

Who is the
Promised Elijah?

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THIS BOOKLET IS NOT TO BE SOLD. The information provided is for the benefit of former members of the congregations of the Worldwide Church of God (WCG), and of current and prospective members of God's Church.

Christ very clearly says Elijah is to come and restore all things. But to whom is he to come and when? What are the “all things” that are to be restored? Will God resurrect the Old Testament Elijah if not, who will it be? Has the promised Elijah already come? Let’s see what the Bible-based answers we can get to these many questions of great interest to all truly converted Christians.

Please Note: All comments in brackets [] or in parentheses () as well as highlighted text (bolded and/or in blue) are from the author of this study. Bible quotations are in maroon.

I think it is essential to clarify the question of the “Holy Spirit” before we begin this study. If we say that who or what is the “Holy Spirit” is the question that needs to be answered, we are starting from the assumption that there exists such a being as the Holy Spirit and that it is a separate and distinct being from God and the Word. The question which should be asked is who are the beings the Bible tell us are holy, whose composition is spirit and who have existed eternally? Either the Bible plainly tells us who are the separate and distinct beings that existed from all eternity who created all things (spirit beings and the material universe) or we have no way of getting an answer to our question.

The Holy Spirits of the God Family

The Bible tells us in Gen 1:1 that:

Gen 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

The Hebrew word translated “God” is “Eloheem” which is the plural form of “Eloah which means “God”. The word “Eloheem” refers to “gods.” It is a uniplural noun like family, group, team, etc. In the beginning, there was therefore more than one God being in existence but how many were there?

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

In the beginning when God created the heaven and the earth there was God and there was another being with God who was also God, the Word. How can these two beings both be God; isn't that impossible?

The word God indicates the kind of existence of these 2 beings: their nature is to be God in the same way that all human beings have the same human nature. However, having the same nature does not mean that all human beings constitute a single being; indeed, they are all separate and distinct beings with their own personalities. God and the Word have in common the same nature or, level and type of existence, but they are separate and distinct beings just like all human beings who have the same human nature are separate and distinct beings.

God the Father

We read in the Bible that God became a father when the Word became flesh (Php 2:5-8) by being born of woman after having been conceived in the virgin Mary by the holy spirit being called God (Luke 1:35). God from that point on became God the Father and the Word, who was born as the flesh-and-blood Jesus of Nazareth became God's Son or the Son of God. He was both fully God (his father was God and fully human (his mother was the virgin Mary)).

Jesus was God the Father's only begotten son at the time when He was conceived in Mary's womb but He was not to be the only one begotten of the Father. God the Father is the holy spirit being in the Godhead that calls men to salvation.

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him

of my Father.

Joh 18:9 That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou [God the Father] gavest me have I lost none.

1Pe 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

God the Word and Spokesman

The Bible term for being called is to be spiritually begotten by God the Father (1Pe 1:3). When we are begotten, we become a spiritual embryo that can be born again as a glorified spirit being with eternal life. Those begotten of the holy spirit God the Father who follow their calling are then able to come to the holy spirit being called the Word and Spokesman (John 6:44; 65; 18:9) who then teaches them. The glorified Jesus-Christ as God the Father's Word and Spokesman is the holy spirit being that works in the minds of God the Father's called and chosen ones.

Joh 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Jesus had to first be glorified for it to be possible for Christians to have access to the holy spirit called the Word and Spokesman because the glorified Christ is the holy spirit being who works in the minds of God's saints (John 14:17) in the same way that Satan is the evil spirit that works in the minds of the children of disobedience (Eph2:2).

Joh 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he [I, Christ] dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [On the day of Pentecost, it would be in them and in all true Christians.]

Eph 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, [Satan] the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

The holy spirit God the Father calls men and those who follow their calling are then taught by the holy spirit called the Word and God the Father's Spokesman.

Joh 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

The Holy Ghost

The expression "Holy Ghost" used in the Bible is in error as there are no ghosts in the Godhead but rather 2 beings that are holy (John 17:11; Isa 6:3) and spirit (John 4:24).

Joh 17:11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.

Joh 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

These 2 God beings who are holy and spirit are the holy spirit beings of the God family who existed in the beginning at the creation of all things.

Joh 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Joh 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

Joh 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

And, the Word who was with God is before all things i.e., nothing existed before He created them whether made of spirit or matter.

Col 1:15 [Christ] Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Col 1:16 For by him [the Word who became Jesus-Christ] were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

Col 1:17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

In the beginning before anything either physical or spiritual was created, there was God and the Word who existed before all things and no other being is mentioned as having existed with them. There is no biblical evidence that there ever existed a third, separate and distinct personage in the Godhead called the "Holy Spirit" who dwelt in eternity with God and the Word.

God is a Family

Throughout the Bible we can find many verses which clearly indicates the existence of family relations between God and the Word and God's called, chosen and faithful.

Mat 11:27 All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Joh 20:17 Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

God is clearly a family in which many can be ultimately born again by a resurrection from the dead to eternal, glorified spirit life in God's Kingdom.

