

Ready Answers Unit J: Jesus in the Sinai Covenant

0

Welcome, Opening prayer, and Introduction.

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1

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Introduction

2

In a previous unit, we learned that a covenant between two people can only be changed if both of them agree to the change. We also learned that Jesus fulfilled the prophecy in Daniel 9:27 that the Messiah would strengthen the covenant God made at Sinai. In this unit, we will see that both God and the Israelites agreed that Jesus could add to, or strengthen, this covenant. This agreement was included as part of the original covenant. Before we go into this topic, however, we will first need to have an understanding of the Trinity.

Christians use the word “Trinity” to describe how God is made of three parts and is yet one God. The names we use for these parts are “God the Father”, “God the Son”, and the “Holy Spirit”. We see that all three were present at Jesus’s baptism. The Father spoke from heaven to Jesus, calling Him His Son; and God’s Spirit came down from heaven and rested on Jesus.

3

And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him: And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And immediately the spirit driveth him into the wilderness. Mark 1:9-12

4

Passages in the Old Testament books use different names in different places when talking about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In this next passage, the one who is speaking says He has always existed by saying, “from the time that it was, there am I”. This means He is God. He then says that the Lord GOD and His Spirit hath or has sent Him. We would normally say “have” when two people send someone else and “has” when one person is doing the sending.¹ This shows how God is three and yet is one.²

5

Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me. Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go. Isaiah 48 : 16–17

6

Some passages can only be understood by comparing them with numerous other Bible passages. We will spend most of this unit seeing that Exodus 23:20–22, which uses the word “Angel”, is actually talking about Jesus.

Other passages of the Old Testament are so subtle, that it is hard to be certain if they are even talking about a part of the Trinity. One example is . . .

I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee. Exodus 23 : 27

7



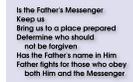
J165.jpg

It is possible that this Fear that God would send could be His Holy Spirit. Jesus described the Holy Spirit as a comforter³ to His disciples; but, as we learned in Psalm 97, God’s presence is both a joy to His people and a terror to the ungodly. If this Fear is a description of the Holy Spirit,⁴ then we will be able to see all three parts of the Trinity in the Book of the Covenant (Exodus 20–23). God the Father is speaking,⁵ and says He will send both Jesus and His Fear.

With an understanding of the Trinity, we can now study the passage about the Angel.

God's Angel

8



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In the covenant, the Father said He would send a messenger. The King James translation uses the word “Angel”, but the Hebrew word that this comes from is also frequently translated as “messenger”.⁶

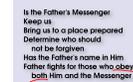
This messenger would keep us, would bring us to a place prepared for us, and determine who should not be forgiven. This messenger would have the Father’s character in Him. If we want God to fight on our side, God said we must obey both Him and this messenger.

9

Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared. Beware of him, and obey his voice, provoke him not; for he will not pardon your transgressions: for my name is in him. But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries. Exodus 23 : 20–22

Captain of God's Army

10



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Notice that both the Father and His Messenger must be obeyed. This means that the Messenger is permitted to add requirements to the Sinai covenant, but is not permitted to remove any requirements, or contradict anything in the covenant. So, the Messenger is only allowed to strengthen the covenant. After Joshua lead the Israelites across the Jordan river and before they fought against Jericho, the Captain of God’s army came to Joshua.

11



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Comparing the Captain to the Messenger talked about in the covenant, we see that, He was sent by God and would be able to keep the Israelites safe. He came at the right time to give them the place God had prepared, and we will see that He was very much like the Father and that He would fight against Joshua’s enemies only if certain conditions were met.

12

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? Joshua 5:13

13

And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my Lord unto his servant? And the captain of the LORD's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so. Joshua 5:14-15

The Captain is the Messenger

14

is the Father's Messenger
Keep us
Bring us to a place prepared
Determine who should
not be forgiven
Has the Father's name in Him
Father fights for those who obey
both Him and the Messenger

Notice that when Joshua asked this captain if He would fight for or against Israel's side, He replied "Nay", or "Neither". This matches what God had said about the Messenger He would send; the Messenger would only fight on Israel's side if they obeyed.

