

Almighty God – The Delegator

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It has been assumed by many people that the God of the Old Testament, who interacted with the patriarchs, prophets, Gentiles, and people of Israel, was Almighty God. However, this understanding is erroneous. When Almighty God's method of governance is correctly understood, it will become apparent that His authority was delegated to a spirit-being who could be trusted to follow His instructions.

Central to Almighty God's governance is the fact that He does not micro-manage the many spirit-beings, or gods (Heb. 4:30, *elohim*: divine beings, angels, gods; plural form of Heb. 4:10, El), He created (1Cor. 8:5). Instead, He gives them tasks and responsibilities, and allows them time to carry these out (Mt. 18:10; Heb. 1:13-14). If the results end up being less than optimal, Almighty God, who is omniscient and therefore knows all things (Isa. 46:9-10; Rom. 11:33), will ultimately resolve the situation. Lucifer was one of these gods, or spirit-beings, and he was given the responsibility of teaching the law and commandments of Almighty God. Unfortunately, he failed at some point and his name was changed to Satan, or Adversary (1Pet. 5:8),

You (Lucifer; cf. Isa. 14:12) were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity (sin; cf. 1Jn. 3:4) was found in you (Eze. 28:15; Ed. notes in parentheses; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted).

The Bible's symbolic language describes Lucifer as being located in the midst of "fiery stones", which represent Almighty God's law and commandments,

You (Lucifer) walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones (Eze. 28:14b; Ed. note in parenthesis).

And he said: 'The lord came from Sinai, and dawned on them from Seir; he shone forth from Mount Paran, and he came with ten thousands of saints; from his right hand came **a fiery law for them** (Dt. 33:2; emphasis added).

Because Lucifer knew the law and commandments of Almighty God, but chose to disobey them, he is compared to a tree that has the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:17). Sadly, his rebellious way of living has affected everyone under his influence,

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (Eph. 6:12).

So the great dragon was cast out (of Almighty God's presence), that serpent of old, called the Devil and **Satan, who deceives the whole world**.... (Rev. 12:9a; emphasis added).

And he (Christ) said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven' (Lk. 10:18; Ed. note in parenthesis).

It is important to emphasize that Almighty God did not micro-manage Lucifer by interfering every time he made a wrong decision. Instead, Lucifer was given time to change the course he was on, and return to obeying what he once knew was correct. In the following scripture it is clear that ample time was given to Lucifer, but he reached a point where changing for the better was not going to happen. Once this occurred Almighty God took action,

By the abundance of your trading (merchandizing; trafficking) you **became** filled with violence within, and you sinned; **therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain** (symbol of government) **of God...** (Eze. 28:16a; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Because Almighty God does not take immediate action every time someone sins, His patience is misinterpreted by many people to mean that He condones sin, but nothing could be further from the truth,

The Lord (God Almighty) is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering (patient) toward us (you), not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance (2Pet. 3:9; Ed. notes in parentheses; cf. 2Sam. 14:14; Eze. 33:11).

In contrast to Satan's self-centered and rebellious way of living, another spirit-being willingly followed Almighty God's instructions and did not operate in a manner that was contrary to the law and commandments, even when he was granted considerable autonomy,

Behold, I (Almighty God) send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. ²¹ Beware of him and obey his voice; do not provoke him, for **he will not pardon your transgressions**; for My name is in him (cf. Isa. 9:6; Jn. 5:43). ²² But if you indeed obey his voice and do all that I speak, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries (Ex. 23:20-22; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

The apostle Paul explained that this Angel of Almighty God was the one who put up with the complaints and many revolts of ancient Israel. This Angel also punished those who rebelled, just as Almighty God warned in Exodus 23:20-22,

And all (the nation of Israel) drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them and **that Rock was Christ.** ⁵ But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness (1Cor. 10:4-5; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Even before the nation of Israel existed, the spirit-being who later became known as Jesus Christ appeared to the patriarchs, but they were not aware of his name,

I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty (Heb. 410, *EI* + Heb. 7706, *Shaddai*: mighty el, i.e. mighty elohim, god or spirit-being), but by my name Lord (Heb. 3068, YHWH) I was not known to them (Ex. 6:3; Ed. notes in parentheses).

It is important to note that the Hebrew tetragrammaton "YHWH" is not used exclusively of Almighty God. For instance, the three angels who appeared to Abraham prior to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah are also YHWH in the Hebrew texts (Gen. 18:27,

30, 32; 19:18, 24). Therefore, the context must be clearly understood before any spirit-being can be correctly identified in scripture.

During his earthly ministry, Christ pointed out to the Jewish religious leaders that he existed before the time of Abraham,

Jesus said to them, 'Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM' (Gk. 1473 + 1510, I exist) (Jn. 8:58; cf. Ex. 3:14).

