

## **Jehovah, the god of Israel**

**Based on tradition that goes back thousands of years, in the Christian world it is understood that Jehovah and God the Father are the same, but by close observation we can see that their characters are extremely different.**

- Jehovah killed in the heat of anger (Ex.32:10), whereas God the Father is always kind and generous, bestowing life through His Son (2 Co.5:18-19).
- Jehovah frequently uttered curses, whereas the Father redeems us from the curses through His Son who suffered for us (Ga.3:13).
- Jehovah blinded the spiritual eyes of the people (Is.7:9-10), whereas the Father opened them through the teachings of the Son (Mt.13:16).
- Jehovah punished disobedience with oppression of bondage (Je.21:4-7; Je.28:14...), whereas the Father releases people from spiritual oppression through freedom in Jesus Christ (Jo.8:32).
- Jehovah sought vengeance by sending plagues and pestilence (2 Sa.24:15; 1 Cr.21:14-15), whereas the Son revealed all the love of the Father by taking our weaknesses on Himself (Mt.8:16-17).

**If someone not knowing the general context of the Bible were to read only the Old Testament, he would be disappointed and confused with the behavior of the character presented as God in many situations.**

Below is a list of some of the many behavioral inconsistencies that disappoint anyone who concentrates their reading on the first 39 books of the Bible:

- Jehovah repents of his actions (Gn.6:6-7; 1 Sa.15:35);
- Jehovah changes his attitude after discussions with men (Dt.9:14; Ex.4:24);
- Jehovah destroys innocent children because of the sins of their fathers or ancestors (Ex.20:5; 34:7; Nm.16:27-50; Dt.3:6-7; 1 Sa.15:1-3; 2 Sa.12:15-18; Is.14:21);
- Jehovah sends evil spirits, like the one that disturbed Saul or the lying spirit that led to the death of king Ahab (Ju.9:23; 1 Sa.16:14-23; 18:10-11; 19:9-10; 1 Kings 22:19-23; 2 Cr.18:18-22; Is.19:14; Ez.14:9)
- Jehovah allowed retaliation based on "an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth", granted victory in bloody battles against enemies and incited peoples against Israel when its leaders prevaricated or needed correction (Ex.21:24-25; Dt.19:12-21; Js.6:19-24; 11:20; Ju.2:14; 3:1; Psalm 7:11-13; Je.46:10-11; Na.1:2);
- Jehovah sends plagues and issues curses much more frequently than blessings (Gn.3:16-19; 4:11-15; 5:29; Nm.25:9; Lv.28:15-68; 2 Sa.3:29; Is.5:25; Je.25:31-33; Ml.2:2);
- Jehovah advocates the punishment of the disobedient and sinners by stoning or burning to death for banal offences such as working on the Sabbath (Ex.31:15; Lv.20:9-16; 20:27; 24:17-23; Nm.15:32-36; 13:9-16; 17:5-7; Dt.22:20-24; Js.7:24-25);
- Jehovah discriminates people on the basis of sex, race and even birth defects (Lv.21:21; Dt.23:1-3);
- Jehovah issues his laws and commandments in a scenario of darkness, thunder and shadows, so that even animals were afraid to come near (Ex.19:16-21; 20:21; Dt.4:11-12; 5:22-23);
- Jehovah recruited unscrupulous and fanatic disciples such as the Pharisees and the entire Jewish priesthood (Mt.15:12-14; 16:11-12).

Over and above all this, his spirit overpowers people through aggression and violence, as it does with Saul and Samson who, after some of these "incorporations", first kill a lion and then an army of 1000 Philistines with the simple bone of an ass (Ju.14:6-20; 15:14-15; 1 Sa.11:6-7).

In the face of so many inconsistencies, we are led to ask whether the God of the Old Testament and the God revealed in the New Testament are the same.

**We cannot conceive of a God with two sides to his personality, manifested so differently in two consecutive periods in the course of history. This would be to deny the immutability of His character or suggest that He is changeable.**

Another important inconsistency is the fact that Jehovah reveals himself face to face with some men, gives verbal instructions to many and even had a meal with Abraham the patriarch, whereas the apostle John confirms that God has never been seen by anyone, whether face on, from the back or from any other angle! (Gn.17:1; 18:1-8; 26:2; 48:3; Ex.24:10-11; 33:11-23; Jo.5:37; 1 Jo.4:12).

The big question, therefore, is this: if Jehovah is not the Father, who is he? What kind of being is he, because we cannot allow any more than one absolute God?

Certainly someone with authority over the angels, including Satan, who from time to time appears before him to give an account of himself, as we are given to understand in Job 1:6-7.

Not being the real God and revealing so much power, this divinity can only be of an angelic nature, although in an especially pro-eminent position such as cherubim or chief archangel.

**The Law of the Old Testament encompasses all in death and condemnation. To enforce the justice of the law, it was permissible even to stone to death and exterminate families and entire peoples.**

Justice of the Law is implacable (Ro.7:7-10) but the true God is the Father of mercy (2 Pe.3:9). If God had applied the justice of that Law to us, we would already have been consumed by the fire (Ro.5:8).

When Jesus assumed human form, He was temporarily in a "condition of inferiority" (Hebrews 2:9) until He had been gloriously exalted (Philippians 2:9-11; Ephesians 1:20-22).

The "priesthood" initiated in Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:11) and concluded in Jesus means that the first gave way to the last. The first became reprehensible and therefore was rejected. The last is approved and therefore was exalted and glorified (Hebrews 7:18).

