



Restoring my Soul

HE RESTORES MY SOUL, HE LEADS ME IN PATHS

PSA 23:3

APRIL 2023

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A FIVE DAY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

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April 2023

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Contents

Monday 3 April	Separated to the gospel of God.....	2
Tuesday 4 April	Knowing Him.....	3
Wednesday 5 April	The invitation to know Him.....	4
Thursday 6 April	God's initiative toward Moses.....	5
Friday 7 April	What is Your name?.....	6
Monday 10 April	I AM Yahweh <i>Elohim</i>	7
Tuesday 11 April	One and Three.....	8
Wednesday 12 April	The top of the mountain.....	9
Thursday 13 April	My Covenant.....	10
Friday 14 April	The offering of Yahweh.....	11
Monday 17 April	The Seed of the Father.....	12
Tuesday 18 April	His secret revealed.....	13
Wednesday 19 April	The proceeding word.....	14
Thursday 20 April	The tree of life.....	15
Friday 21 April	The origin of the two trees.....	16
Monday 24 April	His will made known.....	17
Tuesday 25 April	The glory of the Son of Man.....	18
Wednesday 26 April	The offering of the Son.....	19
Thursday 27 April	His resurrection and ascension.....	20
Friday 28 April	Raised and seated with Christ.....	21

Separated to the gospel of God

The apostle Paul introduced his letter to the church in Rome, writing, 'Paul, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated to *the gospel of God* which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures'. **Rom 1:1-2**. Paul's description of his message as 'the gospel of God' is significant. The gospel of God is the word through which the Father, Son and Holy Spirit make Themselves, and Their covenant purpose, known to us. For this reason, Paul also described the gospel of God as 'the *testimony of God*' and 'the *testimony of our Lord*'. **1Co 2:1. 2Ti 1:8**. Through Their testimony, the Covenant of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, *before*, is proclaimed to us as an Everlasting Covenant.

This great mystery was revealed to Abram when *El Shaddai* (I AM, Almighty God) declared, 'As for Me, behold, *My Covenant* is with you, and you shall be a father of many nations.' **Gen 17:4**. By this word, which is the gospel of God, Abram received a new name and was connected to the works that belonged to his sonship. **Gen 17:5-6**. This is the name and works which were foreknown in the counsel of Their Covenant, even before the Everlasting Covenant was inaugurated.

Yahweh *Elohim*, as *El Shaddai*, then made His Covenant an Everlasting Covenant with Abraham, saying, 'And I will establish *My Covenant* between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an *Everlasting Covenant*, to be God to you and your descendants after you.' **Gen 17:7**. Their Covenant was signified in Abraham's flesh by circumcision. **Gen 17:10-11**. By receiving circumcision, Abraham was connected to the fellowship of Christ's offering and sufferings. This was the offering of Yahweh, *before*, through which Their Covenant purpose was accomplished.

Knowing Him

The Everlasting Covenant is the initiative of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit to create and bring to glory a multitude of sons who are born of Their life and participants in Their fellowship. It defines the purpose for our creation and reveals God's predestination for each one of us. The apostle John was illuminated to see the fulfilment of God's own Covenant established as an Everlasting Covenant with us. In the book of Revelation, he testified, saying, 'Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God."' **Rev 21:2-3.**

With this in mind, we recognise that the gospel of God is not simply a message *about* God. His word is declared so that we can meet Him and know Him, and can, thereby, truly know ourselves and each other. This is a most important point! Unless we know the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we are unable to believe in Them or to put our trust in Them. **Psa 7:1.** In other words, we have no faith, for Paul explained that a person of faith believes in God, and believes that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek relationship with Him. **Heb 11:6.** To believe in God without knowing Him, is not faith at all. It is loyalty to a creed, or to a theological proposition, or to a religious ideology. **Gal 4:8-9.** This is not the knowledge of the Holy One through which a believer obtains the cultural understanding necessary for their citizenship in the kingdom God. **Pro 9:10.**

The invitation to know Him

The apostle John defined relationship with God as the sum of all reality and the very purpose for which we exist. He wrote, 'And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an *understanding*, that we may *know Him* who is true; and we are *in Him* who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.' **1Jn 5:20**. Note this wonderful point! The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit want us to know Them, and to be established in fellowship with Them, forever. **Joh 17:3**.

