

Knowing **GOD**

When the Israelites left Egypt, their God displayed and proved His supremacy over the gods of Egypt. The Israelites after 430 years in Egypt had faded memories of the God of their fathers. The time for the exodus had come as well as coming to know their God.

During those ancient times, the gods worshiped by the nations had both a presence and power over them. This is a strange concept for mankind into the 21st century. Such a presence is not evident today, only the remains of stone structures and mystical writings that educators explain away. Yet, in the ancient book of the Judo-Christians, a God claims superiority over them all and He tediously took the time for His people to know Him. Who is the God of Israel?



This God has two claims:

1. He is the most powerful of all who exist.
2. He is the most compassionate, merciful and loving being in existence.

This is the God who is inviting all of mankind to come to know Him. From the Bible, the ancient Israelites proved His claims to be true.

THE MOST POWERFUL, THE ALMIGHTY—KING OF KINGS

When the ancient Israelites simply walked out of their slave-masters' home in Egypt during the dark hours after their Passover meal, they left in haste not knowing that their God was no ordinary god. The Egyptian god through Pharaoh's magicians presented a challenge for a time. At Moses' request, Aaron threw down his staff and it became a snake. Pharaoh's magicians

could do the same, but to their dismay, Aaron's staff swallowed up all of the staffs of the magicians (Exodus 7:12). The representation of a staff is an instrument of authority. Aaron, God said would be like a prophet to Moses who would, in turn, be in God's stead (Exodus 7:1) paralleled the magicians who too, were like prophets to Pharaoh who sat in place of his god in heaven. These gods in heaven have authority. That was never the question, it was always **who is supreme**. Right off the bat, Aaron's authority proved superior to that of the magicians.

Then God told Moses to have Aaron strike the Nile River and it would be turned to blood. The Egyptian magicians were able to do the same through their magic arts calling on the power of their heavenly ruler.

Seven days later, God told Moses to have Aaron stretch out his staff and bring up frogs over the land. Again, the magicians too were able to do the same. Revelation 16:13 describes the appears of the evil spirits that came out of the mouths of the dragon, the beast and false prophet looked like frogs. Both God and these gods over the nations can command evil spirits.

So far, it appeared that the power the God of Israel had was not much more than the heavenly god ruling over Egypt, except that the magicians could not remove the plague of frogs. **The god ruling over Egypt could not command the departure of the frogs** because the higher commander forbade their departure, until He was called upon to remove them. The God of Israel showed his supremacy in that anyone can invite evil spirits into their space, but the removal of them comes only from the One who has superior power.

Pharaoh distressed and helpless asked Moses and Aaron to pray to their God of Israel for the removal of the frogs. Moses replied, "It will be as you say, **so that you may know there is no one like the LORD our God**. The frogs will leave you and your houses, your officials and your people; **they will remain only in the Nile**" (Exodus 8:10-11). The watery places are often imaged in the Bible as the place where evil spirits live. When the new heaven and earth are created for the righteous, there will be no sea—no home for evil (Revelation 21:1). Satan has his maritime headquarters in the high seas (Ezekiel 27:4). Jesus rebuked the wind and said to the waters, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm" (Mark 4:39).

The leaders and people of the nation of Egypt did not know who the Creator and Almighty God was. At that time, every rogue heavenly ruler was claiming to be the Supreme God. The God of Israel was proving that He is God of all gods.

When Pharaoh was relieved from the plague of frogs, he refused to let the Israelites go, so through Aaron's staff, God turned all the dust in Egypt into gnats. This is reminiscent of God's command to Moses to remove his sandals because the ground was holy (Exodus 3:5). Sandals are usually covered in dust imaging sin. Sandals are removed to keep sin out of holy ground. God was telling the rogue god of Egypt that his domain is covered in sin, which moves like thick clouds—his domain was knee-deep in sin.

This was the first miracle the heavenly god of Egypt did not replicate. He knew what God was saying and he was not about to agree by increasing the number of gnats already present. All of Egypt and the Israelites suffered under the plague of gnats because sin was everywhere within Egypt and the Israelites.

