

# God And Understanding

# God And Understanding A Spiritual Gift!

Edward G. Palmer

God And Understanding: A Spiritual Gift!

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Bible Translations: All Scriptures are from the New King James Bible (NKJV) unless otherwise noted.

**Disclaimer**: This book is the sole opinion of the author based on his research, knowledge, and understanding. Scriptures may have bracketed words like [Jesus] which are the author's method of enhancing the clarity of the verse. They may also have the following capitalization protocol used to clarify the identities of Jesus and God or YAHWEH.

## **Capitalization Protocol**

On all Bible citations, regardless of the translation used and where the context clearly points to God ALMIGHTY or to Jesus Christ, this book distinguishes between the two. This is done by using either small-cap characters or lowercase characters.

**For God Almighty,** a small capitalized style protocol is followed and reflected in the format: CREATOR, FATHER, ALMIGHTY, GIVER, HE, HIS, HIM, HIMSELF, YOU, YOUR, ME, MINE, MOST HIGH, MY, MYSELF, LORD AND SAVIOR, ETC.

**For Jesus Christ**, a lowercase protocol is used except for Lord and Son. Hence, when these pronouns are used for Jesus, they show up as: he, his, him, himself, you, your, me, my, myself, savior, Lord, or Son.

This has generally been followed throughout the book but is not the case with every cited verse. It is used for those verses in which the context cannot be easily disputed, or in the case of citing, a quality or attribute which belongs solely to God.

For those interested in the original translation capitalization, the author refers them to the actual Bible version used for the cited text. A list of Bible translations is shown on the next page. In other cases, capital letters used within the mentioned sentence structure were also changed on common words for ease of reading or modern grammar. In other cases, the capitalized letters were left as shown in the original translation. Hence the original Bible phrase "; Because" might appear as "; because." In all instances, the author maintains complete integrity of translation, and the writings herein can be traced back to the original Bibles to confirm the accuracy of presentation. While not perfect, the capitalization protocol is reasonably consistent and enhances the reading and value of the author's writings.

# **Bible Translations**

KJV	King James Bible <sup>1</sup>
NKJV	New King James Version <sup>2</sup>
AMP	Amplified Bible <sup>3</sup>
ASV	American Standard Version <sup>4</sup>
BSB	Berean Bible Study <sup>5</sup>
CEB	Common English Bible <sup>6</sup>
CEV	Contemporary English Version <sup>7</sup>
CJB	Complete Jewish Bible <sup>8</sup>
CSB	Christian Standard Bible 9
DB	Darby Bible <sup>10</sup>
DRC1752	Douay-Rheims Challoner 1752 <sup>11</sup>
EMTV	English Majority Text Bible <sup>12</sup>
ENO	Book of Enoch - Laurence 1883 <sup>13</sup>
ESV	English Standard Version 2016 <sup>14</sup>
GNB; GNT	Good News Bible or GNT Translation <sup>15</sup>
GNBA	Good News Bible with Apocrypha <sup>16</sup>
GNV	Geneva Bible 1560 <sup>17</sup>
GW	God's Word Bible <sup>18</sup>
HCSB	Holman Christian Standard Bible <sup>19</sup>
HEB	Hebrew Bible - JPS 1917 Edition <sup>20</sup>
ISV	International Standard Version <sup>21</sup>
JSB	Jewish Study Bible <sup>22</sup> - 1985, 1999
LIV	Living Bible <sup>23</sup>
MACE NT	Daniel Mace's New Testament 1729 <sup>24</sup>
MEV	Modern English Version <sup>25</sup>
MLT	Morris Literal Translation <sup>26</sup>
MOFF	James Moffatt Translation <sup>27</sup>

MSG	The Message Bible <sup>28</sup>
NAB	New American Catholic Bible <sup>29</sup>
NABRE	New American Bible - Revised Edition <sup>30</sup>
NASB	New American Standard Bible <sup>31</sup>
NASB77	New American Standard Bible 1977 <sup>32</sup>
NASB1995	New American Standard Bible 1995 <sup>33</sup>
NASB2020	New American Standard Bible - 2020 <sup>34</sup>
NCV	New Century Bible <sup>35</sup>
NET	New English Translation <sup>36</sup>
NET1	New English Translation - First Edition <sup>37</sup>
NIV	New International Bible <sup>38</sup>
NIV2011	New International Bible -2011 Edition <sup>39</sup>
NJB	New Jerusalem Bible 40
NLT	New Living Translation <sup>41</sup>
NMV	New Messianic Version Bible <sup>42</sup>
NRSV	New Revised Standard Bible <sup>43</sup>
NRSV-CI	NRSV - Catholic Interconfessional <sup>44</sup>
NRSVUE	New Revised Standard Bible - 2021 <sup>45</sup>
REB	Revised English Bible <sup>46</sup>
RSV	Revised Standard Version 47
SET	Simple English Translation <sup>48</sup>
TAN	Jewish Tanach - Stone Edition 1996 <sup>49</sup>
TEV	Today's English Version 50
WEB	Webster's Bible <sup>51</sup>
WEY	Weymouth's NT <sup>52</sup>
WESLEY NT	John Wesley's New Testament <sup>53</sup>
YLT	Young's Literal Translation <sup>54</sup>

For everyone who wants to understand God and His Holy Bible. It starts with your heart!

