

The Father

A Bible Study on the Eternal Father

Compiled by Dan Augsburger

Psalms 19:1-3 “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.”

Romans 1:20 “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”

“All the paternal love which has come down from generation to generation through the channel of human hearts, all the springs of tenderness which have opened in the souls of men, are but as a tiny rill to the boundless ocean, when compared with the infinite, exhaustless love of God. Tongue can not utter it; pen can not portray it. You may meditate upon it every day of your life; you may search the Scriptures diligently in order to understand it; you may summon every power and capability that God has given you, in the endeavor to comprehend the love and compassion of the heavenly Father; and yet there is an infinity beyond. You may study that love for ages; yet you can never fully comprehend the length and breadth, the depth and height, of the love of God in giving His Son to die for the world. Eternity itself can never fully reveal it.” Ellen White, Signs of the Times, April 12, 1910, par. 9

The is the first of a four-part series of Bible studies on the Godhead.

Introduction

This is the first of a four-part Bible studies on the Godhead. Made up of three distinct Eternal Persons, the Godhead is revealed throughout the Old and New Testament Scriptures.

The Father is one of these distinct Eternal Persons. You will learn about Him in this first study. The other three parts present evidence on, (1) Christ, the Father's representative and self-existent Divine Saviour of the world; (2) the Holy Spirit, Christ's Representative and Successor; and finally (3) Scriptures where the Three Persons of the Godhead are mentioned together, and considering how the Bible can accurately say "Our God is One."

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptures are taken from the KJV. In my personal study I use the NKJV for readability, but since this began as a study of Ellen White's writings, and she primarily used the KJV, I exclusively use that version in most of this series of Bible studies.

I let the Scriptures speak for themselves, sharing limited commentary and a few relevant quotations. In a few cases, I cite outside authorities for helpful clarification on some aspects of the Godhead.

I also provide the Scriptures instead of just references to the Scriptures. Many people will see these studies on their phones and may not have access to a Bible at the time, or would not be willing to go to the trouble to look them up. Accordingly I am trying to make it easier for them to study.

These studies are the result of three years of careful study of the Bible, the writings of Ellen White, and other authors on the subject. To date, more than 1,500 pages of quotations have been collected from the writings of Ellen White on the subject.

In these studies there is some duplication of texts.

I pray you will come away from these studies with new, or renewed, confidence in the Three Persons of the Godhead.—*Dan Augsburger*

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The Bible Study

The Mysterious, Glorious, Godhead of the Father

- 1 The Godhead is a mystery.
- 2 Job 11:7-9 “Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection? 8 It is as high as heaven; what canst thou do? deeper than hell; what canst thou know? 9 The measure thereof is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.”
- 6 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.”
- 10 Deuteronomy 29:29 “The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.”
- 13 The Father is one of three Persons who make up the Godhead.
- 15 *Matthew 28:19 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”¹
- 17 The works of creation prove the existence, glory, wisdom and power of the Father.
- 19 *Psalms 19:1-3 “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. 2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. 3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.”
- 23 *Romans 1:20 “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”

1. “The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave themselves to the working out of the plan of redemption.” Ellen White, Letter 12, 1901.10.

27 The Father is eternal.

28 *Deuteronomy 33:27 “The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are
29 the everlasting arms.”

30 *Psalms 90:1-2 “Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all
31 generations. 2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou
32 hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to
33 everlasting, thou art God.”

34 Psalms 93:2 “Thy throne is established of old: thou art from
35 everlasting.”

36 *Isaiah 57:15 “For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth
37 eternity, whose name is Holy.”

38 Revelation 1:8 “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending,
39 saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the
40 Almighty.”

41 The Father is self-existent.

42 *Exodus 3:14 “And God said unto Moses, I Am that I Am: and he said,
43 Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I Am hath sent me unto
44 you.”

45 *John 5:26 “For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to
46 the Son to have life in himself.”

47 The Father is sovereign.

48 Psalms 24:1 “The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world,
49 and they that dwell therein.”

50 *Psalms 103:19 “The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and
51 his kingdom ruleth over all.”

52 Psalms 135:6 “Whatsoever the Lord pleased, that did he in heaven, and
53 in earth, in the seas, and all deep places.”

54 Proverbs 21:1 “The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers
55 of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.”

56 1 Chronicles 29:11-12 “Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power,
57 and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the
58 heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou
59 art exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honour come of thee,
60 and thou reignest over all; and in thine hand is power and might; and in
61 thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all.”

62 *Daniel 2:20-22 “Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God
63 for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: 21 And he changeth the
64 times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he
65 giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know
66 understanding: 22 He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth
67 what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him.”

