

Why Did Christ Have To Reveal God The Father?

Many today believe that the existence of God the Father was not known by the Patriarchs or the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. They believe that God the Father was completely unknown until Jesus Christ came to earth and revealed His existence. This belief is based on several New Testament scriptures that state that the world did not know God the Father and that Christ declared and revealed Him. Here are several examples:

John 17:25-26

²⁵ O righteous Father! **The world has not known You**, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ **And I have declared to them Your name**, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them."

John 1:18

¹⁸ No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, **He has declared Him**.

John 7:28-29

²⁸ Then Jesus cried out, as He taught in the temple, saying, "You both know Me, and you know where I am from; and I have not come of Myself, but He who sent Me is true, **whom you do not know**. ²⁹ But I know Him, for I am from Him, and He sent Me."

John 8:54-55

⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. ⁵⁵ **Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him**. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.

Matt 11:25-27

²⁵ At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. ²⁶ Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. ²⁷ All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. **Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and *the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him***.

However, the Bible makes very similar comments that John the Baptist came to reveal Christ and that the world didn't know Christ either. Notice the following scriptures:

John 1:29-34

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' ³¹ I did not know Him; **but that He should be revealed to Israel**, therefore I came baptizing with water." ³² And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

Matt 11:25-27

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John 1:10-13

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, **and the world did not know Him**. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

John 1:26-27

²⁶ John answered them, saying, "I baptize with water, **but there stands One among you whom you do not know**. ²⁷ It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose."

John 8:19

¹⁹ Then they said to Him, "Where is Your Father?"

Jesus answered, "**You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also."**

John 14:7-11

⁷ "**If you had known Me**, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

⁸ Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet **you have not known Me**, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

John 16:1-4

¹ "These things I have spoken to you, that you should not be made to stumble. ² They will put you out of the synagogues; yes, the time is coming that whoever kills you will think that he offers God service. ³ And these things they will do to you **because they have not known the Father nor Me**. ⁴ But these things I have told you, that when the time comes, you may remember that I told you of them.

So, if we interpret the scriptures about Israel not "knowing" the Father to mean His very existence was not known prior to Christ coming to earth don't we also have to view the Bible's similar comments about Christ the same way? This would logically force us to conclude there simply was no "God of the Old Testament" as we would have to eliminate the possibility that Israel knew about either one of the Them. This just wouldn't make any sense.

The key to understanding this subject is realizing what the Bible means when it refers to "knowing God". This is typically not a statement about not being aware of the very existence of God but rather really understanding who He is and more importantly obeying Him.

1 John 2:3-6

3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. ⁴ He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. ⁵ But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of God is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. ⁶ He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

The Bible makes a number of references where it is very clear this is the intended meaning of 'know' rather than simply the awareness of one's existence.

John 10:11-16

¹¹ "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. ¹² But a hireling, *he who is* not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. ¹³ The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. ¹⁴ I am the good shepherd; and I know My *sheep*, and **am known by My own**. ¹⁵ As the Father knows Me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. ¹⁶ And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock *and* one shepherd.

Matt 25:11-12

¹¹ "Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' ¹² But he answered and said, 'Assuredly, I say to you, **I do not know you.**'

Clearly in Matt 25:12, Christ is not stating that He was totally unaware of the existence of these people. He is saying that these people did not have a personal relationship with Him and were not obedient to Him. He makes a similar comment regarding people not recognizing John the Baptist as the fulfillment of the Elijah prophecies in Malachi.

Matt 17:11-13

¹¹ Jesus answered and said to them, "Indeed, Elijah is coming first and will restore all things. ¹² But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and **they did not know him** but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands." ¹³ Then the disciples understood that He spoke to them of John the Baptist.

Christ's meaning here is that the people didn't understand John the Baptist's role in fulfilling the prophecies regarding the Elijah. He was clearly not stating that the people were completely unaware of John's existence.

To truly know God the Father we have to understand the spiritual significance of who He is and more importantly we have to be striving to obey Him in our daily lives. We are not able to do either of these things without the role that Christ fulfills as the Mediator of the New Covenant.

1 Tim 2:3-7

³ For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and **one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus**, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, ⁷ for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle — I am speaking the truth in Christ and not lying — a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Heb 9:11-15

¹¹ But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. ¹² Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? ¹⁵ And **for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant**, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

Heb 12:22-24

²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ²⁴ to **Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant**, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.

When the sacrifice of Christ is applied to a person's life it atones for our sins and reconciles us to the Father. In addition, it also removes the veil of separation between the person and God the Father. This not only enables us to have a direct relationship with the Father, but it removes the veil over our understanding of God's word so that we can truly understand who He is and His instructions for mankind.

2 Cor 5:14-21

¹⁴ For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died; ¹⁵ and He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

¹⁶ Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. ¹⁸ Now all things are of God, **who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ**, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹ that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

²⁰ Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

2 Cor 3:12-16

¹² Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech — ¹³ unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. ¹⁴ But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because **the veil is taken away in Christ**. ¹⁵ But even to this day, when Moses is read, **a veil lies on their heart**. ¹⁶ Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, **the veil is taken away**.

Additionally, it is only through the sacrifice of Christ that we are able to receive the Holy Spirit that enables us to understand spiritual knowledge and gives us the ability to obey God's commandments.

John 16:7-11

⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; **for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you;** but if I depart, I will send Him to you.
⁸ And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ of sin, because they do not believe in Me; ¹⁰ of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; ¹¹ of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

John 14:15-18

¹⁵ "If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — ¹⁷ **the Spirit of truth,** whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; **but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.** ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

John 14:25-26

²⁵ "These things I have spoken to you while being present with you. ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, **He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**

Rom 8:6-11

⁶ For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.
⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; **for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.** ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.
⁹ **But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you.** Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. ¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.
¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

These scriptures show us that Christ reveals the Father to us through His sacrifice and through His role as the Mediator of the New Covenant. This is what enables us to be reconciled to the Father and to receive the Holy Spirit which enables us to truly understand who the Father is and His will for mankind. Most importantly, the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to obey God's commandments which we must be striving to obey if we want to know God the Father.