



God And

Jesus

The Identity Crisis

A God And Series Book

Edward G. Palmer

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The Identity Crisis!

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God And Jesus: The Identity Crisis!

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

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

*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 ONE

Our First Love

**"Nevertheless I have this against you,
that you have left your FIRST love." Revelation 2:4**

**"You shall love the LORD your God with all
your heart, with all your soul, and with all
your strength." Deuteronomy 6:5**

The warning in Revelation 2:4 is to the church at Ephesus, often referred to in the Bible as "the loveless church." However, this church does seem to be doing many things right.

1. They could not bear those who were evil.
2. They tested people claiming to be apostles.
3. They've persevered and have patience.
4. They labored hard for Jesus' name's sake.
5. They haven't become weary in their labors.
6. They hated the practices of the Nicolaitans.¹

Still, Jesus says there is something against them. They've forsaken² their FIRST love. Have you? We don't have to wonder who our FIRST love is supposed to be as the Bible tells it is to love God ALMIGHTY, in both the Old and New Testaments. Yet, many Christians and churches seem to have supplanted God [aka YAHWEH] with their love for another, a God-man named Jesus. Consider the lyrics in the popular Gospel song, "Jesus On The Mainline."

Jesus On The Mainline³

Jesus on the mainline, tell Him⁴ what you want.
Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want.
Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want,
Just call Him up and tell Him what you want.

If you want your body healed, tell Him what you want.
If you want your body healed, tell Him what you want.
If you want your body healed, tell Him what you want,
Just call Him up and tell Him what you want.

If you want your soul revived, tell Him what you want.
If you want your soul revived, tell Him what you want.
If you want your soul revived, tell Him what you want,
Just call Him up and tell Him what you want.

Call Him up, call Him up, tell Him what you want.
Call Him up, call Him up, tell Him what you want.
Call Him up, call Him up, tell Him what you want,
Just call Him up and tell Him what you want.

I'll have to confess that I no doubt, at one time in the past, have danced around an alter to this song. I've also enjoyed it countless times when performed by one or more gospel choirs. It is a catchy tune and, like many Christian songs, misrepresents the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So the first big question is whether or not you've forsaken your FIRST love. Did you, your church, or your denomination abandon its FIRST love for God ALMIGHTY? Do you worship Jesus instead of God HIMSELF? Do you pray to Jesus, asking him for answers to your prayers? What about this? Do you pray to Jesus in Jesus' name, asking him to answer your prayers?

It might shock you that there is support for this false spiritual instruction in modern Bibles. So let's start here and examine if this behavior is following the actual teachings of Jesus. This review also leads to a discussion on how the New Testament is translated from Greek texts. Which Bibles, if any, are better than others? Is it okay to pray to Jesus in Jesus' name, or if this is you, is it time to repent and return to the FIRST love? After all, it

was Jesus' himself warning to the church at Ephesus in Revelation 2:4 that they've forsaken their FIRST love, right?

In Revelation 2:5, Jesus states: "Consider [church] how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first."

Should we ask Jesus in Jesus' name?

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in me [Jesus], the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to my FATHER.

And whatever you ask [or pray to the FATHER] in my [Jesus'] name, that I will do, that the FATHER may be glorified in the Son. If you ask [the FATHER] anything in my name, I will do it." John 14:12-14 (NKJV)

Every believer must know who Jesus lifts and exalts in the New Testament. Jesus always raises, promotes, and points to God, the FATHER, in his teachings. In the above verse, Jesus states, "If you ask the FATHER anything, and end your prayer with the words 'in Jesus' name' that he [Jesus] will do it for you, so that God, the FATHER, may be glorified in the Son." The Holy Spirit or Spirit of Truth always points to Jesus and reminds us of the teachings of Jesus. There is also a pre-crucifixion sense in this verse in

John. Jesus reinforces his instruction for us to pray to and ask of the FATHER!

We don't have to guess this because Jesus teaches a similar instruction in John 16:23. However, this verse has a post-crucifixion sense. Here, Jesus reminds the apostles of his impending death and that they will no longer ask him for anything. Instead, they will ask God, the FATHER, in Jesus' name.

"Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you. And in that day you will ask me [Jesus] nothing.

Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the FATHER in my [Jesus'] name HE will give you.

Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full. These things I have spoken to you in figurative language; but the time is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figurative language, but I will tell you plainly about the FATHER. In that day you will ask in my [Jesus] name, and I do not say to you that I shall pray the FATHER for you; for the FATHER HIMSELF loves you, because you have loved me, and have believed that I came forth from God. I came forth from the FATHER and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the FATHER." John 16:22-28 (NKJV)

What has Jesus taught us?