68 Daniel 4:35 “And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing:
69 and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the
70 inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand, or say unto him,
71 What doest thou?”

72 *Revelation 4:11 “Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour
73 and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are
74 and were created.”

75 The Father is present everywhere (omnipresent).

76 *Psalms 11:4 “The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in
77 heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.”

78 *Psalms 139:7-10 “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I
79 flee from thy presence? 8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I
80 make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. 9 If I take the wings of the
81 morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; 10 Even there shall
82 thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.”

83 Isa. 66:1 “Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is
84 my footstool.”

85 Jeremiah 23:24 “Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not
86 see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord.”

87 The Father is all powerful (omnipotent).

88 *Daniel 4:17,25,35 “This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and
89 the demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living
90 may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth
91 it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men. ... 25
92 That they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the
93 beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and
94 they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass
95 over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of
96 men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will. ... 35 ‘And all the inhabitants
97 of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in
98 the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none
99 can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?’”

100 *Matthew 19:26 “But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men
101 this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.”

102 Revelation 19:6 “And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude,
103 and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings,
104 saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.”

105 **The Father is unchanging (immutable).**

106 Psalms 33:11 “The counsel of the Lord standeth for ever, the thoughts of
107 his heart to all generations.”

108 *Malachi 3:6 “For I am the Lord, I change not.”

109 Hebrews 6:17 “Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the
110 heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an
111 oath.”

112 *James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and
113 cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness,
114 neither shadow of turning.”

115 **The Father is all knowing (omniscient).**

116 *Job 37:16 “Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous
117 works of him which is perfect in knowledge?”

118 *Psalms 147:5 “Great is our Lord, and of great power: his understanding
119 is infinite.”

120 *Isaiah 46:9-10 “Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and
121 there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 Declaring the
122 end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not
123 yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.”

124 Jeremiah 17:10 “I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give
125 every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his
126 doings.”

127 *Romans 11:33-34 “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and
128 knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways
129 past finding out! 34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who
130 hath been his counsellor?”

131 Hebrews 4:13 “Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his
132 sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with
133 whom we have to do.”

134 1 John 3:20 “For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart,
135 and knoweth all things.”

136 The Father is all good.

137 Matthew 19:17 “And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there
138 is none good but one, that is, God.”

139 James 1:17 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and
140 cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness,
141 neither shadow of turning.”

142 *1 John 1:5 “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and
143 declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

144 The Father is infinite in love.

145 *John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten
146 Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have
147 everlasting life.”

148 *Romans 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while
149 we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

150 *1 John 4:8 “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”

151 1 John 4:9 “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because
152 that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live
153 through him.”

154 The Father is merciful.

155 *Exodus 34:6-7 “And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed,
156 The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and
157 abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands,
158 forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means
159 clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and
160 upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.”

161 *Psalms 103:11 “For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is
162 his mercy toward them that fear him.”

163 Luke 6:35-36 “But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping
164 for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the
165 children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the
166 evil. 36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.”

167 *Ephesians 2:4-8 “But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love
168 wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath
169 quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath
170 raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in
171 Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding
172 riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For

173 by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the
174 gift of God.”

175 *The Father and Creation*

176 The Father was involved in creation.

177 Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.”

178 *Ephesians 3:9 “And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the
179 mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God,
180 who created all things by Jesus Christ.”

181 *Hebrews 1:2 “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom
182 he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds.”

183 *The Personhood of the Father*

184 The Father is a person.

185 Psalms 139:14-17 (NKJV) “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and
186 wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows
187 very well. 15 My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in
188 secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. 16 Your
189 eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all
190 were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none
191 of them. 17 How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How
192 great is the sum of them!”

193 *Matthew 6:9 “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which
194 art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”

195 John 20:17 “Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet
196 ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I
197 ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.”

198 *The Father's Name*

199 The Father is known by many names, as indicated in the
200 following sampling of names that refer to God.

201 Daniel 9:4 “And I prayed unto the Lord (*YHWH=Lord, emphasizing*
202 *faithfulness*) my God (*'elohiyim=God, speaking of His power*), and made
203 my confession, and said, O Lord (*'Adonay=Lord as almighty master*),
204 the great and dreadful God (*'el=God, speaking of His power*), keeping

205 the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his
206 commandments.”

207 Genesis 14:18-20 “And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread
208 and wine: and he was the priest of the most high (*‘elyown=Most high*)
209 *God* (*‘el=God, speaking of His exalted status*). 19 And he blessed him,
210 and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high (*‘elyown=Most high*) *God*
211 (*‘el=God, speaking of His exalted status*), possessor of heaven and
212 earth: 20 And blessed be the most high (*‘elyown=Most high*) *God*
213 (*‘el=God, speaking of His exalted status*), which hath delivered thine
214 enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.”

