

DENOMINATIONS

This re-think follows on from **re-think No.36** . . . it is advisable to read that re-think before proceeding further here. Just where did all the denominations and individual groups — some with names and some without — come from?

DENOMINATIONS are mostly in relation to differing aspects of **JEHOVAH**, the *I AM THAT I AM*, and His expectations are seen in the written word or law which we call the scriptures. Jehovah brought forth the Old Covenant and gave boundaries which would help His people Israel keep their part of the covenant. Denominations, like Natural Israel of old who were trying to fulfil the Old Testament letter-word requirements, are today being brainwashed by *the letter word* which has come forth from much education rather than the teaching of the Holy Spirit through revelation. God wanted Israel, who were already out of Egypt (i.e. ‘saved’) to come and meet with Him at the foot of Mount Sinai. They were fearful and said basically, ‘*Send Pastor Moses and we will do whatever he says*’. Moses obtained God’s word for them. Each expression mostly still desires a ‘king-Saul’ to rule over them as did Israel; this same thought is now continued by a single ‘pastor’ instead of a corporate ministry of a better covenant.

Let us examine where people are really at today for as we have seen, *all are children of the Most High* (Psalm 82:6). Some have received the revelation from God as to *the secret place* (Psalm 91:1) and by His grace are growing into that abiding experience of relationship with El Elyon as He grows us up. . . but all do not have this knowledge as yet. Others relate only to the I AM aspect of Jehovah which was the Old Covenant name of God given to the Israelites who wanted to know His name at the time of their exodus from Egypt. Jesus however, expressed all the attributes of all the aspects of His Father as unveiled to us via His many names and titles. **Let us emphasize that each one of these aspects is very precious** and many folk have been and are blessed with experiencing the life of God via these precious aspects of His Divine nature.

Today there are numerous churches and fellowships who all emphasise certain aspects and have added some man-made parameters and the result is today’s denominations and special groups that find it difficult to truly flow together with other groups with different emphases. Such ‘flow’ is often based upon ‘**what**’ each believes rather than the ‘**who**’ they believe in. However, ‘man’ has taken the ‘*letter-word*’ of scripture (old and new testaments) and has found great solace, encouragement and blessing therein which is great but then they have ‘camped’ in that place ... all the time honouring Christ who certainly has blessed them even though he man-made demands tend to hinder their relationship with God and the brethren. The New Covenant saints have an advantage over the old covenant saints in that they can call upon the name of Jesus to help them receive from God and move in His ways fulfilling His laws and demands. Each of these aspects of God draws forth a sincere worship of God and the Spirit of God in the anointing will honour the faith of each believer for God looks not upon the outward but on the individual heart.

Here are some of the aspects of God’s love to His people shown to them through His name. Every aspect of Jehovah was accomplished by Christ and is today by the Spirit of God moving in some. There are those who relate to **JEHOVAH-JIREH** (The LORD will provide) and we have the prosperity and faith emphasis of the truth and many have received and have been set free. Wonderful.

There are those who relate to **JEHOVAH-RAPHA** (The LORD that heals) and many mighty ministries have emphasised the Lord's love in healing and many have received healing and miracles. Wonderful again.

There are those who relate to **JEHOVAH-MEKADDISHKUM** (the LORD who sanctifies) and Methodists in particular have promoted sanctification of the believers as a priority right from their inception.

There are those who relate to **JEHOVAH-SABBAOTH** (The LORD of hosts) aspect of God for truly *God will have all men to be saved and come to the acknowledging of God*. This aspect of God is coming into focus more and more in these last days. All these and other aspects on their own today create 'boxes' or 'walls' around so many of God's people. Most fellowships with their '*statements of faith*' will include more than one of the aspects of God — but actually will still keep out any progressive revelation towards acknowledging the fullness of God being in them.

All these aspects of God and other ones not listed reveal His true nature, character and purposes. God's desire is that He be unveiled and be seen by His children; so He gave to them His different names and most were given in the time when the Old Covenant was paramount. Israel failed to walk with God in any really successful way under those aspects of God. Even today such limitations are placed upon God's children by religious men who likewise fail to bring them back into union with the All-in-all Most High God.

Every religious group, church, cult or fellowship has or does relate sincerely to an aspect of God. JEHOVAH-WITNESSES, for example, relate to a letter-word quotation of Jehovah, the *I AM*. Without Jesus Christ being in His true position, their 'stand' falls short of God's life and reality. It is only through Christ Jesus that one is **ADOPTED** (see *re-think* No.25) into the very being of Father-God to sit with Him in His Throne. All relationships with differing aspects of God are good. . . some are greater than others and can be a great blessing to many at specific times. However there is a higher step to be taken and God — El Elyon — is bringing forth a priesthood of mature sons (see *re-think* Nos. 38 & 26) who will declare **all** of His thinking and ways.

EACH GROUP AND YES, EACH ONE, WILL HAVE THEIR IMAGE OF THEIR GOD. Outside of scripture, we see other aspects of God through whom different people have met with their 'image' of God via their particular aspect of Him. They have an IMAGE-ation of what God is like which unknowingly many times has replaced the true picture and reality of what God is truly like. We shall see as we progress that many, many of God's people fall into this category. Some are trying hard and Paul addressed a situation in Athens (Acts 17) . . . he was there to proclaim that *the unknown God whom they ignorantly worshipped*, was in fact the ever-present Living God in their case and Paul was speaking to 'unsaved' men!.