The invitation to know God, and to abide in Him, comes through the ministry of the gospel of God from the fellowship of an *aggelos* presbytery. Through the proclamation of the word, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit make Themselves known to us and establish us in a fellowship. The apostle John opened his first epistle with this invitation, writing, 'That which was *from the beginning* [the Word of God], which we [as a presbytery fellowship] have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life – the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness [or testify], and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us – that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and *truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.*' **1Jn 1:1-3**.

Establishing and maintaining a relationship with a person requires us to know their name. This is true for those who desire relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God knows our name, for He predestined us as sons, even before the beginning of creation. **Eph 1:3-6**. However, if we are to obtain the eternal reward that belongs to those who diligently seek relationship with God, we need to know His name.

God's initiative toward Moses

The name of the Lord is not merely an identifier. It is much more than this. His name reveals who He is, how He lives, and how we are to relate with Him. Moses understood this point. When the Lord first made Himself known to Moses, he exemplified the response of faith that belongs to those who desire to know God.

We recall that Moses was tending the flock of Jethro, his father-in-law, and came to Horeb, which he described as 'the mountain of God'. The Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. **Exo 3:1-2**. Moses noted that the bush was burning with fire, but it was not being consumed. In other words, the fire did not need fuel to be sustained. This is because it was the fire of God's own Presence, who is described in the Scriptures as a vehement flame, enfolding itself. **Son 8:6-7. Eze 1:4**. Moses 'turned aside' from the way that he was going to see this great sight, which was a manifestation of the tree of life. **Exo 3:3**.

When the LORD (Yahweh) saw that Moses turned aside to look, God (*Elohim*) called to him from the midst of the burning bush, saying, 'Moses, Moses'. **Exo 3:4**. Moses' use of the names 'Yahweh' and '*Elohim*' in this account was deliberate and significant. The point to note here is that the word that proceeded from the midst of the burning bush was an initiative of God to establish Moses in the works that belonged to his predestination.

The first direction that Moses received from God was to remove his sandals, for the place where he stood was holy ground. **Exo 3:5**. This was the ground of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit's offering fellowship. Nothing of the world was to be brought into this spiritual conversation.

What is Your name?

Moses could have received his commission and then proceeded to perform the tasks to which God had called him. However, he personally desired to *know God*, who had already introduced Himself as ‘the God of your father – the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’. **Exo 3:6**. Moses did not want to know God as the God of someone else; he wanted to know God as his God. For this reason, he asked to know the name of God, saying, ‘Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, “The God of your fathers has sent me to you,” and they say to me, “*What is His name?*”, what shall I say to them?’ **Exo 3:13**.

Elohim responded to Moses’ query, saying, ‘I AM WHO I AM’. **Exo 3:14**. He further declared, ‘The LORD [Yahweh] God [*Elohim*] of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. *This is My name forever*, and this is My memorial to all generations.’ **Exo 3:15**. Significantly, God was making Himself known to Moses, and to the children of Israel, as ‘I AM Yahweh *Elohim*’, in order to establish them in the Everlasting Covenant. This was the covenant that He had made with their fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, when He met them as *El Shaddai* – Almighty God. **Gen 17:1**.

In God’s declaration of His name to Moses, we note three key aspects of His name – ‘I AM’; ‘Yahweh’; and ‘*Elohim*’. God first revealed Himself to Moses as ‘I AM’. He did this because, as I AM, He is able to meet us, and be met by us, and to join us to His everlasting purpose. Without this initiative of God to make Himself known to us by revelation, it is impossible for man, who is a finite creature, to know, relate with, and receive from Yahweh *Elohim* who is *before* the creation of the heavens and the earth. **Isa 43:10**.

I AM Yahweh *Elohim*

As I AM, the LORD God progressively reveals to us 'today' what was established and finished in Their offering '*before*'. Significantly, Jesus said that when He was lifted up on the cross, we would know that He is I AM. **Joh 8:28**. The cross is the manifestation, in time, of the finished offering of Yahweh, *before*. Accordingly, in the book of Revelation, Jesus Christ, in whom dwells the fulness of the Godhead, introduced Himself as I AM, saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord [Yahweh], "*who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty*". **Rev 1:8**.

