

The Mystery of the Echad of Yah-Part 3

There was an issue that arose from this subject from someone in the group which I want to address before completing this third and last part. We should not fear what Yah reveals to us of Himself from His own word. To examine what is there concerning the plurality of His Oneness is by no means an attempt to lessen our awe and wonder of Him. A study like this does just the opposite for me; increasing my awe and wonder of Him - our Maker, our Redeemer, our everything. How awesome He is to lower Himself in order to redeem us. As it says in Philippians;

Who, being very nature Elohim, did not consider equality with Elohim something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness, and being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death-even death on a cross!

(Phil. 2:6-8)

The answer that Abraham gave his son Isaac when Isaac asked him, "Where is the lamb...?" is a mysterious indication of something more than just the ram that was found in the thicket. When considered in its original Hebrew grammatical form, Abraham's answer was extremely prophetic, but it also reveals just who the lamb will be. A better translation to the original would read;

"Elohim will provide Himself the lamb."

(Gen. 22:8)

Ancient Rabbis didn't know what to do with passages that seemed to imply that Yah Himself would come to serve as the sacrifice, so the wording would be changed a bit to suit what they could understand. Another example of this is back in Genesis 18 where it is stated that "Abraham remained standing before the LORD." Originally, the passage was written this way;

"...YHWH remained standing before Abraham."

(Gen.18:22)

In Hebrew thought, one who stands before another is one who comes to serve another, therefore, it had to be turned around to suit their understanding. But leaving it alone the way it was intended identifies who it was that stood before Abraham; "taking the very nature of a servant" to "humble Himself" willingly to "provide Himself the lamb" in order to redeem us.

In a study on the names of the patriarch's, an amazing discovery is made that gives us even further confirmation as to who it is who comes to save us. A translation of the first 10 names in the genealogy from Adam to Noah reveals this;

Adam = Man
Seth = Destiny
Enosh = Mortal
Kenan = Sorrow
Mahalel = The Mighty El (Elohim)
Jared = Descend
Enoch = Teacher
Methusaleh = His Death Will Bring
Lamech = Despairing
Noah = Comfort

"Mans destiny is mortal sorrow. The Mighty El will descend as a teacher. His death will bring us, the despairing, comfort."

The key name for the purposes of this teaching is of course "Mahalel."

There are many compelling verses in the ancient Hebrew Scriptures which reveal Father, Son and sometimes Spirit all at once. Here are just a few to consider;

“Come near to Me and listen to this: From the first I have not spoken in secret; at the time it happens, I am there. And now The Sovereign LORD has sent Me with His Spirit.
(Isaiah 48:16)

Who is speaking? YHWH and yet it says here that, “YHWH has sent Me with His Spirit.”

For this is what the LORD Almighty says: “After He has honored Me and has sent Me against the nations that have plundered you—for whoever touches you touches the apple of His eye—I will surely raise My hand against them so that their slaves will plunder them. Then you will know that The LORD Almighty has sent Me to you.
(Zech.2:8-9)

Again, it is YHWH Himself who is talking here and yet it says, “YHWH has sent Me.”

“I will live among you and you will know that The LORD has sent me to you.”
(Zec.2:11)

A reading of verses 8 through 11 of Zechariah chapter 2 shows Yah is speaking throughout and He says He comes to live among us, yet He Himself is sent by Yah. Another from Zechariah states;

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a Spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on Me, the one they have pierced, and mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for Him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”
(Zech.12:10)

The One here who pours out His Spirit is the One who is pierced and mourned over.

So, putting it all together;

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| The Spirit that hovered over the waters | (Gen. 1:2) |
| Let us make Man in our image | (Gen.1:26) |
| A child will be born who comes from eternity | (Micah 5:2) |
| He will be called Mighty Elohim and Everlasting Father | (Isaiah 9:6) |
| Kiss the Son | (Psalm 2:12) |
| What is His Son's Name? | (Prov.30:4) |
| The LORD said to My Lord | (Psalm 110:1) |
| The LORD has sent Me with His Spirit | (Isaiah 48:16) |
| They will look upon Me whom they have pierced | (Zech.12:10) |

The Echad (composite unity) of Yah is not a Christian creation, but a Hebraic Scriptural revelation. The Shema (Deut.6:4) itself that declares His Oneness interestingly makes mention of The Most High 3 times. Mathematically, we can think of it this way;

It's not $1 + 1 + 1 = 3$, but $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$

It's not that they exist separately from one another; they exist by, through and because of each other. The Son exists because the Father exists and the Spirit exists because they exist. The Father lives through the Son and the Son through the Father.

And man, made in His image, while being a single person, is made up of three that make him one. Man is a spirit(1) in a body(2) who has a soul[mind, will, emotions] (3). In fact, all of creation is measured by 3; Height, Width and Depth.

Now, there is something more to be learned in this study of "Echad." To bring this all home, consider the prayer our Savior prayed for all of us in John 17 where He said;

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message, that all of them may be one [echad], Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me." (John 17:20-21)

1 John 4:8 is the key to this mystery. It tells us that "God is Love." If He is love, then love is the basis for everything that is. Love unites. It makes us one with someone. It is always that thing that stands between us becoming One [Echad].

And think of it; Love is 3!

1. Love has a source - The lover
2. Love has an object - The beloved
3. Love is shared, the bond created in the process-The love itself

I (the source)

Love (the action)

You (the object)

Love is about becoming one/echad. Everyone of us was born into this world because two people became one. And we were born for the purpose of becoming one. No one is an island unto themselves. To live for no one but yourself is foolishness. Either we line up with love or everything about us is death, because all that is not love will die.

Hold a grudge? --- it's death!

Don't forgive? --- it's death!

Forgive? -----it's life again!

"Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love." (1 John 4:7-8)

This means that the only thing that really matters in this life is how we relate to people. It's not how successful we become, our pursuits, our achievements, how much we have or how much we know. In the end, it is all about how we related to others. It is easy to fall prey to the spirit of this world; the "me first/ us 4 and no more" mentality that pervades. But, we are the set apart Nation who is called to love. We are called to be a part of this mystery of love! We can't let anything close the door of our heart. Unforgiveness, bitterness, selfishness, pride, gossip...all of these will cut us off from love. In the end, everything we do becomes nothing except how much we loved. "Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Messiah loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God."(Eph. 5:1-2) "Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."(Eph. 4:3) I know that sometimes love is easier said than done. But it is the key to life and unity. Sometimes it is only by faith that we can love. But, Yah's love is a strong thing. Real love is something we have to make a conscious decision to do. A congregation divided will cease to be and this Nation of Israel can only be united if we love one another. We are to become "echad" in love with one another and with Yah in this mystery of love.

(I give credit to Rabbi Jonathan Cahn of Congregation Beth Israel in Garfield, NJ for his insight on this mystery of "echad" that was greatly instrumental for this teaching.)