The 1st Angel's Message - Part 2

This is the third in a series of studies on the 3 Angels Messages of Rev. 14. In this study, we look primarily at the identity of "him that made the heaven and the earth and sea and fountains of waters."

Revelation 14:6 And I saw another angel flying in mid heaven, having eternal good tidings to proclaim unto them that dwell on the earth, and unto every nation and tribe and tongue and people; 7 and he saith with a great voice, Fear God, and give him glory; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made the heaven and the earth and sea and fountains of waters.

According to this angel, the **God** to be worshiped is the Creator. To find more information about the identity of this God, let's start at the very beginning. The words in brackets are the [original Hebrew words].

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God[elohiym] created the heavens and the earth. 2 And the earth was waste and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep: and the Spirit[rûwach] of God[elohiym] moved upon the face of the waters.

Strong's Concordance definitions of Hebrew words:

elohiym

H430 אלהים 'ĕlôhîym, el-o-heem' Plural of H433; gods in the ordinary sense; but specifically used (in the plural thus, especially with the article) of the supreme God; occasionally applied by way of deference to magistrates; and sometimes as a superlative

rûwach

H7307 רְּהָּהַ rûwach, roo'-akh; from H7306; wind; by resemblance breath, i.e. a sensible (or even violent) exhalation; figuratively, life, anger, unsubstantiality; by extension, a region of the sky; by resemblance spirit, but only of a rational being (including its expression and functions):—air, anger, blast, breath, × cool, courage, mind, × quarter, × side, spirit(-ual), tempest, × vain, (whirl-) wind(-y).

So, in Gen 1:2, we have the rûwach(breath/life) of elohiym moving "upon the face of the waters". This understanding seems consistent with Gen 2:7 & Jn 20:22:

Genesis 2:7 And Jehovah God formed man of the dust of the ground, and **breathed** into his nostrils the **breath of life**; and man became a living soul.

<u>John 20:22</u> And when he had said this, he **breathed** on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy **Spirit**:

Who is this elohiym Creator God?

Genesis 2:4 These are the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that Jehovah God[elohiym] made earth and heaven.

Exodus 20:11 for in six days Jehovah made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore Jehovah blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.

More about Jehovah as Creator: <u>Psalm96:5; Psalm136:1,5,6,7,8,9; Isaiah37:16; Isaiah40:28; Isaiah42:5; Isaiah43:1,7,15; Isaiah45:7,11,12,18; Isaiah66:2; Jeremiah10:10,11,12; Nehemiah9:6; Amos4:13; Amos9:6</u>

But who was Jehovah speaking to in Genesis 1:26 when He said, "... Let us make man in our image"?

After the earth was created, and the beasts upon it, the Father and Son carried out their purpose, which was designed before the fall of Satan, to make man in their own image. They had wrought together in the creation of the earth and every living thing upon it. And now God says to his Son, "Let us make man in our image..." -Ellen White, 1SP 24.2

But wait! The Bible says the Creator was Jehovah and Ellen says it was Christ's Father. Why?

Jehovah, our Father, and His Son Jesus Christ are alone to be exalted. The knowledge of God is eternal life to those who receive it. -Ellen White (Ms11-1898.11)

So, not only is Jehovah the Creator, but He is also Christ's Father. But can we prove that from the Bible only? The following NT texts confirm Christ's Father created all things through Christ, thereby linking Father's identity to Jehovah of the OT:

<u>Ephesians 3:9</u> And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in **God**, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

But what "God" was Paul referring to here? In a letter to believers in Corinth, Paul makes this clear:

<u>1 Corinthians</u> <u>8:6</u> But to us *there is but* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom *are* all things, and we by him.

The books of Hebrews and John agree and adds clarity:

<u>Hebrews 1:1-2</u> God... Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

John 1:3-4 (NLT) "**God created everything through him**, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created,* and his life brought light to everyone. *(Translators note on 1:3-4 Or and nothing that was created was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything.)"