As no human being has seen Almighty God, or heard His voice (Dt. 4:15-19; Jn. 5:37), the God (Heb. 430, *elohim*) that Jacob wrestled with could **not** have been The Almighty,

Then Jacob asked him (the spirit-being), saying, 'Tell me your name, I pray.' And he said, 'Why is it that you ask about my name?' And he blessed him there.³⁰ And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel (*Lit.* Face of God): 'For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved (Gen. 32:29-30; cf. Jgs. 6:21-22; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The word "God" (Heb. 430, *elohim*) is used to describe many members in the spirit realm, which is why identifying each one is often a challenge as the next section of scripture highlights,

Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? **What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if you know?** (Prov. 30:4; emphasis added).

The Angel that represented Almighty God was asked again for his name, and an interesting connection can be made by his answer,

And the Angel of the Lord said to him (Manoah), 'Why do you ask my name, seeing **it is wonderful?**' (Jgs. 13:18; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder. And **his name will be called Wonderful....** (Isa. 9:6a; emphasis added).

Suffice it to say, the spirit-being that represented Almighty God throughout the Old Testament period was the same individual who became known as Jesus Christ. Although Christ is very close to his Father, he is not equal to Him. In fact, upon closer examination of a number of scriptures, it will become clear that Christ was not all-knowing like his Father because certain things occurred that Christ was not aware of ahead of time,

And he (the Angel of the Lord; cf. vs 11) said, 'Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for **now I know** that you fear God (Heb. 430, *elohim*), since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me (Gen. 22:12; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Almighty God would not say "now I know" because He knows the end of all things before they have occurred,

Remember the former things of old, for I am God (Almighty), and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,¹⁰ **Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things**

that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure (Isa. 46:9-10; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

In the following account of a woman seeking to be healed by Christ, he did not know who touched his clothes until she came forward and told him,

And Jesus, immediately knowing in himself that power had gone out of him, turned around in the crowd and said, '**Who touched my clothes?**' (Mk. 5:30; emphasis added)

In contrast, Christ pointed out that his heavenly Father knows when a sparrow dies anywhere in the world, and is aware of every intimate detail including the number of hairs on our bodies,

Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. ³⁰ But the very hairs of your head are all numbered (Mt. 10:29-30).

The main point of these things is that Almighty God delegates to those he has created for their own growth and development as they learn how to serve Him and their fellowman. The entire nation of ancient Israel was called out of Egypt to serve Almighty God and eventually teach the Gentile nations how to serve and obey Him,

Surely I (Moses) have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the Lord my God commanded me; that you should act according to them **in the land which you go to possess**. ⁶ Therefore be careful to observe them; for **this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.'** (Dt. 4:5-6; cf. Jos. 4:24; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day? (Dt. 4:8)

Sadly, the nation of Israel failed to fulfill this God-given responsibility, and it was finally removed from them as they went into captivity both physically and spiritually. Today, Almighty God has delegated the same responsibility to a nation of people who are led by His Holy Spirit. This nation is described as a spiritual household (Gal. 6:10; Eph. 2:19), spiritual temple (1Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19; 2Cor. 6:16; Eph. 2:21), and holy priesthood,

You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1Pet. 2:5).

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness (Almighty God; cf. Jn. 6:44, 65) into **His marvelous light** (symbolizing the truth of who Christ is; cf. Jn. 8:12; 9:5) (1Pet. 2:9; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Almighty God delegates the responsibility of teaching His truth, by word and personal example, to those who comprise His spiritual temple or household,

Of which I became a servant according to the house-law stewardship (3622 *oikonomian*: one who manages house-law) that was given to me for you, to fill the word of God (Col. 1:25; RNT; Ed. note and emphasis added).

Although He does not micro-manage these individuals, they will have to give account at some point for their conduct,

For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God, and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God (1Pet. 4:17)?

...For everyone to whom much (responsibility) is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed (re: the correct understanding of God's will), of him they will ask more (Lk. 12:48b; Ed. notes in parentheses).

But I (Christ) say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.³⁷ For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned (Mt. 12:36-37; Ed. note in parenthesis).

When Almighty God delegates responsibility to someone, it does not mean their life is going to be easy. For those who recognize Jesus Christ as their only delegated leader and teacher, they should expect to face difficulties during their lifetime,

Remember the word that I (Christ) said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you...' (Jn. 15:20a; Ed. note in parenthesis).

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,³ knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience (endurance or perseverance).⁴ But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect (mature, in the spiritual sense) and complete, lacking nothing (Jas. 1:2-4; cf. 1Pet. 4:12-14; Ed. notes in parentheses).

Although it is hard to imagine, Christ stated that others would follow after him and do greater works than he was able to accomplish during the short period of his earthly ministry, which was approximately three years,

Most assuredly, I (Christ) say to you, he who believes in me, the works that I do he will do also; and **greater works than these he will do**, because I go to my Father (Jn. 14:12; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Following the example of Almighty God, Jesus Christ as the head of God's church can delegate certain responsibilities to those under his authority. Having done this, Christ will ask each individual to provide an account of what they did when he returns to rule this planet. Christ explained this truth in the following parable,

Now as they heard these things, he spoke another parable, because he was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately.¹² Therefore he said; 'A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and return (analogous of Christ being accepted by his Father after his death and resurrection; then returning at a time appointed by Almighty God).¹³ So he called ten of his servants, delivered to them ten minas (worth about three months' salary), and said to them, 'Do business till I come' (Lk. 19:13; Ed. notes in parentheses).