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# A special thanks to my wife Becky for her creative thoughts, editorial inputs, and encouragement.

# CHAPTER THREE Why Do You Call Me Lord, Lord?

## Jesus said: "But why do you call me 'Lord, Lord' and do not do the things which I say?" Luke 6:46

Many "believers in Christ" do not know what Jesus taught in the Scriptures or that the words Jesus spoke were not his own. Jesus spoke for God and told us God's words. That is the main point of John 14:24. When you do not keep Jesus' words, he says that you do not love him.

In essence, Jesus spoke to us on behalf of God and was literally God's spokesperson to humankind, to use a modern metaphor. When you listen to Jesus and take his teachings into your heart, you are directly taking God's instructions into your heart.

Yet, then we run into Matthew 7:21-23, where Jesus rejects some Christians. Listen carefully to the words of Jesus Christ, what he is telling Christians, and why he will reject some Christians from entering heaven.

So, how do I know that these are Christians being rejected? It is simple logic or reasoning. Who else does these three specific things if not Christians? I might add some very bold Christians. It takes some time for the typical believer to get brave enough to do these things.

- 1. I prophesied in your name.
- 2. I cast out demons in your name.
- 3. I did many wonders in your name.

## Some Self-Identified Christians Practice Lawlessness

**Observation**: I can't help but think of politicians, some very famous and in the country's leadership, that claim Jesus as their Lord and Savior. These same people actively promote killing babies via abortion policies or laws. These same individuals and others also instruct and indoctrinate others that this is an acceptable human practice to God and His Son. After all, Jesus forgives all our sins, doesn't he? It actually isn't acceptable! It is lawlessness in God's eyes.

## Jesus Rejects Christians

Jesus said: "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my FATHER in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name, cast out demons in your name, and done many wonders in your name?'

And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness!' '' Matthew 7:21-23

## Christians

- Kept out of heaven
- Good works are not enough
- Practitioners of lawlessness are not welcomed

Jesus said: "He who does not love me does not keep my words; and the word which you hear is not mine, but the FATHER'S [God] who sent me." John 14:24

# Worship Jesus?

A Christian apologist<sup>1</sup> practicing apologetics on YouTube created a video about what to say if a Muslim asks you, "Where in the Bible did Jesus say, I am God, worship me?" He cited the "I am" verses in the previous chapter and several other verses as proof that Jesus claimed he was God.

The apologist then cited the following verse as why you need to worship Jesus. The person reasons from this verse that since you need to honor Jesus, you must also worship Jesus. Is worship part of honoring Jesus? Is this true? Should we worship Jesus because we are taught to honor him?

From another point of view, is it possible to honor and pay homage to Jesus but not engage in Jesus' worship? When we obey the teachings of Jesus, we show our love for him, and we honor him without worshipping him. When we pray to God in the name of Jesus, we also honor Jesus without worshipping Jesus.

Jesus said: "And in that day you will ask me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the FATHER [God] in my name HE [God] will give you." John 16:23

Here is the apologist's verse rationalizing the need to worship Jesus from his God-man perspective.

"For as the FATHER raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom he will. For the FATHER judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, that all should honor the Son just as they honor the FATHER. He [or she] who does not honor the Son does not honor the FATHER who sent him." John 5:21-23

The apologist used the above verse as proof, after claiming Jesus was God, as a rationale that we needed to worship Jesus to honor him. "To honor Jesus, we need to also worship Jesus?"

This is demonstrable Scriptural ignorance, God-man reasoning, and it teaches against Jesus Christ's teachings. More than that, it teaches against the teachings of Jesus regarding who we should worship. It seems to be what Jesus warned us about in John 14:24 and Matthew 7:21-23. Teaching against Jesus' very own teachings is lawlessness in Jesus' and God's eyes!

Listen to Jesus' teachings on who to worship.

