

Title:           **CHRIST — THE GOD OF ISRAEL**  
Text:           Exodus 3:15-18  
Subject:       *Christ's Name and Memorial Forever*  
Date:           Tuesday Evening — November 7, 2006  
Tape #         Exodus 28

### **Introduction:**

Far too often we read the Word of God with only a carnal eye, dwelling too much on the letter of the Word and missing the spirit, missing the message of the Spirit in the Word, — dwelling too much on the literal and missing the spiritual application to our souls, — dwelling too much on the type and missing Christ. Multitudes miss that which a passage is intended to teach, because they are consumed by a desire to define and understand the words by which the person and work of Christ are set before us in the Book of God. It is Christ of whom the Scriptures speak. We should always look first for him, as we read the pages of Holy Scripture. When we open the Book of God, we should always do so looking for our blessed Savior. It is only when we see Christ in the Book that the Book of God lives.

A few months ago I received a letter from a lady who lives in Washington State. She has been in church all her life. In recent years she has been listening to our messages. This is what she wrote — “For the first time in my life, I am seeing Christ in the Old Testament. The Old Testament has come alive for me. Thank you for showing me my Savior so clearly.”

That is what I want. That is my object in preaching. I want you to see Christ and see him clearly. So turn with me to Exodus 3. Our text will be verses 15-18. **Tonight, I want to show you something of the grace and glory of our Lord Jesus Christ as the God of Israel and the comfort there is in knowing him by this, his everlasting name and memorial.**

He who appeared to Moses in the burning bush, the Angel of the Lord, is throughout this chapter called God. In verse 14, he identifies himself as the great “*I AM*,” who, as we have seen is Jesus Christ our Lord (John 4:6; 6:20; 8:24,28,58; 13:19; 18:5). This appearance of our Savior to Moses was one of the most enlightening and instructive of his pre-incarnate manifestations of himself in the Old Testament. So I have chosen to spend more time here than might be expected. Here, again, in verses 15-18, it is our blessed Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ who is the God speaking to Moses.

(Exodus 3:15-18) “And God said moreover unto Moses, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this *is* my name for ever, and this *is* my memorial unto all generations. (16) Go, and gather the elders of Israel together, and say unto them, The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared unto me, saying, I have surely visited you, and *seen* that which is done to you in Egypt: (17) And I have said, I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt unto the land of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites, unto a land flowing with milk and honey. (18) And they shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.”

(Psalms 135:13) “Thy name, O LORD, *endureth* for ever; *and* thy memorial, O LORD, throughout all generations.”

### **THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS**

The One who commissioned Moses at the burning bush declare his name in this remarkable way: — “*I AM THAT I AM*,” and called himself “Jehovah.” Then, lest there be any mistake about his meaning, he told Moses that he is “*the God of our fathers*.” Specifically, he asserted that he is “*the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob*.” These three men are held before us throughout the Scriptures as the eminent patriarchs in the family of faith, the church, kingdom and family of God. He who is the God-man our Savior, is the God of our fathers. What he is to them, he is to us. And what he is to us he was to them when they walked through the earth as we do now. Let’s look into several passages of Scripture and see what our Lord here tells us about himself, and about his relationship to us, as the God of our fathers.

### **THE GOD OF ABRAHAM**

First, he declares himself to be the God of Abraham. Our Lord Jesus is “*the God of glory [who] appeared to our father Abraham*” (Acts 7:2). We know that it was not God in his essential glory who appeared to Abraham, because “*No man hath seen God at any time*” (John 1:18). It was the Lord Jesus Christ whom appeared to Abraham. He declares “*He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father*” (John 14:9). In a word, the Lord Jesus is the “*God of glory.*” He is not just the Revealer of God, he is God, “*the brightness of his glory and the express image of his person*” (Hebrews 1:3; John 1:14). Our blessed Savior, the One we trust, he who died as our Substitute at Calvary is the “*Lord of glory*” (1 Corinthians 2:8; James 2:1; John 5:23; 1 Timothy 3:16).

(John 5:23) “That all *men* should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.”

(1 Corinthians 2:8) “Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

(1 Timothy 3:16) “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

(James 2:1) “My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord of glory*, with respect of persons.”

### **GOD MOST HIGH**

Now, look at Genesis 14:19. Here we are told that the Christ who appeared to Abraham is “*the Most High, God, possessor of heaven and earth.*” It is God Most High, the Possessor of heaven and earth who blessed Abraham.