The next plague, a plague of flies, would only affect the Egyptians because God intended to make a distinction between His inheritance—those He ruled over and the Egyptians under a different heavenly ruler.

Again, under the distress of disease-carrying flies, Pharaoh promised to let the Israelites go if the God of Israel would take away the flies. One of the blessings God promised the Israelites if they obey Him is that there will be no sickness. For the Egyptians, disease and sickness was part of the curse for disobedience.

But again, Pharaoh changed his mind and refused to let the Israelites go. God continued in His lesson to both the Israelites and the Egyptians showing a distinction between not only the people of God and the Egyptians but their livestock as well. Through Aaron's staff, He caused only the Egyptian livestock to die.

God then brought boils on all the Egyptians and their animals throughout the land, then thunder and hailstones. Each plague was designed to show every level of God's authority over His creation and the difference between righteous and wicked leadership. "The thunder will stop and there will be no more hail, **so you may know that the earth is the LORD's**" (Exodus 9:29).

Pharaoh continued to refuse to let the Israelites go so, God then brought locusts that consumed what little grain was left in their fields, darkness followed imaging their spiritual condition and finally the death of their firstborn son that sent a powerful message to their heavenly ruler that this nation on earth will not be the firstborn in God's kingdom, rather God's people—the obedient children of Israel. "Then tell Pharaoh that this is what the LORD says: '**Israel is My firstborn son**, and I told you to let My son go so that he may worship Me. But you have refused to let him go, so **I will kill your firstborn son!**'" (Exodus 4:22-23)

If these gods had remained righteous, the nations they inherited may have been the firstborn in God's kingdom, but they rebelled against Him. To the god ruling over Egypt, God warned, "'Yet you, too, will be brought down with the trees [leaders] of Eden [God's government] to the earth below; you will lie among the uncircumcised [wicked], with those killed by the sword [destroyed by the word of truth—God's word].' This is Pharaoh and all his hordes, declares the Sovereign LORD" (Ezekiel 31:18).

They taught their nations a false religion, casting the nations back deeper into sin. The deep meaning of the death of the firstborn sons of Egypt and those who did not brush the blood of the lamb on their door post often goes unnoticed. The blood of the lamb symbolized the acceptance of Jesus, the Lamb of God, as the Savior.

Finally, after God finished teaching His people, the Egyptians, as well as reminding the rogue heavenly rulers over the nations that there is ONE Supreme God and that is the God of Israel who is the source of all power by which everything in heaven and earth was created. Everything created is His. He only decides who of the nations on earth will be born first in His kingdom and it will be the repentant people of Israel—His inheritance.

In summary, the plagues God poured out on the Egyptians sent this message to the heavenly god ruling over Egypt. Your kingdom was once majestic, but it is now filled with evil spirits that you allow and sin covers your land. Your kingdom is cursed, not one living being, animal or any life will survive. Your kingdom is spiritually dead and this nation will not be the firstborn in the eternal Kingdom of God.

The first significant stop for the Israelites traveling towards the Promised Land was to camp by the sea, directly opposite Baal Zephon. The Israelites were learning that THEIR God reigns supreme and all the stories, statues and threats by the reigning gods over the nations were merely a show by comparison. A great statue of Baal Zephon stood overlooking the Red Sea high on a mountain range. The defeat of the famous and feared Baal Zephon was on their immediate horizon. Images of this threatening god tend to be cartoonish and harmless.



Wikipedia provides a more intimidating description of this menacing ruler.

“The earliest discovered depiction of the god—where he stands astride two mountains in a smiting posture—dates to the 18th century bc.[1] Other depictions show him crowned and bearing a scepter.[1] As a protector of maritime trade, his temples also received votive stone anchors.”

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baal-zephon>

God fought against these rogue heavenly gods while teaching His people that He reigns supreme. “And I will harden Pharaoh’s heart, and **he will pursue them**. But I will gain glory for myself through Pharaoh and all his army, and **the Egyptians will know that I am the LORD**” (Exodus 14:4).