Inherent in the name 'I AM' is the name '*El Shaddai*', meaning 'Almighty God'. The name 'Almighty God' reveals Yahweh, the Covenant God, who possesses the power to realise His promises. This is how the patriarchs knew the Lord. **Gen 17:1. Exo 6:2-3**. Significantly, as they met and received *El Shaddai*, they obtained the faith that was necessary for their participation in God's unfolding covenant will.

When I AM reveals His name as 'Yahweh', we first behold Him as *one*. Note the explanation of Moses, which was quoted by Jesus – 'Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!' **Deu 6:4. Mar 12:29**. Jesus also prayed, 'And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that *they may be one just as We are one*: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one.' **Joh 17:22-23**. The name, 'Yahweh', reveals that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one Spirit and live by one life.

The Hebrew word, '*Elohim*', means 'gods'. That is, it is the plural of the Hebrew word, '*El*', meaning 'god'. This name reveals that God is three Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It further communicates that each Person is a unique, named identity with intrinsic capacities for the expression of Their one life and one Spirit.

One and Three

The name, 'Yahweh *Elohim*', reveals that God is equally and concomitantly one and three. He is not more one than He is three, nor is He more three than He is one. We first observe Yahweh as one Spirit and one life. By the capacity of one Spirit, each Person lays down Their one life by the capacities that belong to Their unique name, revealing three distinct Persons. **1Pe 1:1-2. Mat 28:19.** As each Person lays Their life down to reveal the other two in *Elohim*, Their offering is so complete that the Godhead is seen as one Lord.

It is important to note that *Elohim* – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – are not one because They have a shared goal to which each Person makes a contribution from the capacities inherent in Their own name. This would be collegiality. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not 'colleagues' of one another! They are one life and one Spirit. **1Jn 5:7.** Likewise, the oneness and capacity of God is not the sum of Their individual capacities. Certainly, the sum of the capacities of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is the fullness of all possible expression. However, if the fullness of Their expression was the sum of each Person's capacity for expression, then nothing could be multiplied beyond Themselves. In other words, Their end would be in Themselves. We know that this is not the case, because, through offering, They made room within Themselves for our creation! **Php 2:5-7.** Their life is being multiplied beyond Themselves, in and through the sons of God.

Having already met 'I AM Yahweh *Elohim*', Moses later said to the LORD, 'Now therefore, I pray, if I have found grace in Your sight, *show me now Your way, that I may know You and that I may find grace in Your sight.*' **Exo 33:13.** Moses' request revealed that knowing the name of the Lord is only the beginning of relationship with Him. Moses desired to *participate* in the life and fellowship of Yahweh *Elohim*, which is made known by I AM.

The top of the mountain

When Moses prayed to the LORD, *'Please, show me Your glory'*, the Lord directed Moses to come to Mount Sinai. **Exo 33:18**. He was to present himself to Yahweh 'on the top of the mountain'. The top of the mountain represented the beginning of God's covenant initiative towards humanity.

Figuratively, this was the same mountain upon which the devil, in a moment of time, showed Jesus all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, saying to Him, 'All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.' **Luk 4:5-7**. However, Satan was only able to see, and to put on display, what proceeded from the beginning (that is, from the creation of the heavens and the earth) with respect to God's Everlasting Covenant. He could not see the Covenant of Yahweh *Elohim before*, where the Everlasting Covenant was established and finished.

Yahweh said to Moses that when he ascended the mountain, he was to stand on the rock beside Him. **Exo 33:21**. He further said, 'So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by. Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen.' **Exo 33:22-23**. By manifesting His glory to Moses, Yahweh *Elohim* was revealing a reality that was before the beginning of the Everlasting Covenant, and outside of time and space. It was the glory of Their own covenant fellowship from which the Everlasting Covenant proceeded. Significantly, Moses was observing the fellowship through which his name was foreknown and established in the Son.

My Covenant

Before the creation of the heavens and the earth, there was only Yahweh Father, Yahweh Son, and Yahweh Holy Spirit. There was no 'emptiness' or 'nothingness' outside of Yahweh. **Eph 1:22-23**. The dynamic and fully satisfied fellowship of these three Persons, before, is referred to by the Lord as 'My Covenant'.

In Their covenant fellowship, *before*, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are completely co-equal. The Father is not the first among equals. He is not the Father of the Son, nor is the Holy Spirit the Helper of the Father and the Son. Each Person of Yahweh has Their own intrinsic capacity to express Their one Spirit and life. The Scriptures described these distinctive capacities as the *glory* that belongs to each Person, *before*. We note, for example, that when Christ prayed to the Father on the Mount of Olives, He said, 'And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with *the glory which I had with You before the world was*.' **Joh 17:5**.