(Genesis 14:19) “And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:”

Christ, is the Most High God, the soul Possessor of heaven and earth **because he is God**, the “*King of kings and Lord of lords*” (Revelation 19:16). Indeed, the Book of God declares that he is “*God of gods*” (Deuteronomy 10:17). And Christ is the “*Possessor of heaven and earth*” because he has been given the nations for his inheritance, and the ends of the earth for his possession, by virtue of his accomplishments as our Mediator (Psalm 2:8; Matthew 28:18; John 17:4-5; Romans 14:9; Philippians 2:8-11; 1 Corinthians 15:25).

(Psalms 2:8) “Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession.”

(Matthew 28:18) “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”

(John 17:4-5) “I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. (5) And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”

(Romans 14:9) “For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.”

(Philippians 2:8-11) “And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (9) Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: (10) That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; (11) And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

(1 Corinthians 15:25) “For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.”

## **GOD THE WORD**

We read in John 1:1, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*” And that is how our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to Abraham Genesis 15:1.

(Genesis 15:1) “After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I *am* thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.”

Here we see that the Word of God is not referring to that which God speaks, but to the God speaking. Christ is the visible Word of God. He came to Abraham in a vision, a revelation. And that is exactly how we come to know him (John 1:1-3; Galatians 1:15; 1 John 1:1-3).

(John 1:1-3) “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) The same was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

(Galatians 1:15) “But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother’s womb, and called *me* by his grace.”

(1 John 1:1-3) “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (2) (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and show unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) (3) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

The Word who appeared to Abraham made himself known to Abraham as God, just as he has to us. He identified himself as Jehovah, and Abraham acknowledged him as God (Genesis 15:7-8).

(Genesis 15:7-8) “And he said unto him, I *am* the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. (8) And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?”

## **OUR SHIELD AND REWARD**

While we are here in Genesis 15:1, be sure you do not miss the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ, our God and Savior, is our Shield and our “*exceeding great Reward*.” He became Abraham’s Shield and Reward, in the experience of his grace, when he revealed himself and Abraham believed him; but he was his Shield and Reward long before that. Abraham came to experience his grace and believed him because he stood as Abraham’s Shield in eternity and became his Reward before the worlds were made by him (Ephesians 1:3-6).

So it is with us. To believe God is to trust and confide in Christ alone for salvation, forsaking all other refuges. — “*He is a shield unto them that put their trust in him*” (Proverbs 30:5; cp. Psalm 30:3; 5:12; 18:35; 28:7; 33:20; 59:11; 84:9, 11; 115:9, 10, 11; 119:114; 144:2).

(Psalms 5:12) “For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as *with* a shield.”

(Psalms 18:35) “Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great.”

(Psalms 28:7) “The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped: therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; and with my song will I praise him.”

(Psalms 30:3) “O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.”

(Psalms 33:20) “Our soul waiteth for the LORD: he *is* our help and our shield.”

(Psalms 59:11) “Slay them not, lest my people forget: scatter them by thy power; and bring them down, O Lord our shield.”

(Psalms 84:9) “Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed.”

(Psalms 84:11) “For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good *thing* will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.”

(Psalms 115:9-11) “O Israel, trust thou in the LORD: he *is* their help and their shield. (10) O house of Aaron, trust in the LORD: he *is* their help and their shield. (11) Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he *is* their help and their shield.”

(Psalms 119:114) “Thou *art* my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.”

(Psalms 144:2) “My goodness, and my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and *he* in whom I trust; who subdueth my people under me.”

### **Oh, what a Shield our Lord Jesus Christ is!**

- He hides us behind his blood. — The Passover. — The Mercy-seat.
- He clothes us with the garments of salvation, with his own righteousness.
- He encompasses us in himself.
- He holds us in his hands.
- He carries us in his bosom.
- He intercedes for us in heaven.

(Psalms 61:4) “I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah.”

(Proverbs 18:10) “The name of the LORD *is* a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.”

(Isaiah 4:6) “And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.”

(Isaiah 32:2) “And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.”

### **OUR REWARD**

As our Lord Jesus revealed himself to Abraham as his “*exceeding great Reward,*” so he is ours! Abraham forsook all his heathen gods, all earthly portions, his home and his family for Christ (Genesis 12:1-4); but he lost nothing. He lacked nothing. Oh, no! He gained everything. He gained Christ! So it is with us. The Lord Jesus Christ, the God of our fathers, is All, and we have all in him and abound. All things are ours, because we are Christ’s and Christ is ours! — He is...