What raised Him to the condition of supreme God was exactly the fact that He never aspired to glory for Himself when he had not yet been exalted (Philippians 2:6-9; Ephesians 1:20-22; Acts 2:36).

Stephen the martyr revealed that it was the angels who announced the law on Sinai, although most Christians assume that it was God (Acts 7:30, 35, 38, 53; Hebrews 2:2). Paul confirmed this revelation in Galatians, stating that the Law was placed by the angels in the hands of an intermediary - Moses.

On Mt. Sinai, men heard the voice but could not identify who was talking to them (Dt.5:23). In view of this, we can conclude that the angel hidden in the burning bush was Melchizedek, also known as Jehovah (see the Essay "Who is Melchisedec?" available in this Site), since the darkness that prevailed on that occasion made it difficult to tell just exactly who was there (Ex.20:21).

Through His sacrifice of the flesh, Jesus revoked the law of the commandments that consisted of merely ritual regulations (Ephesians 2:13-15).

This is why, when Jesus was sacrificed, the veil of the Temple was rent from top to bottom (Luke 23:45). The "veil" that separated us was the flesh of Jesus, and for this reason He had to be sacrificed (Hebrews 10:20).

**If Jesus had not come and been offered as a unique and effective sacrifice for our sins, we would still be obliged to offer up the blood of animals in sacrifices because of the precepts of Jehovah's Law in the Old Testament.**

The pulpits in the churches would today house altars for animal sacrifice (Hebrews 9:11-26), but the feeling of guilt and lack of forgiveness would be a stigma that the Church would have to bear for ever, since the actual priests of Jehovah, in addition to offering sacrifices for the people, would also have to make sacrifices for themselves (Hebrews 7:27).

David was an archetypal messianic king. The loyal character of David the conqueror was valued by Jehovah who saw in him a model for his future Messiah (Psalm 132:10-17). David had been found by Jehovah "a man after his own heart" (1 Sa.13:14; 1 Kings 11:4; 15:3; Acts 13:22).

However, David committed a grave sin, losing his position, when he committed adultery and incited one of his faithful soldiers to murder (2 Sa.12:7-9). With the failure of David's successors, Jehovah hoped to carry out his plan of action for the world through a Messiah of absolutely impeccable conduct, thus justifying the fact that the law and commandments handed down at Sinai were good and thereby establishing his own justice (Is.11:1-5). From this viewpoint, Jesus "fits like a glove" in the way He proved that it was possible for someone to fulfil the demands of a such severe Law.

To meet these requirements, Jesus figures in Jehovah's plans not as the Son, but as the prince (Da.9:25) of a kingdom ruled by Jehovah. Within this framework, the people of Israel would inherit the fruits of the earth, while foreigners from all other peoples would be servants, taking care of their material goods (Is.61:5-6). Jehovah intended Jesus to be the Messiah of Israel through force.

**Jehovah's plans were ultimately frustrated because Jesus preferred to associated Himself with the Father and became the main part of the Father's universal plan for redemption.**

The idea of exclusiveness and establishing power through force, as Jehovah proposed, was not part of Jesus purpose (Jo.16:3-8; 3:16). In reality, Jesus revealed Himself first to the Jews and would have been happy to begin his work on his own people (Mt.23:37), but since He was rejected by the great majority, He turned to the gentiles (Mt.28:19-20). After his departure, he appointed Paul to continue His ministry, giving the same orientation (At.13:46).

Jehovah intended to make Jesus a victorious prince like David in his conquest of the world (1 Sa.2:10; Psalm 2:2-8), even though this implied spilling the blood of millions of creatures.

However, Jesus was not concerned with earthly glory and ended up rejecting the anointing from Jehovah to be anointed and adopted by the Father. This happened during the period in which Jesus had to choose good and reject evil (Is.7:14-15).

Jesus decision to join with the Father provoked jealousy in Jehovah who, angry at seeing his plans frustrated, became a hidden enemy of the Church, bringing distortion and confusion through many translation and traditions, thereby hiding his true identity through the centuries. In Is.45:15-17, it is admitted that Jehovah hid himself.

Therefore, Jesus would have every chance of being the Messiah of Israel according to Jehovah's plans, which certainly did not include the tortuous sacrificial death on the cross. His messianic nature would therefore be on condition of the establishment of the law and commandments of Jehovah as the rod of iron.

However, Jesus is not the Messiah of Israel alone but of all peoples, since the Father's wish is to reach everybody and offer salvation to all (1Tm.2:4). This is why Jesus identified Himself to the Samaritan woman as the Messiah (Jo.4:25-26) but did not restrict worship to the Samaritans on Mount Gerizim and to the Jews on Mount Zion, but said that the true worshippers would worship the Father in spirit, in any place on Earth where they came together (Jo.4:23).

**Jesus is not simply a "national Messiah" but a personal Savior, since the Father does not have a discriminatory plan for an exclusive people, and does not discriminate between individuals.**

**Final considerations**

I do not think that this article disrespects the Highest God, Father of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Rather it makes Him even more admirable because of His love, understanding, patience and kindness towards all humanity, without racial discrimination or favor to anyone (1 Pe.1:17; Acts 10:34-35).

Similarly, I do not think I have devalued the glory of the Son, but rather acknowledged Him as personal savior, eternal priest and friend, who did not prevail by means of force, although He could have, but through humility and obedience to the Father.

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