Notice that, in 1Cor8:6, Paul claimed there is "but one God". Jesus agrees:

<u>John</u> <u>17</u>:1-3 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, ... this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only **true God**, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

We see here that Jesus identifies His Father as the "only true God" and says this is a matter of eternal life. He may have been making a reference to something Jeremiah said:

<u>Jeremiah 10:10</u> But Jehovah is the **true God**; he is the **living God**, and an everlasting King:... <u>11</u> ... The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, these shall perish from the earth, and from under the heavens. <u>12</u> He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and by his understanding hath he stretched out the heavens.

According to Jeremiah, Jehovah is the "true God", "living God" and Creator. In the "Revelation of Jesus Christ", Jesus revealed the "living God" as the one who seals the 144,000:

<u>Revelation 7:2</u> And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the **living God**: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, <u>3</u> Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. <u>4</u> And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were* sealed an **hundred** *and* **forty** *and* **four thousand**...

Does Christ further identify the "living God"? Yes:

<u>Matthew 16:16</u> And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the **living God.** <u>17</u> And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Christ, through John further identified His Father as the "living God", since this is the God of the 144,000:

Revelation 14:1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

Luke further identifies the "living God" as the Creator:

Acts 14:15 And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

Christ further identifies His Father as Jehovah:

Mark 12:29 Jesus answered, The first is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God, the Lord is one: 30 and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.

Surely, Jesus could only be speaking of His Father, in light of Jn17:3, right? Well, in Mark 12:29, It is well-established that Jesus was here quoting Moses:

<u>Deuteronomy</u> <u>6:4</u> Hear, O Israel: Jehovah our God is **one Jehovah**: <u>5</u> and thou shalt love Jehovah thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. (see note at the end of this study concerning the word "one")

Jehovah and His OT prophets also agree that there is only one God - Jehovah:

<u>Deuteronomy</u> 4:35 Unto thee it was showed, that thou mightest know that Jehovah he is God; there is none else besides him.

2 Samuel 7:22 Wherefore thou art great, O Jehovah God: for there is none like thee, neither is there any God besides thee, according to all that we have heard with our ears.

1 Kings 8:60 that all the peoples of the earth may know that Jehovah, he is God; there is none else.

1 Kings 19:15 And Jehovah said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, thou shalt anoint Hazael to be king over Syria;

<u>Nehemiah</u> **9:6** Thou art Jehovah, even thou alone; thou hast made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all things that are thereon, the seas and all that is in them, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshippeth thee.

Isaiah 37:16 O Jehovah of hosts, the God of Israel, that sittest *above* the cherubim, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth; thou hast made heaven and earth.

More: <u>Isaiah42:8;43:10;44:6;45:5;52:5; Hosea13:4; Joel2:27; Zechariah14:9;</u>

Ellen also agrees that Jehovah is the only God:

Make the word of the living God your lessonbook. If this had always been done, students lost to the cause of God would now be missionaries. **Jehovah is the only true God**, and HE is to be reverenced and worshiped." (E.White, <u>Testimonies for the Church, Vol.6, p.166</u>)

Notice her use of "the only true God", seemingly a quote from Jesus, identifying His Father (Jn 17:3). What shall we say then, who is the "God" of the 1st Angel's Message? To whom should we give glory and worship? How can it be any other than "Jehovah, our Father" -- Christ's Father?

Revelation 14:6 And I saw another angel flying in mid heaven, having eternal good tidings to proclaim unto them that dwell on the earth, and unto every nation and tribe and tongue and people; 7 and he saith with a great voice, Fear [Jehovah, the Father of Christ], and give him glory; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made the heaven and the earth and sea and fountains of waters.