- Our Portion
- Our Kinsman
- Our Redeemer
- Our Friend
- Our Brother
- Our Helper
- Our Husband
- Our God
- Our Inheritance
- Our Heaven
- Our “*exceeding great Reward!*”

### **ALMIGHTY GOD**

Still, there is more. The Lord Jesus, our Savior, whom we trust, is El-Shaddai, “*the Almighty God,*” who blessed Abraham (Genesis 17:1).

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

This name emphasizes his omnipotence. He who demands that we walk before him and be perfect is God possessing all power, and the God-man to whom all power has been given. That means many things, but none sweeter than this: — He is able to make us what he demands we be! — Perfect before him! **El-Shaddai means “God all-sufficient.”** It expresses more than the power of God alone. It expresses the power and sufficiency of God to bestow his grace and fulfill his promises. El-Shaddai is God able to save, able to do his will, able to shed his blessings upon his people. He is able to make sinners like us walk before him in faith; and he is able to make us perfect...

- By his decree.



- By his blood
- By his righteousness
- By his grace

## **THE JUDGE**

In Genesis 18:25, Abraham extolled our God and Savior as “*the Judge of all the earth.*”

(Genesis 18:25) “That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

(John 5:22) “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:”

(John 5:27) “And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.”

(Acts 10:42-43) “And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God *to be* the Judge of quick and dead. (43) To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.”

(Acts 17:31) “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by *that* man whom he hath ordained; *whereof* he hath given assurance unto all *men*, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

(Romans 14:10-12) “But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. (11) For it is written, *As I live*, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. (12) So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

(2 Corinthians 5:10-11) “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done*

in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad. (11) Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.”

### **THE EVERLASTING GOD**

In Genesis 21:33, Abraham worshiped the Lord Jesus as Jehovah, “*the everlasting God*,” the Eternal One.

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

This name belongs to our Redeemer, because he is “*the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last*” (Revelation 1:8, 11, 17; 2:8; 21:6; 22:13), “*the true God and eternal life*” (1 John 5:11, 20), “*the Everlasting Father*” (Isaiah 9:6), “*whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting*” (Micah 5:2). He is “*That which was from the beginning*” (1 John 1:1; John 1:1). — “*He is before all things*” (Colossians 1:17), eternal and unchangeable!

### **THE GOD OF ISAAC**

I do not need to remind you that our Lord Jesus Christ is the God of Isaac — Jehovah-Jireh, but let me do so anyway. That is how Abraham describes him in Genesis 22:14.

(Genesis 22:14) “And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said *to* this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.”

“*The Lord Will Provide.*” That is his name! He who provided for Isaac’s need has provided and will provide for all our need (Philippians 4:19).

- Christ has provided himself “*an offering and sacrifice for sin*” (Ephesians 5:2)
- He is “*the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world*” (John 1:29).
- Because Christ is our divine Shepherd (John 10:11), we sing with David, “*The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. ...*” (Psalm 23).
- Christ is both our Provider and our Provision!

### **THE GOD OF JACOB**

Christ is the God Jacob extolled at Peniel (Genesis 32:24-31), saying “*I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved*” (v.31). And this God is also the “*Man who wrestled with him*” (v.24) and as “*the Angel*” (Hosea 12:4). So it is with us. When Christ our God and Savior wrestles with us, and conquers us by his Spirit, graciously forcing us to confess our sin we are made to see “*the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.*”

Our Lord Jesus Christ is El Bethel, the God of the house of God, whom Jacob worshiped (Genesis 35:7).

(Genesis 35:7) “And he built there an altar, and called the place Elbethel: because there God appeared unto him, when he fled from the face of his brother.”

Jacob named that place Bethel because the presence of God there, in the Ladder which extended from earth to heaven, making it the house of God (Genesis 28:10-22). The presence of God there was in the person of both God the Father, who was at the top of the ladder (v.13), and God the Son, who was Himself the Ladder (John 1:51).

### **THE GOD OF ISRAEL**

And our Lord Jesus is the God of Israel, “God, the God of Israel” (Genesis 33:20).

(Genesis 33:20) “And he erected there an altar, and called it Elelohe-Israel.”

It is he who chose Jacob and named him Israel, “a prince with God,” assured him of his covenant, and of his faithfulness, making all things new for him. And so it is with all whom he makes his own (2 Cor. 5:17).

(2 Corinthians 5:17-21) “Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (18) And all things *are* of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; (19) To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the

world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. (20) Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech *you* by us: we pray *you* in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. (21) For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

Christ our Savior is the God of Israel. That means "*all Israel shall be saved!*" He who redeemed Israel from all evil shall save Israel from all evil.

(Romans 11:26) "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:"

Amen.