Key in God’s actions is that the Egyptian people, too, needed to learn that the God of Israel is superior to their god. God hardened Pharaoh’s heart until He finished His lesson on earth and in heaven. Both the Egyptians and the Israelites will learn that Baal Zephon is inferior to the God of Israel.

When the Israelites heard that the great Egyptian army had caught up to them and they were cornered, they were terrified. Moses shouted, “**The LORD will fight for you, you need only to**

be still” (Exodus 14:14). Moses parted the sea without any resistance from Baal Zephon, opening a way for their escape and all of the Israelites walked on dry land. Then, God covered the Egyptians with the raging Red Sea. They cried, “Let’s get away from the Israelites! **The LORD is fighting for them against Egypt**” (Exodus 14:25b) and Baal Zephon could only watch from above. In their dying moments, they came to know the superiority of the God of Israel and their loved ones awaiting their return, will remember all their remaining days the weakness of their own gods.

God accomplished His goal. “And **when the Israelites saw the great power of the LORD displayed against the Egyptians, the people feared the LORD and put their trust in him and in Moses his servant**” (Exodus 14:31).



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Then Moses and the Israelites sang, “Who among the gods is like You, **O LORD? Who is like You**—majestic in holiness, revered with praises, performing wonders... The LORD will reign for ever and ever” (Exodus 15:11, 18).

Unfortunately for 21st century Christians, the fear the Israelites had of the power these rogue heavenly rulers had over the nations, is lost even ridiculed.

Yet, the field commander of the King of Assyria boasted about the Assyrian military’s accomplishments as they invaded and conquered weaker rulers to expand their territory beyond what was given when God divided the nations.

“Tell Hezekiah king of Judah, ‘Do not let your God, in whom you trust, deceive you by promising that Jerusalem will not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria. Surely **you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the other countries, devoting them to destruction.**

Will you then be spared? **Did the gods of the nations my fathers destroyed rescue them**—the gods of Gozan, Haran, Rezep, and of the people of Eden in Telassar? Did the gods of the nations my fathers destroyed rescue them—the gods of Gozan, Haran, Rezep, and of the people of Eden in Telassar? Where are the kings of Hamath, Arpad, Sepharvaim, Hena, and Ivvah?” (Isaiah 37:10-13)

The 21st century reader may laugh at such a response thinking poorly crafted idols could not be a threat to any ruler, and indeed, idols have no power of their own, yet, this bragging commander boasted of their achievements and those of his previous kings, which were indeed true and he attributed their successes to the supremacy of the god of Assyria compared to the weaker gods over the other kingdoms.

While an Assyrian field commander boasted and bragged, the heavenly ruler of Assyria carefully plotted and planned the overthrow of Almighty God. King Hezekiah fully understood his real enemy.

“Who is it you have insulted and blasphemed? Against whom you have raised your voice and lifted your eyes in pride? **Against the Holy One of Israel!** By **your messengers** you have **heaped insults on the LORD.**” The field commander boasting to King Hezekiah was merely a messenger and puppet for the heavenly ruler.

God Almighty knows the plans of His fallen sons who once filled the high positions in His holy court. “And you have said, ‘With **my many chariots I have ascended the heights of the mountains, the utmost heights of Lebanon.** I have **cut down the tallest cedars, the choicest of its pines.** I have **reached its remotest heights, the finest of its forests.** I have dug wells in foreign lands and drunk the water there. With **the soles of my feet I have dried up all the streams of Egypt**” (Isaiah 37:22-25).

God’s words given to King Hezekiah and recorded by Isaiah used the same imagery recorded by Ezekiel. In both cases, God is speaking using the image of “mountains” for governments, “trees” for leaders, “cedars” for spiritually strong leaders and “Lebanon” for the name of His holy court.