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15

is the Father's Messenger
Keep us
Bring us to a place prepared
Determine who should
not be forgiven
Has the Father's name in Him
Father fights for those who obey
both Him and the Messenger

Notice also that the Captain said that He Himself was not the LORD God, because He said He was simply the Captain of the LORD's army. Yet these verses also tell us that the Captain is actually a part of God, because He accepted worship and the ground near Him was holy.

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16

God's followers don't accept worship, because this would cause others to break one of the Ten Commandments.⁷ Even the angel who showed the things in Revelation to the Apostle John refused worship.

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Revelation 19:10

17

The Captain accepted worship and the ground near Him was holy, like the time when God met with Moses at the burning bush.⁸ So, we know the Captain must be part of the Trinity and not what we normally think of as an angel. This shows us that the Captain has the same name, character, or reputation as God the Father. Certainly this Captain was the Messenger talked about in the covenant.

18

is the Father's Messenger
Keep us
Bring us to a place prepared
Determine who should
not be forgiven
Has the Father's name in Him
Father fights for those who obey
both Him and the Messenger

Only one prophecy about this Messenger was not fulfilled at the time of Joshua: the one dealing with forgiving sins. The Captain suggested that He would be returning later with a different role by saying, "...as captain of the host of the LORD am I **now** come." So, let's see if this Captain could have been Jesus before He was born.

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19



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Micah 5:2 tells us that Jesus has always existed, and that He would be born in Bethlehem. But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. Micah 5:2

Jesus is Both Captain and Messenger

20

is the Father's Messenger
Keep us
Bring us to a place prepared
Determine who should
not be forgiven
Has the Father's name in Him
Father fights for those who obey
both Him and the Messenger

Since it is possible for the Captain and Jesus to be the same person, let's see if Jesus matches the characteristics of the Messenger.

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In this next passage, we see that Jesus said He was a messenger sent from the Father. He also said that for us to be forgiven, we must believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

21

And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world. I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins. Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning. I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him. They understood not that he spake to them of the Father. John 8:23-27

22

is the Father's Messenger
Keep us
Bring us to a place prepared
Determine who should
not be forgiven
Has the Father's name in Him
Father fights for those who obey
both Him and the Messenger

Next we will see that Jesus has promised to bring us into a place He is preparing for us.

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23

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. John 14:2-3

24

is the Father's Messenger
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Bring us to a place prepared
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Father fights for those who obey
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Jesus also said that He had the same character as the Father.

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25

Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. John 14:8-10

26

is the Father's Messenger
Keep us
Bring us to a place prepared
Determine who should
not be forgiven
Has the Father's name in Him
Father fights for those who obey
both Him and the Messenger

Jesus will make sure we are kept.

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27

I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. John 17:15

28

is the Father's Messenger
Keep us
Bring us to a place prepared
Determine who should
not be forgiven
Has the Father's name in Him
Father fights for those who obey
both Him and the Messenger

In this next verse, we see that the dragon, a symbol of Satan,⁹ is the enemy of those who obey God and remember what Jesus taught.

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29

And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12:17

30

This dragon gave power to another authority represented by a beast. And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority. Revelation 13:1-2

31

The false prophet will help the dragon and the beast to get the kings of the earth to join their side. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. Revelation 16:13-14

32

We have seen that the dragon and his allies are enemies of those who obey God and remember what Jesus taught. This next passage explains how Jesus, pictured on a white horse,¹⁰ will defeat the dragon and his allies. And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. Revelation 19:20

33

And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh. Revelation 19:21

34

And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, Revelation 20:1-2
A few verses later,¹¹ we are promised that the Devil will also be destroyed in the lake of fire.