215 Isaiah 6:1 In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord
216 (*Adonay=Lord as almighty master*) sitting upon a throne, high and lifted
217 up, and his train filled the temple.”

218 Exodus 6:3 “And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob,
219 by the name of God Almighty (*‘el Shadday=God almighty*), but by my
220 name Jehovah (*YHWH, emphasizing faithfulness*) was I not known to
221 them.” (Christ is speaking, but the Father and Christ share this name.)

222 Exodus 3:14 “And God (*‘elohiyim=God, speaking of power*) said unto
223 Moses, I Am that I Am (*hayah hayah=I am who I am, speaking of His*
224 *unchangeableness*): and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of
225 Israel, I Am hath sent me unto you.”

226 God is also referred to as “Father” in numerous Scriptures.

227 *Deuteronomy 32:6 “Do ye thus requite the Lord, O foolish people and
228 unwise? is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made
229 thee, and established thee?”

230 Isaiah 63:16 “Doubtless thou art our father, though Abraham be ignorant
231 of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, O Lord, art our father, our
232 redeemer; thy name is from everlasting.”

233 Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see
234 your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

235 *Matthew 6:9 “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which
236 art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”

237 Matthew 7:11 “If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto
238 your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give
239 good things to them that ask him?”

240 John 5:30 “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my
241 judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the
242 Father which hath sent me.”

- 243 *Romans 8:15 “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to
244 fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba,
245 Father.”
- 246 God’s people, and groups of people, are referred to as
247 “sons,” “daughters,” and His “children.”
- 248 *Exodus 4:22 “And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the Lord,
249 Israel is my son, even my firstborn.”
- 250 Deuteronomy 32:19 “And when the Lord saw it, he abhorred them,
251 because of the provoking of his sons, and of his daughters.”
- 252 Hosea 11:1 “When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my
253 son out of Egypt.”
- 254 *2 Corinthians 6:18 “And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my
255 sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”
- 256 *The Father's Love for Humankind*
- 257 The Father sought to be in relationship with humankind.
- 258 *Genesis 1:26 “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our
259 likeness.”
- 260 Deuteronomy 7:7-8 “The Lord did not set his love upon you, nor choose
261 you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the
262 fewest of all people: 8 But because the Lord loved you, and because he
263 would keep the oath which he had sworn unto your fathers, hath the
264 Lord brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you out of the
265 house of bondmen, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.”
- 266 *Jeremiah 31:3 “The Lord hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I
267 have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness
268 have I drawn thee.”
- 269 John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten
270 Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have
271 everlasting life.”
- 272 1 John 4:19 “We love him, because he first loved us.”
- 273 The Father represented Himself through Christ.
- 274 *John 1:14 “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and
275 we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full
276 of grace and truth.”
- 277 *John 1:18 “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son,

278 which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.”

279 John 6:38 “For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but
280 the will of him that sent me.”

281 John 14:6-11 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life:
282 no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. 7 If ye had known me, ye
283 should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him,
284 and have seen him. 8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father,
285 and it sufficeth us. 9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with
286 you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath
287 seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? 10
288 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the
289 words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that
290 dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. 11 Believe me that I am in the
291 Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works'
292 sake.”

293 John 17:4-6 “I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work
294 which thou gavest me to do. 5 And now, O Father, glorify thou me with
295 thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world
296 was. 6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me
297 out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they
298 have kept thy word.”

299 John 17:25-26 “O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I
300 have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. 26 And I
301 have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love
302 wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

303 *Hebrews 1:2-3 “Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,
304 whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the
305 worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image
306 of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when
307 he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the
308 Majesty on high.”

309 *The Father and the Covenant*

310 The Father made wonderful promises (covenants).

311 *Genesis 3:15 “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and
312 between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt
313 bruise his heel.”

314 Genesis 9:8-15 “And God spake unto Noah, and to his sons with him,
315 saying, 9 And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your

316 seed after you; 10 And with every living creature that is with you, of the
317 fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that
318 go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth. 11 And I will establish my
319 covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the
320 waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the
321 earth. 12 And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make
322 between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for
323 perpetual generations: 13 I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be
324 for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. 14 And it shall come
325 to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in
326 the cloud: 15 And I will remember my covenant, which is between me
327 and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no
328 more become a flood to destroy all flesh.”

329 *Genesis 12:1-3 “Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of
330 thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a
331 land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I
332 will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3
333 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee:
334 and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

335 *Jeremiah 31:33 “But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the
336 house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in
337 their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and
338 they shall be my people.”