'Glory' refers to the expression of life through the capacities and works that belong to one's name. The glory of the Father is His unique expression as the inexhaustible source of names and identities. **Jas 1:17-18**. **Heb 12:9**. The glory of the Son is that He is the expression of all sonship. Moreover, He has the unique capacity to empty Himself to an endpoint, or death. **Php 2:5-7**. The glory of the Holy Spirit is His expression as the fellowship and Spirit of sanctification in Yahweh. **Rom 15:15-16**.

Within Their own covenant fellowship, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit agreed together to create and bring to glory a multitude of sons of God who are born of Their life and joined to Their own covenant fellowship, declaring, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.' **Gen 1:26**. Significantly, this statement encapsulates the dialogue of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit concerning the sonship predestination of every person who would ever live.

The offering of Yahweh

The Scriptures identify *Elohim's* discussion as 'the counsel of the Lord', 'the whole counsel of God', and 'the counsel of His will'. **Psa 33:11. Act 20:27. Eph 1:11.** God's Everlasting Covenant was not initiated out of need, or some lack, in Their fellowship. Rather, it was an expression of love, which is who They are. **1Jn 4:16.** Speaking of the love of God proceeding as a covenant from the fellowship of Yahweh, the prophet Jeremiah declared, 'The Lord has appeared of old to me [from *before*], saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an *everlasting love*; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.'" **Jer 31:3.**

To bring Their Everlasting Covenant purpose to pass, each Person of the Godhead laid down Their life, by name, to reveal the others. The Holy Spirit laid down His life to become the Helper of the Father and the Son by empowering and sanctifying Their unique offerings with Eternal Spirit. Moreover, as the Helper, the Holy Spirit revealed the Father and the Son by becoming the life of the Father through which Yahweh Son would be begotten as the Son of God. Highlighting this point, Paul explained that it is 'the Spirit who gives life'. **Eph 3:16. 2Co 3:5-6.**

By Eternal Spirit, Yahweh the Son emptied Himself of His prerogative to express all sonship. Drawing our attention to this offering initiative, the apostle Paul noted that Yahweh Son, although equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit 'did not regard *equality* with God a thing to be grasped, but *emptied Himself*'. **Php 2:5-7.** By this means, the Son made room for the sonship expression of a multitude of new creation sons, whom the Father had named. Furthermore, through this action of emptying, Yahweh the Son entrusted the glory of His own sonship to the Father, to be begotten of the Father, by the Holy Spirit, as the *Son of God*.

The Seed of the Father

The Father, by Eternal Spirit, laid down His life by giving to the Son the fullness of His own expression as Father. **Heb 1:1-4. Joh 16:15.** When the Father said, 'Today I have begotten You', the Holy Spirit, who had laid down His life to reveal the Father as the life of God, brought the Spirit of the Father to the identity of the Son, causing Him to be born anew as the Son of God. **Joh 6:63.**

The portion of the Father's Spirit, which the Son received through the Holy Spirit, is the seed and name of every son of God, discussed in the counsel of *Elohim*, who would ever be brought to birth through the gospel. By this begetting action, the Son became the Word and Seed of the Father. **Joh 1:1,14.** All the names of the sons of God, of which the Father is the source, were now in the Son. Moreover, He was now the full expression of the glory of the Father.

Through this offering, *before*, the order of headship was established. The Father was established as the source of the word through which Their Covenant would come to pass. **Joh 14:24.** The Son was brought forth as the Word through which the knowledge of God would be revealed. **1Ti 2:3-4.** The Holy Spirit was established as the Helper, enabling offering through Eternal Spirit, and sanctifying the end (the Father's initiative) from the beginning (the Son's initiative), so that Their covenant purpose would come to pass through an ordered and timely process. **Joh 15:26. Heb 9:13-14.**

Importantly, *the order of headship* was the fruit of Their offering. It established the means by which Their life could be multiplied beyond Themselves to a great multitude of sons of God. The covenant will of Yahweh *Elohim* was *finished* in Their fellowship, even before the beginning of creation. For this reason, Paul explained that the Lord's 'works were finished from [before] the foundation of the world'. **Heb 4:3.**

His secret revealed

In his final statements to the children of Israel, Moses said, 'The secret things belong to the LORD our God [Yahweh our *Elohim*], but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.' **Deu 29:29**. This profound declaration brings into focus a distinction between the foreknowledge of God (the secret things that belong to Him), and what progressively belongs to those who receive the word of God's Everlasting Covenant, as I AM makes Himself known to them.