<u>Exodus</u> 20:2 I am Jehovah thy God[elohiym], who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Here, we saw the 1st Angel's Message and the 1st Commandment both declaring Jehovah as the only elohiym to be worshiped. Ellen agrees:

Jehovah, the eternal, self-existent, uncreated One, Himself the Source and Sustainer of all, is alone entitled to supreme reverence and worship. Man is forbidden to give to any other object the first place in his affections or his service. Whatever we cherish that tends to lessen our love for God or to interfere with the service due Him, of that do we make a god. -Ellen White, Patriarchs and Prophets, 305.4

Ellen White brings additional clarity to the identity of the Creator:

"Before the entrance of evil there was peace and joy throughout the universe. All was in perfect harmony with the Creator's will. Love for God was supreme, love for one another impartial. Christ the Word, the Only Begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father,—one in nature, in character, and in purpose,—the only being in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God. By Christ the Father wrought in the creation of all heavenly beings. "By Him were all things created, that are in heaven, ... whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers" (Colossians 1:16); and to Christ, equally with the Father, all heaven gave allegiance." -Ellen G. White, GC 493.1

"The great Creator assembled the heavenly host, that he might in the presence of all the angels confer special honor upon his Son. The Son was seated on the throne with the Father, and the heavenly throng of holy angels was gathered around them. The Father then made known that it was ordained by himself that Christ should be equal with himself; so that wherever was the presence of his Son, it was as his own presence. His word was to be obeyed as readily as the word of the Father. His Son he had invested with authority to command the heavenly host. Especially was he to work in union with himself in the anticipated creation of the earth and every living thing that should exist upon it. His Son would carry out his will and his purposes, but would do nothing of himself alone. The Father's will would be fulfilled in him. Satan was jealous and envious of Jesus Christ. Yet when all the angels bowed to Jesus to acknowledge his supremacy and high authority and rightful rule, Satan bowed with them; but his heart was filled with envy and hatred." (Ellen White, The Signs of the Times, January 9, 1879; also in Spirit of Prophecy, vol. 1, pages 18, 19)

"The King of the universe summoned the heavenly hosts before Him, that in their presence He might set forth the true position of His Son and show the relation He sustained to all created beings. The Son of God shared the Father's throne, and the glory of the eternal, self-existent One encircled both. About the throne gathered the holy angels, a vast, unnumbered throng--'ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands' (Revelation 5:11.), the most exalted angels, as ministers and subjects, rejoicing in the light that fell upon them from the presence of the Deity. Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven the King declared that none but Christ, the Only Begotten of God, could fully enter into His purposes, and to Him it was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will. The Son of God had wrought the Father's will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; and to Him, as well as to God, their homage and allegiance were due." -EllenWhite, PP 36.2

"In the beginning the Father and the Son had rested upon the Sabbath after Their work of creation When "the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them" (Genesis 2:1), the Creator and all heavenly beings rejoiced in contemplation of the glorious scene. "The morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy." Job 38:7. Now Jesus rested from the work of redemption; and though there was grief among those who loved Him on earth, yet there was joy in heaven. Glorious to the eyes of heavenly beings was the promise of the future. A restored creation, a redeemed race, that having conquered sin could never fall,—this, the result to flow from Christ's completed work, God and angels saw. With this scene the day upon which Jesus rested is forever linked. For "His work is perfect;" and "whatsoever God doeth, it shall be forever." Deuteronomy 32:4; Ecclesiastes 3:14. When there shall be a "restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:21), the creation Sabbath, the day on which Jesus lay at rest in Joseph's tomb, will still be a day of rest and rejoicing. Heaven and earth will unite in praise, as "from one Sabbath to another" (Isaiah 66:23) the nations of the saved shall bow in joyful worship to God and the Lamb. "-Ellen White, DA 769.2

Additional Note: There are some who claim that the Hebrew word "echad", translated "one" in Deut6:4, "means a oneness composed of a plurality." However, this is inconsistent with the OT use of this word, and with Ellen's writings identifying Jehovah as the Father of Christ. Surely Christ does NOT have a Father "composed of a plurality" of persons. To me, this seems obvious, given the quotes and texts presented in this study. But, for a deeper study of "echad", see: http://sidnash.org/t/echad.php