This arrogant heavenly ruler bragged of entering the highest levels in God’s holy court and swaying members filled with God’s His Holy Spirit, rich in God’s knowledge, understanding and wisdom and trained in all the ways of God’s government over to his side, causing them to fall and partake in the rebellion against their Creator. He boasts of drying up leadership in “foreign lands”, places far from his heavenly home and in great shame, he admits to swaying the heavenly ruler over Egypt to follow his ways.

One-third of creation in heaven has fallen into sin and rebellion against God. These fallen are not merely disembodied spirits, but once highly honored and revered leaders in God’s Holy Court and Government.

God foreknew their fall and responded, “Have you not heard? **Long ago I ordained it; in days of old I planned it.** Now I have brought it to pass, that **you should crush fortified cities into piles of rubble. Therefore, their inhabitants, devoid of power, are dismayed and ashamed.** They are **like plants in the field, tender green shoots, grass on the rooftops, scorched before it is grown**” (Isaiah 37:26-27). Again, God confirms His use of imagery to describe leadership and dominions, “like plants in the field, tender green shoots, grass on the rooftops.”

God foresaw the great rebellion long ago and planned that Assyria would overthrow many of the weaker rebel kingdom, But in time, Assyria too would be taken down, leaving a kingdom of sand covered with fragments of stone history. God assured the heavenly ruler over Assyria, “But I know your sitting down, your going out and your coming in, and your raging against Me” (Isaiah 37:26-28).

This same heavenly ruler was God’s most spiritually strong member of His heavenly court. He was admired and “the envy of all the trees [leaders] of Eden [God’s government] in the garden of God [God’s family] (Ezekiel 31:9b). This heavenly ruler as “once a cedar [a great spiritual leader with a very high position] in Lebanon [God’s headquarters/heavenly court] (Ezekiel 31:3).

When this dearly loved leader fell, God wept. “On the day it was brought down to the grave I covered the deep springs with mourning for it... I clothed Lebanon with gloom” (Ezekiel 31:15).

No foreknowledge can take away the pain on the moment it happens, when those you love betray you and fall into wickedness to eventually die, they leave a hole in your heart. King David understood the urgency and magnitude of their chuses. He pleaded with them. “Let all those **be ashamed** who serve graven images, who boast themselves of idols; **worship Him, all you gods** [elohim]” (Psalm 97:7).

King David declared the God of Israel to be the supreme God over all. “For you, **LORD**, are the **Most High** over all the earth; **you are exalted far above all gods**” (Psalm 97:9) and “For **the LORD** is the great God, the **great King above all gods**” (Psalm 95:3).

God commanded the Israelites to worship only Him. The first commandment positioned by God as number one, is not the same as the second commandment, which is the prohibition of hand-crafted images and idols, but applies to living heavenly rulers, powers and authorities. It is the same the Apostle Paul warned Christians about when he said they are our only enemies (Ephesians 6:12).

All is quiet on the world’s front today. Warnings of gods are a joke and nonsense to everyone but a few. When **the beast that once was**—in ancient times—**and is not**—during the time of Apostle John to the present—and **yet will be**—comes out of the sea [the place of wickedness] a slumbering people will suddenly awaken.

The God of Israel will again prove His all-powerful might and sovereignty over rogue, weaker gods who continue battling to overthrow their Creator, the only source of all power. History will

repeat itself. A second exodus is on the horizon for God's people because their relationship with Him has faded as it did when they were slaves in Egypt (Jeremiah 16:14-15, Jeremiah 23:7-8).

THE MOST COMPASSIONATE, MERCIFUL AND LOVING—LORD OF LORDS

Once the ancient Israelites had witnessed the mighty power of their God and His sovereignty over all kingdoms, it was time to teach them about His role as high priest, LORD of lords.

“And he [the God of Israel] passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, **‘The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin.** Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation” (Exodus 34:6).

The Israelites were learning that though their God is all powerful, He is also gentle, compassionate, gracious, patient, faithful and deeply loving. This was the side of God that seemed to be so misunderstood by the fallen heavenly rulers, powers and authorities of Ephesians 6:12.

