 elevate, ennoble, and save. He saw Him hanging upon the cross,

558 mocked and jeered at by the passers by, and He hid as it were His face
559 from Him. He saw Christ bearing the sin of the world and dying in the
560 sinner's stead." Manuscript 21, 1900.11.

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