

A Study on YHVH as the One True God and Christ as the Firstborn Over All Creation

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Introduction

Statement of belief: YHVH is the one true God and Creator, and Christ is His Son, the firstborn over all creation.

Purpose: To explore the distinction and unity between YHVH and Christ using scriptural evidence and early Christian understanding.

1. YHVH: The One True God and Creator

Scriptural Evidence:

Isaiah 45:5-6, 44:24: YHVH declares Himself as the sole Creator and God.

Deuteronomy 6:4: Affirmation of YHVH's oneness.

Psalms 83:18: "You alone are the LORD, the Most High over all the earth."

Role of YHVH in Creation:

Genesis 1:1: "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth."

Nehemiah 9:6: Acknowledgment of YHVH's creative power.

2. Christ: The Firstborn Over All Creation

Scriptural Evidence:

Colossians 1:15-16: Christ as the firstborn and the agent of creation.

Hebrews 1:2: "Through whom He also created the world."

Understanding "Firstborn":

Psalm 89:27: "I will make Him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth."

- Significance as preeminent heir, not a chronological designation.

3. The Distinction Between YHVH and Christ

Scriptural Basis:

John 14:28: "The Father is greater than I."

1 Corinthians 8:6: Distinction between "one God, the Father" and "one Lord, Jesus Christ."

Psalms 110:1: "The LORD says to my Lord: 'Sit at My right hand.'"

Subordination of Christ:

1 Corinthians 15:28: Christ's ultimate submission to YHVH.

Hebrews 5:8-9: Christ learned obedience, indicating a distinct role.

4. Unity Between YHVH and Christ

Scriptural Evidence:

John 10:30: "I and the Father are one."

John 17:21-23: Unity of purpose between YHVH and Christ.

Role in Salvation:

- Christ as the mediator of YHVH's plan (1 Timothy 2:5).
- Philippians 2:6-7: Christ's humility in carrying out YHVH's will.

5. Early Christian Understanding

Jewish Monotheism:

The Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4) as the foundation.

Writings of Early Church Fathers:

Justin Martyr: Christ as the Logos, distinct but subordinate to YHVH.

Irenaeus: Emphasis on YHVH as Creator and Christ as His manifestation.

Tertullian: Christ as a derivation of YHVH's substance.

Subordinationism:

A common view among early believers: Christ is subordinate in role and essence to YHVH.

6. Addressing Christ's Divinity

Christ's Role as Divine but Not Coequal:

Philippians 2:9-11: Christ's exaltation by YHVH.

John 1:1: The Logos as divine but distinct from YHVH.

Rejection of Modalism and Arianism:

Early believers upheld Christ's distinct personhood while rejecting the idea that He was coequal with YHVH.

7. Practical Implications for Believers

Co-Heirs with Christ:

Romans 8:17: Believers as heirs with Christ in YHVH's plan.

Unity with YHVH and Christ:

John 17:23: Believers are called to be unified in purpose with YHVH and Christ.

Living in the Light of YHVH's Sovereignty:

Trusting in YHVH as the supreme Creator and following Christ's example of obedience.

Conclusion

Restatement of belief: YHVH is the one true God, Creator, and Father, with Christ as the firstborn over all creation.

- Final thoughts on the distinct yet unified roles of YHVH and Christ in the divine plan for creation and salvation.