339 *Hebrews 8:10 “For this is the covenant that I will make with the house
340 of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their
341 mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and
342 they shall be to me a people.”

343 The Father commands our worship.

344 *Exodus 20:3-6 “Thou shalt have no other gods before me. 4 Thou shalt
345 not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that
346 is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water
347 under the earth: 5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve
348 them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of
349 the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of
350 them that hate me; 6 And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that
351 love me, and keep my commandments.”

352 Exodus 34:14 “For thou shalt worship no other god: for the Lord, whose
353 name is Jealous, is a jealous God.”

354 Deuteronomy 5:29 “O that there were such an heart in them, that they
355 would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be

356 well with them, and with their children for ever!"

357 *Deuteronomy 6:5 "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine
358 heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

359 Deuteronomy 10:20-21 "Thou shalt fear the Lord thy God; him shalt
360 thou serve, and to him shalt thou cleave, and swear by his name. 21 He
361 is thy praise, and he is thy God, that hath done for thee these great and
362 terrible things, which thine eyes have seen."

363

A Few Quotations

364 God always has been.

365 "God always has been. He is the great I AM. The psalmist declares,
366 'Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed
367 the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting Thou art
368 God.' [Psalm 90:2.] He is the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity.
369 'I am the Lord, I change not,' He declares. [Isaiah 57:15; Malachi 3:6.]
370 With Him there is no变ability, neither shadow of turning. He is 'the
371 same yesterday, today, and forever.' [James 1:17; Hebrews 13:8.] He is
372 infinite and omnipresent. No words of ours can describe His greatness
373 and majesty." White, Manuscript 132, 1903.35.

374 The Father cannot be fully understood.

375 "We can never by searching find out God. He does not lay open his
376 plans to prying, inquisitive minds. We must not attempt to lift with
377 presumptuous hand the curtain behind which he veils his majesty. ... No
378 mortal mind can penetrate the secrecy in which the Mighty One dwells
379 and works. We can comprehend no more of his dealings with us and the
380 motives that actuate him than he sees fit to reveal. He orders everything
381 in righteousness, and we are not to be dissatisfied and distrustful, but to
382 bow in reverent submission. He will reveal to us as much of his purposes
383 as it is for our good to know; and beyond that we must trust the hand
384 that is omnipotent, the heart that is full of love." White, *Review and*
385 *Herald*, April 7, 1885, par. 12.

386 The Father is a person.

387 "God is a spirit; yet He is a personal being, for man was made in His
388 image. As a personal being, God has revealed Himself in His Son. Jesus,
389 the outshining of the Father's glory, "and the express image of His
390 person" (Hebrews 1:3), was on earth found in fashion as a man." White,
391 *Education*, 131.6.

- 392 The Father represented Himself through Christ.
- 393 “Christ, the outshining of the Father’s glory, came to the world as its
394 light. He came to represent God to men, and of Him it is written that He
395 was anointed ‘with the Holy Ghost and with power,’ and ‘went about
396 doing good.’ Acts 10:38.” White, *Christ Object Lessons*, 416.2.
- 397 After the fall, all communication came through Christ.
- 398 “After the transgression of Adam, the Lord spoke no longer directly with
399 man; the human race was given into the hands of Christ, and all
400 communication came through him to the world.” White, *Review and*
401 *Herald*, November 28, 1893, par. 4.
- 402 The Father revealed His Love through Christ.
- 403 “The atonement of Christ was not made in order to induce God to love
404 those whom he otherwise hated; it was not made to produce a love that
405 was not in existence; but it was made as a manifestation of the love that
406 was already in God’s heart, an exponent of the divine favor in the sight
407 of heavenly intelligences, in the sight of worlds unfallen, and in the sight
408 of a fallen race.” White, *Signs of the Times*, May 30, 1895, par. 6.
- 409 The Father suffered and gave Himself with Christ.
- 410 “Christ submitted to crucifixion, although the heavenly host could have
411 delivered Him. The angels suffered with Christ. God Himself was
412 crucified with Christ; for Christ was one with the Father.” White, *Bible*
413 *Echo*, August 6, 1894, par. 5.
- 414 “That this redemption might be ours, God withheld not even the
415 sacrifice of Himself. He gave Himself in His Son. The Father suffered
416 with Christ in all His humiliation and agony. He suffered as He saw the
417 Son of His love despised and rejected by those whom He came to
418 elevate, ennable, and save. He saw Him hanging upon the cross, mocked
419 and jeered at by the passers by, and He hid as it were His face from Him.
420 He saw Christ bearing the sin of the world and dying in the sinner’s
421 stead.” White, Manuscript 21, 1900.11.
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425 *discipleheart@protonmail.com. The Eternal Father Bible Study*
426 *2020m20*