These words also reveal that the foreknowledge of God is not in conflict with the revelation of Yahweh *Elohim* as I AM and the dignity and accountability of choice in response to the word that belongs to every person. Our comprehension of God's purpose, and how it comes to pass, requires an understanding of this point.

Within the secret counsel of Yahweh *Elohim*, *before*, the Word articulated the purpose of God into being. The details of the finished work of God, which was established in the counsel of Their will, *before*, is *the foreknowledge of God*. The matters of Their counsel and foreknowledge belong only to *Elohim*. Through this knowledge, *Elohim* creates good and evil. As He declared through the prophet Isaiah, 'I am the Lord, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.' **Isa 45:6-7**.

The apostle John summarised the progression of the Word from the counsel of Yahweh *Elohim*, stating, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.' **Joh 1:1-3**.

The proceeding word

The Gospel of John begins, 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.' **Joh 1:1-2.** 'The Word was God' reveals the word that belongs to the secret counsel of *Elohim*. 'The Word was with God' reveals the Son who became the Word of God when He was begotten of the Father. Through this action, the Father laid down to the Son all the names of the sons of God. He was 'with God' as the Seed of the Father. This all happened in Their Covenant, before the beginning of creation.

'He was in the beginning with God' reveals that the Son was the One through whom the creation was brought into being according to God's purpose. Furthermore, it reveals that Yahweh *Elohim*, as I AM, was made known as, and through, the Word, as the source and life of creation. We understand, from the writings of Paul, that the Father created all things, through the Son, who is the Seed of the Father and the Word. **Heb 1:1-2. Col 1:15-18. Joh 1:1-3.**

The first creative initiative proceeding from the finished offering of Yahweh, *before*, was the creation of the heavens and the earth. As Moses declared, 'In the beginning God [*Elohim*] created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.' **Gen 1:1-2.** Although this was the beginning of creation, it was not the first day of creation. Moses explained that the first day of creation was when God said, 'Let there be light.' **Gen 1:3-5.** We note that the creative dimension of Yahweh *Elohim* was brought into the midst of the garden of Eden and was represented in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The tree of life

The apostle John declared concerning the Word of God, 'In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.' **Joh 1:4**. With this in mind, we recognise that the word of God is the life of God and was represented in the tree of life which was placed in the middle of the garden of God. **Gen 2:9**. This life is Their fellowship *made known*.

From the writings of John in the book of Revelation, we understand that the term, 'tree of life', can equally be translated 'book of life' in which our names, as sons of God, are recorded. **Rev 22:19**. The papyrus of the book of life, in which are written the names of the sons of God, is taken from the inner rind of the trunk of the tree of life. Each name is the substance of one's sonship. This substance, which is necessary for one's expression as a son of God, is fed to us through the fruit of the tree of life.

This was true in the garden of Eden, where Adam and Eve ate from the tree of life each day in fellowship with Yahweh *Elohim*. They had been created by Yahweh *Elohim* from the dust of the earth and had received life from the breath of God. **Gen 2:7**. A great multitude of sons and daughters of men was to be brought forth from them through procreation. Procreation comes close to creation, for through this biological action a son or daughter of man, with an eternal identity, is brought into being.

Adam and Eve were not born of God through their creation. Nevertheless, they did not live by bread alone. That is, their natural lives were not sustained only by eating from the fruit of the trees in the garden of Eden. Rather, they lived by every word that proceeded from the mouth of God. **Deu 8:3**. **Luk 4:4**. The word that they received each day in fellowship with Yahweh, was the food that was fed to them from the tree of life.

The origin of the two trees

Let us ask an important question: what was the origin of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and the tree of life? The answer is quite simple; it was the Seed of the Father. Christ, who was brought forth as the Seed of the Father in Their Covenant, *before*, was 'planted' in the void. Through His creative work, He was revealed as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Through the multiplication of His life, He was revealed as the tree of life.