1. To pray to God, the FATHER.
2. To pray to the FATHER in Jesus' name.
3. To not ask anything of Jesus after his death.

Given the above Scriptures, it seems clear that we are to pray to the FATHER in Jesus' name if we want our prayers answered. Yet, *most* modern Bibles have perverted John 14:14 to read "anything you ask Jesus in Jesus' name," he will grant you. Consider this verse in the NIV or New International Version. The NIV is considered the number one most popular Bible.⁵

"And I [Jesus] will do whatever you ask in my [Jesus'] name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. 14 You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." John 14:13-14 (NIV)

"You may ask me [Jesus] for anything in my [Jesus'] name, and I [Jesus] will do it [for you]."

I interpret this verse as follows: "You can ask anything of Jesus in Jesus' name, and Jesus will do it." Your prayer

might look like this, "Dear Jesus [whatever you need], in your name [Jesus] we pray. What happened to God ALMIGHTY? The NIV and many other modern Bibles have forsaken God, the Christian's FIRST LOVE, in favor of a new God-man named Jesus. Is it any wonder; Why many Christians are confused about the relationship between God and HIS only begotten Son, Jesus of Nazareth?

Of course, the rationalization of the Orthodox Church is relatively straightforward. Why shouldn't Christians ask Jesus for whatever they want when all authority is given to Jesus? All authority? Yet, that isn't exactly what Jesus has taught. Doesn't this simple Orthodox rationalization lead us directly to this instruction from Jesus, where he calls out our lack of obedience? Isn't Revelation 2:4 telling us what Luke is in Luke 6:46?

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

**Jesus on the mainline,
Tell Him want you want?**

Who should we worship?

Before discussing how the New Testament Bible is created from Greek texts, let's address the issue of worshipping Jesus. It seems like many Christians are now worshipping Jesus and praying directly to Jesus. Do you think that Jesus taught us to worship him in the Scriptures? The answer, on the surface of your tongue, is probably the correct answer, which is certainly not. I discussed this issue in the last book I published, "God And Understanding: A Spiritual Gift!"⁶ It is worth repeating here.

Worship Jesus?

A Christian apologist⁷ 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 and several other Scriptures as proof that Jesus claimed he was God.

The apologist then cited John 5:21-23 on the next page 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 rationale 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 Only 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.*

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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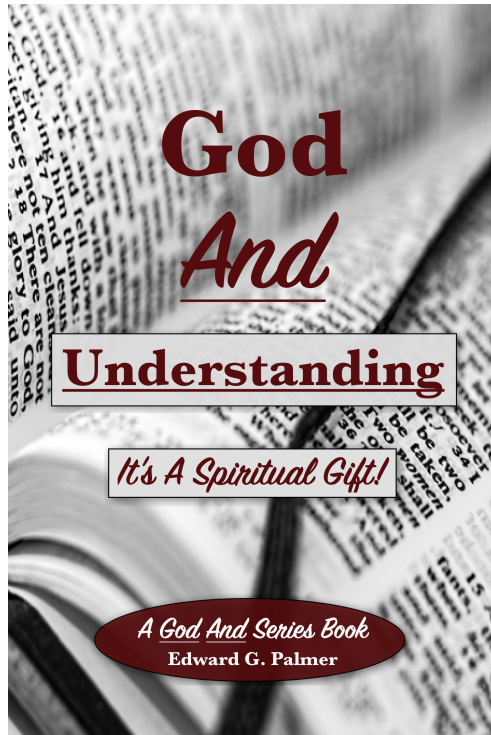
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God And Understanding

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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 50-year 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>.

A Real Salvation Prayer

OPENING PRAYER: *FATHER God, let everyone who utters this prayer of salvation unto YOU, with a sincere heart, immediately feel the presence of YOUR Holy Spirit and equip them with the internal strength of conviction to stand tall for YOUR righteousness at all costs and even unto their human death. Verily I say unto YOU that this is YOUR expectation of their [and my] sincere heart. Edward*

INSTRUCTIONS: Pray out loud and offer up to God ALMIGHTY outstretched arms and the following prayer, on your knees, in the privacy of your prayer closet [private room, alone], and with your sincere heart. Verily I say unto you that your soul will see eternal life in heaven upon the death of your earthly body if your heart is honest with God to the point that your behavior turns to HIS righteousness. Mark down the time, date, and place of this gift of your heart unto God, and feel free to share this moment when you committed to walking in God's ways with HIS priorities over your life.