After the ten commandments and all national laws were given to the ancient Israelites and the confirmation of a covenant with God to obey these laws with God Almighty as their King, God gave them instructions on exactly how to build His tabernacle. It was after the ancient Israelites built the golden calf that God Almighty decided not to travel with them into the Promised Land. This concerned Moses very much.

“Go up to the land flowing with milk and honey. But **I will not go with you**, because you are a stiff-necked people and **I might destroy you on the way**” (Exodus 33:3). This is a reminder to the nations of 21st century Israel who have forgotten their real enemy—rogue heavenly rulers, powers and authorities. **The penalty for treason is death.** Know the God you worship, so that you won't become confused and slip back into false worship.

The people were distressed. God did not leave them alone. He promised them His angel. **“I will send an angel before you** and drive out the Canaanites, Amorites, Hittites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites” (Exodus 33:2). This is the same angel who stood before Joshua after they crossed the Jordan River commanding him to take off his sandals for the ground was holy (Joshua 5:15).

The LORD replied, **“My Presence** will go ~~with you~~ [there is no “with you” in the original text], and I will give you rest” (Exodus 33:14). It appears that God is saying that He won't be coming down in the cloud by day and fire by night, rather watching them from His throne in heaven. The close contact would end. The lack of loyalty the ancient Israelites displayed caused a fracture in their relationship with God. This wavering loyalty continues into the 21st century. The ministry in the Christian churches preach many different doctrines. They have compromised the word of God and many have Christianized pagan practices. So, few stand strong to follow the pattern taught by the Apostles and follow the example of Christ who is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

The ministry is not leaning on Christ for scriptural understanding and following him, rather they are interpreting scripture for themselves, walking side-by-side as opposed to following.

Yet, despite the perpetual stumbling and falling of the ancient Israelites, God patiently endures, fulfilling His promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. The ancient kingdom of Israel fractured into two houses: Judah and Israel where Jerusalem remained, after the captivity of the house of Israel, the only religious centre. Ezekiel recorded the wayward lives of these three bodies.

“Your older sister was Samaria [the church of the ten tribes], who lived with her daughters to your north; and your younger sister was Sodom [the church of the house of Judah], who lived with her daughters to your south. And you [Jerusalem: the centre of God’s ministry] not only walked in their ways and practiced their abominations, but soon **you were more depraved than they were.**’ As surely as I live, declares the Lord GOD, ‘your sister Sodom and her daughters never did as you and your daughters have done’” (Ezekiel 16:47-48).

The fall of the kingdom of Israel, both houses as well as Jerusalem, their religious centre was their craving for status and self-glory. As the nations throughout time and into our present day, strive for superpower status, economic control, military might and self-glory so the religious leaders embrace the same desires in their churches. In ancient times, they desired the self-glory that covered the nations around them. This is the direct opposite of God’s way. He desires that the kingdom of Israel would become a humble, holy kingdom of royal priests—a model kingdom, an example for the nations, into the Millennium and eternity—experts of righteousness (Exodus 19:6, I Peter 2:9). God considers the role of a priest to be precious and highly valuable.

“Now if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, **you will be My treasured possession out of all the nations—for the whole earth is Mine**” (Exodus 19:5).

Priesthood continues to be considered well into the 21st century as an inferior, insignificant and powerless office. But, beginning in the Millennium and throughout eternity, this office will be raised to its rightful place. It will be honored and revered.

God knows His enemies’ plans and tactics, but mankind, who are all destined to become a kingdom of priests, don’t see or understand the heavenly battles that have been raging before the creation of mankind.

God calls out to His people to self-reflect, look beyond the moment, rise up and view life from God’s spiritual view. What is left for them after they die? What value is there living in a temporary body on a planet that is also wearing out? Humble yourselves and ponder the existence of intelligent design. Overthrow the reasoning that keeps you from turning to investigate creation. Read the ancient book preserved for you and answer His question. “What fault did your fathers find in me, that they strayed so far from me? They followed worthless idols and became worthless themselves” (Jeremiah 2:4-5).

