The Creator God

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Two of the most familiar scriptures in the Bible are Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1 and they are inextricably linked. Genesis 1 states "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" and John 1 states "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God". There would not be such an obvious link from just reading those two verses but the passage in John follows with "He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made" (verses 2-3).

These two statements, taken together, give an important perspective in understanding the relationship between God the Father and Jesus Christ. God the Creator, created all things through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has always been with God but He is not actually referred to, in scripture, as the Creator. This is evident, in part, from the record Paul left us in 2 Corinthians where it states "For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shown in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (4:6). The God who "commanded light to shine out of darkness" is the One who said "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3). That God is the Father.

One of the most helpful scriptures describing how the Father works through Jesus Christ was also recorded by Paul. It states "there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live" (1 Corinthians 8:6). All things are of God and through Jesus Christ. Again, in that context, God the Creator, of whom are all things, created all things through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 3:8-9; Colossians 1:15-16).

Paul is also the one who declared to the Athenians at the Areopagus that it was God the Father who created all things. The Athenians worshipped many gods, but to be safe they also had an altar inscribed "TO THE UNKNOWN GOD". Paul addressed that by pointing out "Therefore, the One you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands" (Acts 17:23-24). Paul went on to proclaim "He gives to all life, breath, and all things" (verse 25) and then continued further with "Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising" (verse 29).

We are not the offspring of Jesus Christ and Paul's understanding of that was clear. He continued with "Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead" (Acts 17:30-31).

The Creator God of the New Testament is the Creator God of the Old Testament. Jesus Christ does not change (<u>Hebrews 13:8</u>) and God does not change (<u>Malachi 3:6</u>). In character and nature and purpose, they remain the same.

The book of Isaiah in particular makes repeated reference to the LORD God of Israel, the God of Jacob, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as the Creator. "Why do you say, O Jacob, And speak, O Israel:

My way is hidden from the LORD, And my just claim is passed over by my God? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, Neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the weak, And to those who have no might He increases strength" (40:27-29).

It is the Creator God who was the Deliverer of Israel and their rightful King. "Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel: For your sake I will send to Babylon, And bring them all down as fugitives—The Chaldeans, who rejoice in their ships. I am the LORD, your Holy One, The Creator of Israel, your King" (Isaiah 43:14-15).

The Creator God is also described in <u>Isaiah</u> as Israel's Maker and Savior. "Thus says the LORD, The Holy One of Israel, and his Maker: Ask of Me things to come concerning My sons; And concerning the work of My hands, you command Me. I have made the earth, And created man on it. I—My hands—stretched out the heavens, And all their host I have commanded" (<u>45:11-12</u>). "For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD, and there is no other...there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me" (verses 18,21).

The book of Hebrews explains and clarifies both the historic and eternal roles of Jesus Christ. It begins by stating "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in theses last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds" (1:1-2). All authority comes from God. "Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, as Moses was also faithful in all His house. For this One has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses, inasmuch as He who built the house has more honor than the house. For every house is built by someone, but He who built all things is God" (3:1-4).

The consistent record of scripture is that all things are of God and through Jesus Christ (<u>1 Corinthians 8:6</u>). God the Father is supreme over all (<u>John 10:29; 14:28</u>) and He is bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ (<u>John 6:44,57-58,65</u>). Jesus Christ is the appointed head of the Church (Ephesians 1:22) and the One responsible to build and to maintain it (<u>Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 4:15-16; Colossians 1:18</u>). He is our "**Apostle and High Priest**" (<u>Hebrews 3:1</u>) and "**the Savior of the body**" (<u>Ephesians 5:23</u>). He has great authority and is the perfect example that we follow "**but He who built all things is God**" (<u>Hebrews 3:4</u>).

The Creator God is the originator of the creation and is supreme over all. The word of God is His word and the Church of God is His Church and the Kingdom of God is His kingdom. As it declares in the <u>Psalms</u> "Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand" (95:6-7). And again, "Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God; It is He who made us, and not we ourselves; We are His people and the sheep of His pasture" (100:1-3). And lastly, "Praise the LORD! Sing to the LORD a new song, And His praise in the assembly of saints. Let Israel rejoice in their Maker; Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King" (149:1-2).