PRAY Heavenly FATHER, the only ONE and True God. YOU, who are also the FATHER and the only ONE and True God of my brother Jesus Christ whom YOU sent down as a living human sacrifice for the sins of all the humans in

this earthly realm and world, hear this prayer from my sincere heart. This prayer comes from within the bowels of my spirit soul, and I fully understand that this is a one-way decision of my committed heart.

FATHER, I believe in YOUR only human begotten Son, Jesus Christ. I believe that YOU sent Christ down to this earth and that he became the human being Jesus Christ [Yashua] in the flesh, just like the flesh I have. I believe he had bones like I do, flesh like I do, and blood like I do. I believe that his body on the cross was no different from any other human body. I acknowledge Jesus Christ is the Son of God; he is not God.

FATHER, I believe he only spoke what YOU told him to say and did what YOU told him to do. I believe that he was the final and perfect blood sacrifice for the forgiveness of the sins of humanity. FATHER, I believe that includes my sins.

LORD, I fully acknowledge that by accepting Jesus Christ as my savior and brother, I am inviting his perfect spirit into my life to share this earthly body with me. Along with his spirit, I understand that YOU will also give me YOUR Holy Spirit and that YOU also will dwell within me.

I believe that the result of my sincere acceptance of this gift of YOUR Son is the Oneness I will share with YOU and him. Christ has taught me that I might live in perfect

Oneness, Peace, and Joy with YOU and him. O LORD, this is genuinely the sincere desire of my heart. I no longer want to be spiritually alone.

Therefore, I accept the precious gift of YOUR Son, Jesus Christ, and I repent of my past sins and sincerely regret every thought, action, behavior, or anything that was displeasing unto YOU. I understand that with the precious gift of YOUR Son, YOU expect me to live a righteous life for the rest of my days on this earth.

Such a life entails living up to YOUR expectations and obeying what YOU and YOUR Son taught us in Holy Scripture. LORD, I acknowledge that I cannot be perfect in and of myself. I realize that to be like Christ requires that I "practice righteousness" and avoid sin to the best of my ability. I acknowledge that to continue willfully to sin is an implicit rejection of the gift of Jesus.

I also acknowledge FATHER that there will be unintentional and unknown sins that will come in my life. I understand that YOU and Christ will cover those types of sin and serve as a guide to keep me on the narrow path to heaven.

FATHER, I acknowledge that YOUR Son is not a free pass on sins like many Christians believe. Therefore, when I realize I have sinned against YOU in any way, I promise to confess that sin immediately and to keep a short list of my missteps with YOU. I know YOU are

faithful to forgive under such conditions, but I also realize that if any life is filled with such confessions, it will be a testimony of an insincere heart. I recognize YOUR instructions in Ezekiel 18 and that Jesus has not altered YOUR criteria for punishing sinners. Therefore, keep me under YOUR wings, O God, and give me a pure heart unto YOU.

Having said this, FATHER, I pray that you will dwell within me and help me be the man [or woman] you want me to be. I ask all this in the name of Jesus Christ, whom I confess with my mouth that he came in the flesh as YOUR only begotten Son. I acknowledge with my heart that YOU expect righteousness, a new life with changed behavior that glorifies YOU.

FATHER, help me to be an instrument of YOUR will even as Christ was such an instrument. Let this day be the first day of the rest of my life, and help me to put away all offensive behavior and sin, which YOU hate. I pray in the name of YOUR only begotten and beloved human Son, Jesus. AMEN

Record Of Prayer

Date: _____

Time: _____

Place: _____

I Told: _____

Salvation Prayer Scriptures

John 17:3

- ◆ Knowing the ONE true God is Eternal Life
- ◆ Knowing that God sent Jesus

John 8:40

- ◆ Jesus claimed he was a man [human male]

John 20:17

- ◆ Jesus claimed he had a God [the FATHER]
- ◆ Jesus claimed his God was also our God

Matthew 4:10

- ◆ Jesus taught us to worship only his God

Romans 10:9-13

- ◆ Confess with the mouth, Jesus
- ◆ Believe that God raised Jesus
- ◆ Believing in your heart unto God's righteousness
- ◆ Calling on the name of God, aka YAHWEH (LORD)

1 John 3:7

- ◆ If we practice righteousness, we are like Christ

John 14:23

- ◆ We can become One with Jesus and God

James 4:17

- ◆ Not doing what is right is a sin
- ◆ Defines sin regardless of education

Ezekiel 18

- ◆ God's repentance criteria in Old Testament
- ◆ Same as John the Baptist in N.T.
- ◆ Same as Jesus Christ in N.T.