The ancient Israelites failed to understand God's grand plan. The creation on earth was intended for one great purpose: to be a **humble, holy kingdom of royal priests**.

"And they sang a new song, 'You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and **with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribes and language and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom of priests to serve our God**'" (Revelation 5:9-10).

These priests are royal because they are created to be part of God's royal family—children of God and they are holy because they are set apart to be experts in God's righteousness.

The kingdom of ancient Israel is a riveting story of poisoned hearts, people drawn to love: self-determination, self-reliance, and self-glory. From before the creation of man, it was determined that perfection would be achieved through suffering and a rebirth would take place where a righteous kingdom would arise and fill the earth.

The God of Israel never left His people. "My eyes will watch over them for their good, and I will bring them back to this land. I will bring them back to this land. I will build them up and not tear them down; I will plant them and not uproot them. **I will give them a heart to know me**, that I am the LORD. **They will be my people, and I will be their God, for they will return to me with all their heart**" (Jeremiah 24:6-7).

The God of Israel always loved His people despite their treachery. "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with loving-kindness. **I will build you up again and you will be rebuilt, O Virgin Israel, Again, you will plant vineyard on the hills of Samaria**" (Jeremiah 31:3-4).

The God of Israel punished and punishes Israel in love, to correct and bring wrong doing to shame. "For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with **deep compassion I will bring you back**. In a surge of anger, I hid my face from you for a moment, but with **everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you**" (Isaiah 54:7-8).

The God of Israel will forgive the nations of 21st century Israel when they call on Him for forgiveness. "Then the LORD said to me [Jeremiah], "Even faithless Israel is less guilty than treacherous Judah! Go, proclaim this message toward the north: '**Return, O faithless Israel,**' declares the LORD. '**I will no longer look on you with anger, for I am merciful,**' declares the LORD. 'I will not be angry forever'" (Jeremiah 3:11-12).

The kingdom of Israel: the house of Judah and the house of Israel, will repent, TOGETHER, as a united body, no longer separated but humbled and forgiving each other. They will return to God weeping, never to forget their God again.

"In those days, at that time, the **people of Israel** and the **people of Judah TOGETHER** will go in **tears to seek the YHWH, their God**. They will ask the way of Zion and turn their faces toward it.

They will come and bind themselves to the Lord in an everlasting covenant that will not be forgotten” (Jeremiah 50:4-5).

The God of Israel will welcome them back into a covenant family. He will bind the two houses back into ONE kingdom, worshiping ONE God, leaning on ONE Lord, teaching ONE theology and living ONE way—God’s way.

“I am going to take the **stick of Joseph**—which is in the hand of Ephraim and the Israelite tribes associated with him and the **stick of Judah** and the Israelite tribes associated with him and join them, making them a single stick of wood...I will take the Israelites out of the nations where they have gone. **I will gather them from all around and bring them back into their own land. I will make them ONE nation** in the land... there will be **ONE king** over all of them and **they will never again be two nations or be divided into two kingdoms”** (Ezekiel 37:18-22).

The whole world will bend their knee to Almighty God and to Jesus Christ who will rule over them as their King of kings and Lord of lords.

“In the last days the mountain [government] of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains [the supreme government over all governments]; it will be raised above the hills, and the peoples will stream to it. And **many nations will come and say: ‘Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us His ways, so that we may walk in His paths.’** For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. Then He will judge between many peoples and arbitrate for strong nations far and wide. Then they will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. **Nation will no longer take up the sword against nation, nor will they train anymore for war”** (Malachi 4:1-3).

With the transformation into spirit beings of all repentant people from planet earth, ONE humble and holy kingdom of royal priests will complete God’s ultimate plan where national and religious leadership in His kingdom are bound as ONE unified body having equal status, ruling over dominions righteously for all eternity.

If only the ancient Israelites understood God’s grand plan those many, many years ago. Their story would have been different, but on the other hand, those who are forgiven a great multitude of sins will value and treasure God’s grace the most (Luke 7:41-43).



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