MOSLEMS worship **ALAH** (which happens to be the root word for *ELOHIM*) but they too are far from being set free from letter-word bondages. Bondages have the ability to constantly increase in their demands. Moslems now have the Koran to which all Moslems are expected to adhere . . . or else!

THE GREAT SPIRIT (North American First Nations). They worship the God of Nature and they have a close association with creation seeing the Great Spirit (their aspect of God) in all His expressions — many of which are very close to Christian experiences but with different names or titles.

SECTS and other religions in this world each have their own aspect or view of God. There is Kristna, Buddha, the Dalai Llama and myriads more who have, as it were, replaced God as we know Him with

evil idols (evil to us but not to them!) and even the devil himself is honoured. It is in 'man' to worship for that is how he was first made as a child of the Most High God. It is thus built into man to usually acknowledge that which is greater than himself and **outside** of himself.

Just about every Christian has mental picture of what their God is like. Some even have an artist's impression or even a crucifix that they center their devotions upon. Many hold in their image-ation to a vindictive God who will eventually burn those who did not accept Him. One can hardly call that 'good news' seeing the word 'gospel' means just that.

FATHER HAS A MUCH HIGHER PURPOSE

If man sets up a standard or method, he gets the praise and glory when he nearly fulfills it.

(Philippians 3:9) *And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:* (10) *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;* (11) *If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.* (12) *Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of **CHRIST JESUS**.* (13) *Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,* (14) ***I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in **CHRIST JESUS**.*** (15) *Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.*

The 'high calling' is to be the full visible expression of Father-God in the earth. 'Children' cannot walk in this, but those who have been apprehended by the Father to be 'adopted' as sons (not orphans!) to be as He is, they can and they will. Each will minister the Gospel of the Kingdom reconciling all back into God Himself.

DENOMINATIONS today have come forth from leaders and people relating to certain aspects of God especially Jehovah. Without doubt there have been times of revival or great blessing and folk have been wonderfully blessed and then they have tried to reproduce the same blessing and have 'camped' on the wrong side of Jordan. They assume that Jesus was the son of the Jehovah-God. This is not wrong and shouldn't be frowned upon in any way . . . because there is more . . . Jesus was the Son of the Most High expressing the fullness of deity because His life and expression showed forth **all** the attributes of every aspect of our mighty God. Most of the denominational folk have had an encounter with Jesus Christ who has set them free from sin. 'Man' has then created new laws and conditions in order to receive God's blessing and His acceptance.

'BOXES'

Remember that it was Jehovah (or Jahweh) aspect of God that gave Israel laws and boundaries . . . actually Jehovah put a 'box' around Israel.

'Man' has devised what they call '*Church Constitutions*' or '*Statements of Belief*' which create 'boxes' that respective denominations put their folk in. Fellowship is then based upon '**what**' one believes which strengthens the walls and tends to make the people unteachable for fear of being deceived. These folk become '*Old Testament Christians*' or '*Unbelieving-Believers*' and will remain such until Father-God draws them into Himself. They have accepted Jesus Christ as their Saviour and thus expect Him to help them walk in all the letter-word demands and conditions that have been placed on them. Christians in boxes tend to label anything that is new and different to what they move in as 'new age' and thus become full of fear even to the point where they try to help God keep His flock together. What says the

scripture? *I am persuaded that God is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him* . . . even without my fear-driven help!!!

‘Man’ in the past and even today has overemphasized different teachings (doctrines) and have ‘camped’ around those particular teachings. Thousands of denominations, groups and cults . . . spirit-filled ones too . . . continue to maintain their walls as they relate to the Jehovah aspect of God. There can even be a ‘sons of God’ denomination and a few ‘kingdom-thinking’ groups who believe they have all the truth of this hour! *The truth will set you free* . . . free from what? Free from any expectations of believing in a certain way other than a genuine desire to truly know the Lord and manifest Him fully in the earth.

As we have seen, **Jehovah-Witnesses** are a simple example or picture of how folks can relate to one aspect of God or adhere strongly to a specific aspect of the scriptures. (2 Cor, 3:6 (God) *Who has made us able ministers of the new covenant; not of the letter but of the spirit: for the letter kills but the spirit gives life*. The letter-word will destroy the very life that the Spirit of God (God Himself) is purposing to bring forth in His people.

It is all by faith . . . all aspects of our God are being brought to life in us by Christ-Jesus who was birthed directly from Father-God. In the ‘Son of the Highest’ *dwells all the fullness of the Divine nature* (not ‘godhead’ as incorrectly translated in our bibles) *and we are* (not will be!) *complete in Him*. His Spirit returned to indwell ‘man’ and bring him fully back into a walking relationship and union ultimately with Father-God, the Most High God, El Elyon.

GOD’S TRIUMPHANT CONCLUSION. *All men are CHILDREN of the Most High God*. However, **THE WORK OF CHRIST IN US** is to mature us, grow us up into the IMAGE OF GOD which was God’s original purpose that He has not changed. To come forth fully as Christ in the earth, we need to be **ADOPTED** (*HUIOTHESIA*) and be placed as a mature sons (*HUIIOS*) -- no longer a child or a servant -- but move **as** our Father with all His provision fully released in and through us. The whole earth, even the whole of creation, is waiting for this manifestation of the mature sons of the Most High God to usher in His ‘finale’ to His plan of the ages by seeing all of creation, all of mankind restored into God and His purposes. Being God is in full control, it will all come together for He cannot fail.