Jesus proclaimed concerning His offering, 'When you lift up the Son of Man [on the cross], then you will know that I AM.' **Joh 8:28**. On the cross, He was revealed as Him 'who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty [*El Shaddai*]' **Rev 1:8**. This reveals the essential understanding that the cross was the manifestation, in time, of the offering of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, before, through which Their own covenant life and fellowship was extended to us as an Everlasting Covenant. **1Pe 1:20. Act 2:23. Rev 13:8**.

When Jesus Christ was lifted up on the cross, He was manifest as the tree of the knowledge of good and evil *and* the tree of life! During His redemptive journey from Gethsemane to the cross, Jesus was bringing the old creation to an end under the judgement of God, and He was establishing a new heavens and earth. **Isa 65:17-18**. This was a creative work proceeding from the fellowship of *Elohim*. In the three hours of great darkness, as He hung on the cross, He authored and finished the works of obedience that belonged to every person's name as a son of God. This was recorded in the book of life. **Psa 139:15-16**. We also know that, through this offering, Christ gave His body and blood for us to eat and to drink, revealing Him to be the tree of life. **Mat 26:26-27**.

His will made known

In the book of Genesis, Moses carefully distinguished '*Elohim*' as the Creator of the heavens and the earth, from '*Yahweh Elohim*' as the Creator of man. Moses was highlighting the magnificent truth that mankind was created and established in the fellowship of Their Covenant, before, when the Father, Son and Holy Spirit agreed together, saying, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.' **Gen 1:26**. Their covenant initiative was manifest in time on the sixth day of creation.

Moses received this revelation when he asked to see the glory of *Yahweh Elohim*. As *Yahweh Elohim* passed by Moses, he witnessed in Their covenant fellowship, *before*, the name and predestination of a great multitude, of which he was a part. Abraham received this same revelation when 'the Word' met him, and said to him, 'Look now toward heaven, and count the stars if you are able to number them. ... So shall your descendants be.' **Gen 15:5**. Wonderfully, when we are born of God and baptised into Christ, we are not only illuminated to see that we are named in Their fellowship, but this becomes the place where we live as those who are raised and seated with Christ in heavenly places! **Col 2:11-12**.

Significantly, *Yahweh Elohim* created man into the fellowship of the tree of life so that man could participate in the work of creation, once He had established it through His word. The particular work that we are speaking about here is *procreation*. The ongoing fellowship of Adam and Eve in procreation was to be through the fellowship of the word. The hidden things of God that belonged to His foreknowledge about persons not yet born, *are new things*, and can only be created when He declares them as I AM. *Yahweh* made this point clear, declaring, 'I have made you hear new things from this time, even hidden things, and you did not know them. They are created now and not from the beginning.' **Isa 48:6-7**.

The glory of the Son of Man

We know that Yahweh Son was brought forth as the Son of God through the offering of Yahweh, *before*. He emptied Himself, entrusting His own glory as Yahweh Son to the Father. He was begotten as the Son of God to become the full expression of the Father's glory. Speaking of this offering, the apostle Paul wrote, 'Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men'. **Php 2:5-7**.

Jesus came in the likeness of men, as the Seed of Abraham and the Son of David, when He was born of Mary. Speaking of His incarnation, the apostle John wrote, 'And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth'. **Joh 1:14**. The glory that Jesus revealed as the Son of Man during His three-and-a-half-year ministry was the glory of the Father which He had received when He was begotten as the Son of God, *before*. Jesus emphasised this point when He said to Philip, 'He who has seen Me has seen the Father'. **Joh 14:9**.

The apostle John recorded that, as the last Passover approached, 'Jesus knew that His hour had come'. **Joh 13:1**. What was this 'hour'? Christ's journey from the last Passover until He cried 'It is finished!' on Mount Calvary, was the offering of the cross. **Joh 19:30**. In the course of this offering journey, He proceeded from the upper room to the Mount of Olives, where He prayed to the Father, declaring, 'The 'hour has come'. **Joh 17:1**. With this statement, the Lamb of God was acknowledging that the offering journey that He had commenced was the offering of Yahweh, *before*. What was happening now, was the very offering within the covenant fellowship of Yahweh, outside of time.