35

is the Father's Messenger
Keep us
Bring us to a place prepared
Deliver us who should
not be forgiven
Has the Father's name in Him
Father fights for those who obey
both Him and the Messenger

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We have seen that Jesus completely matches the description in the Sinai Covenant of God's Messenger. Jesus was granted authority in the covenant to strengthen it, but is not authorized to cancel or contradict any part of it. So, we can be confident that if we, "keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ", God will be "an enemy to our enemies and an adversary to our adversaries."

Picture Sources

- p. 0 Jesus Leading Israelites to the Promised Land: *Evangelism Media Library*, 0614138.jpg with Jesus from 0609244.jpg.
- p. 3 Jesus' Baptism: *Evangelism Media Library*, 0605054.jpg.

- p. 4 Bible With Flame: *Evangelism Media Library* 0602147.jpg, adjusted to have 3 tongues of fire.
- p. 5 Jesus Being Sent: *Evangelism Media Library* 0603120.jpg (which is similar to 0611184.jpg). Adjusted His hands to be not pierced.
- p. 6 Jesus Pointing to Bible: *Evangelism Media Library*, 0614082.jpg.
- p. 7 Our own text slide showing that the Holy Spirit may bring fear to God's enemies and comfort to disciples.
- p. 8 Our own chart, J175.xcf.
- p. 9 Jesus Leading Israelites to the Promised Land: *Evangelism Media Library*, 0614138.jpg with Jesus from 0609244.jpg.
- p. 10 Our own chart with "obey both" underlined, J175.xcf.
- p. 11 Our own chart, J175.xcf.
- p. 12 The Captain of the LORD's Host Visits Joshua: *Bible Story volume 3*, page 84.
- p. 13 Joshua Worships The Captain of the LORD's Host: *Bible Story volume 3*, page 87. We moved Joshua and added more background to fit the needed picture ratio.
- p. 14 Our own chart, J175.xcf.
- p. 15 Our own chart, J175.xcf.
- p. 16 Angel Refusing Worship: *Evangelism Media Library*, 0604245.jpg. We added clothes onto Jacob to make him into John.
- p. 17 Burning Bush: *Bible Story volume 2*, page 96.
- p. 18 Our own chart, J175.xcf.
- p. 19 Micah Prophecies Bethlehem as Birthplace. We believe this image is in public domain. If you have information to the contrary please contact us, so we can take appropriate action.
- p. 20 Our own chart, J175.xcf.
- p. 21 Jesus Teaching Pharisees: *Evangelism Media Library*, 0603177.jpg.
- p. 22 Our own chart, J175.xcf.
- p. 23 Many Mansions: *Evangelism Media Library*, 0603057.jpg.
- p. 24 Our own chart, J175.xcf.
- p. 25 Conglomerate: Jesus Eating: *Evangelism Media Library*, 0605238.jpg,
Phillip Asking: *Evangelism Media Library*, 0609225.jpg. Changed server's expression, shadows, removed tree, made Phillip to be standing.
- p. 26 Our own chart, J175.xcf.
- p. 27 Jesus in Gethsemane: *Evangelism Media Library*, 0603163.jpg.
- p. 28 Our own chart, J175.xcf.
- p. 29 Woman and Dragon: *New Beginnings Sermon 21*, slide 50, 0821050.jpg.
- p. 30 Beast from sea: *Evangelism media Library*, 0607176.jpg, We added "blasphemy" to heads.
- p. 31 Frog Leaving Mouth: *Evangelism Media Library*, 0603034.jpg.
- p. 32 Lake of Fire: *New Beginnings Sermon 16*, slide 46, 0816046.jpg.
- p. 33 Captain Jesus on White Horse: *Bible Story volume 10*, page 197. We duplicated his crown, added eyes of fire, added KING OF KINGS and LORD OF LORDS, brushed horse and rider, and added

sword: *Evangelism Media Library*, slide 0613111.jpg.

p. 34 Dragon, Angel and Chain: Dragon from *New Beginnings, sermon 6*, slide 18. Angel from *Evangelism Media Library* 0611029.jpg. The chain, ball, key and ring are our own creation.

p. 35 Our own chart, J175.xcf.