It is important at this point to emphasize that the business these ten servants were expected to manage was the same business that Christ is involved with,

And he (Christ) said to them, 'Why is it that you sought me? Did you not know that **I must be about my Father's business?**' (Lk. 2:49; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added)

Continuing with the parable, Christ points out that some of his citizens hated him, which could refer to this world's religious leaders who prefer to take power and authority to themselves, while paying only "lip service" to his name. However, included in this category would be Satan and the fallen host who do not want Christ to return because it is associated with their judgment (Mt. 8:29),

But his citizens hated him, and sent a delegation after him, saying, 'We will not have this man to reign over us.'¹⁵ And so it was that when he returned, having received the kingdom, he then commanded these servants, to whom he had given money (symbolic of power and authority), to be called to him, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.¹⁶ Then came the first, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned ten minas.'¹⁷ And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant; because you were faithful in a very little, have authority over ten cities.'¹⁸ And the second came, saying, 'Master, your mina has earned five minas.'¹⁹ Likewise he said to him, 'You also be over five cities.'²⁰ And another came, saying, 'Master, here is your mina, which I have kept put away in a handkerchief.'²¹ For I feared you, because you are an austere man. You collect what you did not deposit, and reap what you did not sow.'²² And he said to him, 'Out of your own mouth I will judge you, you wicked servant, You knew that I was an austere man, collecting what I did not deposit and reaping what I did not sow.'²³ Why then did you not put my money in the bank, that at my coming I might have collected it with interest?'²⁴ And he said to those who stood by, 'Take the mina from him, and give it to him who has ten minas.' (Lk. 19:11-24; cf. Mk. 4:25; Ed. notes in parentheses)

Christ concluded this parable by revealing the fate of Satan and the fallen host who knew better, but refused to obey the Word of God,

But bring here those enemies of mine, who did not want me to reign over them, and slay them before me (Lk. 19:27).

These same angels had been given authority but abused it and eventually led the majority of mankind astray through their sinful conduct and actions,

Remember the days of old, consider the years for past ages: ask thy father, and he shall relate to thee, thine elders, and they shall tell thee.⁸ When the Most High divided the nations, when he separated the sons of Adam, **he set the bounds of the nations according to the number of the angels of God.**⁹ And his people Jacob became the portion of the Lord (who became known as Jesus Christ), Israel was the line of his inheritance.¹⁰ He maintained them in the wilderness, in burning thirst and a dry land (1Cor. 10:1-5): he led them about and instructed him, and kept him as an apple of the eye.¹¹ As an eagle would watch over his brood, and years over his young, receives them having spread his wings, and takes them up on his back (cf. Mt. 23:37; Lk. 13:34): the Lord alone led them, there was no strange god with them (Dt. 32:7-11; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added; The Septuagint).

According to the section of scripture above, many angels were delegated authority by Almighty God but many also rebelled against Him. They have been given plenty of time to change and begin living in accordance with God's law and commandments. However, it seems that the majority are still under the influence of their leader, whose time is now up and whose judgment is at hand,

Now is the judgment of this world; now **the ruler of this world will be cast out** (Jn. 12:31; 16:11; cf. 2Cor. 4:4; emphasis added).

Although Almighty God delegates responsibilities to others and gives them ample time to learn and change, everyone will eventually give account for what they have done with the time, and responsibilities, they have been given,

Therefore, rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea (symbols often associated with the realm of Satan and the fallen host; see: Symbolism)! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time (Rev. 12:12; Ed. note in parenthesis).

As Almighty God has delegated all judgement to Jesus Christ, those who come up in the second resurrection will give account to him for their words and deeds,

Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live (ref. to the first resurrection; cf. Rev. 20:4-6).²⁶ For as the Father has (everlasting) life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have (everlasting) life in himself,²⁷ and **has given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of Man.**²⁸ Do not marvel at this: for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear his voice²⁹ and come forth – those who have done good (cf. Mt.19:17; Rev. 12:17b), to the resurrection of (everlasting) life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation (Gr. *krisis* – judgment).³⁰ I can of myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and my judgment is righteous, because I do not seek my own will but the will of the Father who sent me (Jn. 5:25-30; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

During the Old Testament period a spirit-being, that later became known as Jesus Christ, was the “god” delegated by Almighty God to execute judgment against those who persisted in harming themselves, and others, by their sinful conduct. At a time of the Father’s choosing in the future, Jesus Christ will judge everyone who has lived in the spirit and physical realms. Therefore, all the angels who have sinned, as well as human beings, will come before Christ to give account for their refusal to obey Almighty God’s commands (2Tim. 4:1; 1Pet. 4:5; Ac. 10:42). This truth is one of the reasons the writer of the book of Hebrews was inspired to say, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8).” In other words the spirit-being, or “god”, of the Old Testament who interacted with the patriarchs, prophets, Gentiles, and people of Israel, has always been serving Almighty God obediently and faithfully in every task that was delegated to him. This understanding is a prerequisite for everyone wishing to inherit everlasting life (Jn. 17:3).

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