## Worship <u>Only</u> God!

Jesus said: "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and HIM only shall you serve.' " Matthew 4:10 Jesus said: "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the FATHER [God] in spirit and truth; for the FATHER [God] is seeking such to worship HIM." John 4:23

Jesus said: "God is Spirit, and those who worship HIM must worship in spirit and truth." John 4:24

"Now we know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does HIS will, HE hears him [or her]." John 9:31

"Falling down on his [or her] face, he [or she] will worship God." 1 Corinthians 14:25

"Fear God and give glory to HIM, for the hour of HIS judgment has come; and worship HIM who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water." Revelation 14:7

"And I [John] fell at [the Angel's] feet to worship him. But he said to me, '*See that you do not do that*! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.'" Revelation 19:10 *Warning:* Woe to everyone who worships anyone but God. That includes worshipping Jesus, which directly rejects his New Testament worship teachings.

# Jesus, A God-Man? Or, Did Jesus Act On God's Behalf?

One of the big reasons people believe that Jesus was God is because of the things that Jesus did, which were things that only God was supposed to be able to do.

## Jesus

- 1. Forgave sins
- 2. Healed people
- 3. Raised the dead
- 4. Other miracles

Yes, it is a fact that Jesus seemed to be doing things only in the purview of God Almighty. Yet, there is a simple explanation as to why this was Jesus' reality.

This relates to the Old Testament, the Israelites, and God's experience with them. There is little doubt in my mind that, on more than one occasion, the interaction with the Israelites was a very frustrating experience for God. Is there little wonder why HE chose to communicate to humans through Moses, the Prophets, and now Jesus? Read the Old Testament stories of the unfaithful Israelites and how God almost decided to smite them.

While I doubt God gets personally frustrated with bad human behavior, it reminds me of times when I was a supervisor of several people. There are many reasons why people get fired from their jobs. Some lazy people literally need a keg of dynamic exploding under them to get them to physically move. It's pretty standard for people to get shifted to another supervisor. Even Moses was given helpers by God to deal with the Israelites.

This wasn't the main reason for sending Jesus back with some power and authority, but it certainly makes sense as one of HIS reasons. No, Jesus was not God, but he did have the power to make things happen for God. From my point of view and the perspective of human resource management, it's called ...

## **Delegation Of Authority**

Jesus said: "For as the FATHER has life in HIMSELF, so HE has granted the Son to have life in himself, and has given [the Son] authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of Man." John 5:26

Do not marvel that Jesus did things only that God was

supposed to do. Remember, Jesus also delegated to his disciples the ability to forgive sins. Another transfer of power took place. This time from Jesus to his disciples. To do what? Something only in the purview of God?

## Jesus said: "Peace to you! As the FATHER has sent me, I also send you." John 20:21

Jesus said: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any they are retained." John 20:23

Do you think any of the apostles were God? After all, they were given the authority by Jesus to "forgive sins!" Suppose the Jewish leaders of Jesus' time railed against him for saying he could forgive sins. What do you think they'd do if they knew Jesus also had God's power to delegate the ability "to forgive sins" to his disciples?

## The Old Testament Matters

You cannot fully understand the New Testament if you don't understand the Old Testament. Jesus was a Jew who worshipped the Jewish God YAHWEH. As Apostle Paul taught the people in Berea, the Bereans searched the Scriptures to see if Paul was telling them the truth. The Scriptures in those days were Old Testament writings. The New Testament did not exist. If you can't understand Old Testament writings, you will never fully understand the new message that Christ delivered.

"These [Bereans] were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the [existing] Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so." Acts 17:11

If you read and believe the New Testament, without the context and history of the Old Testament, you will not fully understand the Bible. That includes Christ's message or the words he uttered from God for the last days.

"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, *has in these last days spoken to us by HIS Son*, whom HE has appointed heir of all things, through whom also HE made the worlds." Hebrews 1:1-2

While it is true that God used Jesus [as HIS Wisdom] in the creation, it is also true that it was God's Creation and not Jesus'. To fully understand the relationship between God and Jesus, you need to understand Revelations 3:14, where Jesus says he was the first of God's creations. You also need to realize that, before coming into human flesh, Jesus was God's 'Wisdom' [the first creation] described in Proverbs 8:22-31.

Jesus said: "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and the True Witness, *the beginning of the creation of God.*' " Revelation 3:14

## Wisdom

"The LORD [God] possessed me at the beginning of HIS way, Before HIS works of old.

I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth.

When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no fountains abounding with water.

Before the mountains were settled, before the hills, I was brought forth; While as yet HE [God] had not made the earth or the fields, or the primal dust of the world.

When HE prepared the heavens, I was there, When HE drew a circle on the face of the deep, When HE established the clouds above, When HE strengthened the fountains of the deep,

When HE assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters would not transgress HIS command,

When HE marked out the foundations of the earth, Then I was beside HIM as a master craftsman;

And I was daily HIS delight, Rejoicing always before HIM,

Rejoicing in HIS inhabited world, And my delight was with the sons of men." Proverbs 8:22-31

#### "Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God." 1 Corinthians 1:30

You should understand that Jesus said he was the first of God's creation. Also that Proverbs indicates God's wisdom [first creation] before Jesus' earthly appearance, worked with God as a master craftsman. Only then can you understand John 1:3 and realize that it was not the creation of Jesus; it was God's creation.