The offering of the Son

The unique glory of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit was manifest in the one offering of the Son, in whom dwells the fullness of the Godhead. **Col 2:9**. For this reason, having only revealed the glory of the Father during His earthly ministry, Jesus asked the Father to glorify Him with the glory that He had *before*, in order that He might glorify the Father through Their offering. **Joh 17:4-5**.

From the Mount of Olives, Jesus entered the garden of Gethsemane where He began to pray, 'Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless *not My will, but Yours, be done*.' **Luk 22:41-42**. He emptied Himself to reveal the Father, who made Him to be sin by making every person, who had been lost to God through Adam's transgression, to be a member of Christ's corporate body, the Seed. **2Co 5:21**. All were given to the Son for judgement or mercy. An angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him with Eternal Spirit from the Holy Spirit. And being in agony, He prayed more earnestly. His sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. **Luk 22:43-44**. This was the beginning of seven glorifying steps through which the Everlasting Covenant purpose of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit was coming to pass.

On the cross, in the three hours of great darkness from 12pm until 3pm, the Son took the whole of humanity out with Him into the sea of God's forgetfulness. It was here, in the lowest parts of the earth, that He fashioned us all according to the names that were in Him as the Seed of the Father. The fruit of this labour was the declaration, 'And I will wait on the Lord, who hides His face from the house of Jacob; and I will hope in Him. Here am I and the children whom the Lord has given me!' **Isa 8:17-18**. **Hos 1:10**.

His resurrection and ascension

After Christ's offering was finished, He cried out with a loud voice, 'Father, "Into Your hands I commit My spirit."' **Luk 23:46**. The Spirit of the Son was received into the hands of the Father as He was brought to the throne of the Father as the Son of God. After three days and three nights, the Son returned to His immortal, resurrection body and began to build the church. Notably, this was still as the full expression of the Father's glory.

Jesus laid the foundation of the New Jerusalem, His bride city, in the upper room on the evening of His resurrection. He breathed on His disciples, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' **Joh 20:22**. By this means, they were born again as sons of God. Jesus then continued this ministry for forty days, causing over five hundred believers, who had previously been established as worthy houses through the ministry of the seventy-two, to be born again as sons of God. **1Co 15:6-8**.

At the conclusion of His forty-day ministry, the Son ascended from the Mount of Olives into heaven. **Mar 16:19**. He did not go to the Father's throne. Rather, He sat down on His own throne at the right hand of the Father, having received, again, the glory that He had *before*. **Joh 17:24**. This was His glory as Yahweh Son. Prophesying of this event, King David declared, 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool." The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!' **Psa 110:1-2**. Christ is now seated on His throne as the Son of Man, the Son of God, and Yahweh Son.

The rod, spoken of by the Father, refers to lampstand churches through which the gospel of God is proclaimed to the world. The Father, through the Son, sent the rod of His strength from Zion when the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the 120 believers on the Day of Pentecost. **Act 2:37-41**.

Raised and seated with Christ

When a person is born again and baptised into Christ through the ministry of the gospel of God, they are raised to be seated with Christ. **Eph 2:4-6**. Significantly, they are raised to where He was *before*, as Yahweh Son, where they now predate their own existence. This is the heavenly places! They are fully connected to their name, which was given to the Son when He was begotten of the Father in Their Covenant, *before*. The implication of this reality is that we are only maturing as sons of God as we dwell in the fellowship of Yahweh, *before*. **2Co 3:18**. In this fellowship, we are being delivered from our sin, and the life of God is becoming our life.

It is important to recognise that, although Christ's followers were able to be born of the Father during Christ's forty-day ministry, they were not able to meet their name and function as the son whom they had been predestined to be, until Christ ascended into heaven and was seated on the throne, where He was *before*. Why is this so? It is because Yahweh Son's intrinsic glory is His expression of all sonship. We are only able to meet our name and expression as a son of God when we behold it by looking, as in a mirror, into the face of the Lord. We are then enabled by the Holy Spirit to function as a member of Christ's body, the church (the rod of His strength), as a son of God. **2Co 3:18**.

Every believer must be illuminated to this reality. That is, they must be born to see what Abraham saw when the Word caused him to see that his children would be like the stars of heaven – sons of light who dwell in heavenly places. **Joh 3:3**. And then, they must be born of water and the Spirit to enter the heavenly kingdom that belongs to the fellowship of Yahweh *Elohim*. **Joh 3:5**.



Restoring
my Soul