End Notes

Page numbers are listed in parentheses to help you find where each end note is referenced.

- ¹ The last part of Isaiah 48:16 is difficult to translate from Hebrew, because it doesn't follow the usual Hebrew grammar. The clause, "and now the Lord GOD and His Spirit hath sent me", comes from וְרוּחֹי שְׁלַחְנִי וְעַתָּה אֲדַרְנִי יְהוָה שְׁלַחְנִי. Hebrew verbs generally indicate more information about who is doing the action and who or what is being acted upon than English verbs do. The verb in this sentence, שְׁלַחְנִי (*sh'lachannéé*), tells us that someone sent someone else. It also tells us that the one doing the sending is third person masculine singular, "he"; and that the one being sent is first person singular, "me". To put this briefly, this verb means "he sent me"—not "they sent me" or "he sent us". Now we just need to determine who is the "he", and who is the "me". (p. 4)
- ² In Isaiah 48:16, The Lord GOD, אֲדֹנָי יְהוָה (*adonai yawhe*), is clearly part of the "he" that is sending. The challenge is with the word "and his spirit", וְרוּחֹי (*v'rucho*). Is it part of the "he" or part of the "me"? Normally, if two people did the sending, the verb would indicate "they sent me"; or, if two people were being sent, the verb would indicate "he sent us". The King James translation chose to say that "his Spirit" was part of the "he", but some other translations have chosen to say "his Spirit" is part of the "me" by saying "And now the Sovereign LORD has sent me, with His Spirit." (New International Version). Since both are reasonable translations, we must conclude two things: 1) the Lord GOD and His Spirit are one and are being referred to as "he" instead of "they", 2) His Spirit and "me" (God the Son) are one; and so, the Son calls the two of them "me" instead of "us". This verse together with John 14:8–10, clearly indicate that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are each separate and are all one. This is the Trinity. (p. 4)
- ³ In John 14:26, Jesus describes the Holy Spirit, or Holy Ghost, as being the Comforter. (p. 7)
- ⁴ Joshua 2:9–11 explains that the Canaanites were afraid of the Israelites because of the power of God. Their victory over the Canaanites to establish God's kingdom was ensured not by Israel's might or power, but because of the fear from God. This is similar to Zechariah 4:6 where God tells Zerubbabel that the temple would also not be built by might or power, but by His Spirit. (p. 7)
- ⁵ Exodus 20:1–2, 22 (p. 7)
- ⁶ The Hebrew word, מַלְאָךְ (pronounced *mal'akh*), is translated as *angel*, *messenger*, and *ambassador*. It has been assigned Strong's number 4397. (p. 8)
- ⁷ Exodus 20:3–5 (p. 16)
- ⁸ Exodus 3:1–6, 14 describes Moses, the burning bush, and holy ground. (p. 17)
- ⁹ Revelation 20:2 indicates that the dragon is Satan. (p. 28)
- ¹⁰ To see that this person on the white horse is Jesus, consider these verses about Jesus:
John 1:14–15 Jesus is called the Word.
John 1:29 Jesus is called the Lamb of God.
Rev. 17:14 The Lamb is Lord of lords and King of kings.
Rev. 1:16–18 Jesus was dead and now lives. He is pictured with a sword coming out of His mouth.

And consider these verses about the person on the white horse:

Rev. 19:13 called the Word of God.

Rev. 19:14 leads God's army as a captain.

Rev. 19:15, 21 pictured with a sword coming out of His mouth.

Rev. 19:16 is King of kings and Lord of lords.
(p. 32)

¹¹ Revelation 20:10 shows that the Devil will be destroyed. (p. 34)