"He [*Wisdom*] was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him [*Wisdom*] and without him [*Wisdom*] nothing was made that was made." John 1:2-3 Ever wonder why seemingly intelligent people do not get it when it comes to the identity of God or that of Jesus Christ?

"Just as it is written: 'God has given them a spirit of stupor, Eyes that they should not see And ears that they should not hear." Romans 11:8

"By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh [as a human male] is of God." 1 John 4:2

If you believe that Jesus is God who came down in the flesh and died on the cross for the sins of humankind, you do not understand either Jesus or God. This isn't my opinion; Scripture teaches that *the denial of Jesus Christ coming in the flesh is not of God*.

### "Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" 1 John 5:5

# It's The Son of God

## <u>Not</u> God The Son!

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## About The Author

#### Edward G. Palmer

It was in May 1978, at the age of 32, when I had an epiphany, and in an instant, I was filled with God's Spirit. I have walked with God for 45 years. For the first twelve years, I absorbed Scripture. I learned to love God's Word in the Bible more than a famous pastor's motivational sermons. By 1990, I began to have metaphysical experiences with God. After ignoring God's direction to attend a local Assembly Of God church for two years, I relented in 1992. When I asked, God told me it was to observe.

This church went from 600 members to 150 due to the pastor's illegal sexual relations with three women. He was counseling these women and told them to avoid sex with their husbands. At the same time, he had sexual relations with them. Shortly after I started attending, a new senior pastor came to the church. This one also had an agenda and stole the church from its denomination first and then from its voting members. God had sent me to a cult for four years. With my corporate and legal background, I witnessed how the new pastor illegally altered the non-profit corporation's articles and bylaws to steal the church. He was unrepentant when I confronted him about his corrupt teachings and theft. I left with three other members in late 1996, and we started our ministry. For five years until 2000, God's Spirit deprogrammed us with words from His Holy Bible.

For the next five years, God gave me the task of writing the *Book of Edward: Christian Mythology* to explain who Jesus was talking about in Matthew 7:21-23.

Since then, several other books have been written for God to discuss different aspects of His Word. A list of related writings follows. I was ordained in 2000, and we formalized our ministry as Apostle Ministry, Inc. in Minnesota. It became an apostolic writing ministry.

I write for God to help educate the Church and Christians to stop their mythology and obey God's commandments and the teachings of Jesus. This book is the next in a series of writings for God. *Edward* 

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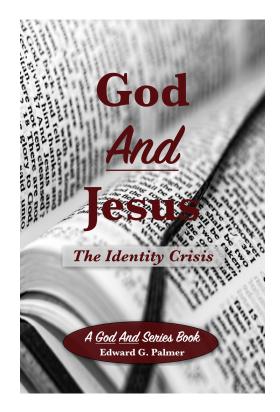
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# The Identity Crisis Book

#### Is A Companion Book At

http://www.godand-jesus.org



# Author's Related Books

## **Book Of Edward: Christian Mythology**

This is a four-volume 8 x 11" textbook, which explains who Jesus was talking about in Matthew 7:21-23. This set of books is available in Print, in a low-cost PDF edition, and is online readable in an Internet browser. Details at http://www.edwardtheapostle.org.

#### **Trinity Dogma**

This is an 8 x 11" textbook that discusses the history of the trinity doctrine and why it is a false doctrine. This book is available in Print and in a low-cost PDF edition. Details at http://www.trinitydogma.com.

#### Seven End-Times Messages From God

This 6 x 9" book reveals seven end times messages that God gave me. It is available in Print, low-cost PDF, and \$2.99 eBook editions. Details at http:// www.sevenmessages.com.

## **God And Healing: A Bible Perspective**

This 6 x 9" book discusses what the Bible says about Divine healing. Will God always heal as a result of prayer? It is available in Print, PDF, and \$2.99 eBook editions. Details at http://www.godandhealing.org

### The Doctor's Death Diagnosis

This 6 x 9" book discusses alternative healing strategies to allopathic medicine. It has a list of "100 Healing Secrets & Tips." It is based on the author's 50year experience using alternative health strategies. It is available in softcover Print, hardcover Print, low-cost PDFs, and \$2.99 eBooks. Details are found at http:// www.thedoctorsdeathdiagnosis.com.

## **Other Online Writings**

Several other writings are available and free to read. They are at the publisher's website near the bottom of the home page. http://www.jvedpublishing.org.