Rom 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he [God's Son] might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Col 1:18 And he [the glorified Christ] is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence.

Christ was the first to be born again by a resurrection from the dead to be followed by many brethren.

Bible Writing Convention

The practice in the Bible has been to simply use the expression "the Holy Spirit" without indicating which God personage in the Godhead the expression represents. Over time, because of this practice, just about everybody has come to believe that the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct God being in the Godhead but, there is no single verse or group of verses in the Bible that prove the existence of such a third being in the Godhead. The words "holy" and "spirit" are adjectives that describe the nature of God the Father and of God the Word i.e., they are holy beings made of spirit.

Whenever we encounter the expressions the "Holy Spirit" or simply the "Holy Spirit" in the Bible we must look at the context to determine of which holy spirit being of the Godhead the Bible is talking about: the holy spirit, God the Father or the holy spirit, the Word and Spokesman.

The Word is the holy spirit being in the Godhead who carries out the instructions and wishes of the holy spirit, God. He is the faithful son who seeks to do his father's will in all things. He is the member of the God family that did the work of creating the heaven and the earth, who ruled over ancient Israel through Moses and his human successors, He is the one who became a man who

suffered and died to be God the Father's perfect sacrifice for sin and make the salvation of mankind possible, etc. and He came to reveal the Father to those who follow the Father's calling.

Making Things Clearer

In this study, when referring to God's spirit who, depending on the circumstances can be the holy spirit personage called God the Father or the holy spirit personage called God the Word and Spokesman, I will not capitalize either of the adjectives "holy" and "spirit". This is in order to not perpetuate the false impression in the minds of readers that there is a 3rd being in the Godhead called the "Holy Spirit." Instead, I will refer to either of the holy spirits in the God family as being God's spirit without capitalizing the word "spirit" to make it plain that we are not referring to a third God being in the God family called the "Holy Spirit" but to one of the 2 God beings in the Godhead.

God's family is presently made up of 2 holy spirit beings to which are to be added thousands and possibly millions of other holy spirit beings when God's plan of salvation for mankind has reached its end. The saints that endure in the faith until the end of their natural human life, will be resurrected as individual holy spirit beings in God's Kingdom when it is established.

There are two studies which you can read regarding what is the "Holy Spirit" and decide for yourself in light of the Bible-based evidence offered if such a being exists in the Godhead. These studies are: [What is the Holy Spirit? Cliff Notes Version](#) and [Who or What is the Holy Spirit?](#)

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In the organization called the Worldwide Church of God (WCG) it was taught that its Pastor General, Herbert W. Armstrong (HWA) was the Elijah that was to come and restore all things before the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

Was HWA the promised Elijah? We will have to examine our Bible to determine, if possible, who is the promised Elijah, when he is to come, to whom he is to come and what is it that he will restore.

Let's get started.

That Prophet

In the book of Deuteronomy, God through Moses tells Israel that He will send a prophet to teach them.

Deu 18:15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, **of thy brethren**, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

This prophet will be one of their brethren, he will be an Israelite.

Deu 18:16 According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

Israel was so scared when they heard the voice of God and when they saw the great fire on mount Sinai, that they did not again want to hear His voice fearing they would die if they did.

Deu 18:17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.

In response to Israel's request God says He would raise up a prophet from their brethren who will speak to them instead of Himself.

Deu 18:18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

Deu 18:19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken [\[believe and obey\]](#) unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

This prophet will come to Israel in God's name and God will hold accountable any of those who hear him and does not believe him which is too say, they will suffer the consequences of not doing so.

When is that prophet to come to Israel?

The Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord

According to your Bible, what prophet is to be sent to Israel? According to Mal 4: 5, Elijah is the prophet God will send to Israel and He will do so before the arrival of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

Mal 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah [the prophet](#) before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

The great and dreadful day of the Lord is explained in the following study: [What is the Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord](#) It is not the Great Tribulation of Mat 24:21.

The original Elijah the prophet died a very long time ago, so would

God resurrect him and send him to the nation of Israel or would it be someone that would do a work similar to what the original Elijah had done with Israel?

Mat 17:10 And his disciples asked him, saying, Why then say the scribes that Elias must first come?

Elias is the Greek variant of the Hebrew word Elijah.

Mat 17:11 And Jesus answered and said unto them, **Elias truly shall first come, and restore all things.**

Jesus Himself confirms that the Scribes were right and that indeed, Elias or Elijah will first come to Israel before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord (Mal 4: 5). And, in the next 2 verses of Mat 17, we have the answer to our question as to whether God would resurrect Elijah and send him to Israel.

Mat 17:12 But I say unto you, That Elias is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed. Likewise shall also the Son of man suffer of them.

Mat 17:13 Then the disciples understood that he spake unto them of John the Baptist.

Christ tells the disciples that John the Baptist was Elijah; not the original one but someone who did a work similar to what the original Elijah did. This means that the Elijah to come will be someone, not the original Elijah, who will restore all things to Israel (Mat 17:11).

That Prophet

In the book of Acts, we find some very precise information about who is the prophet that God promised He would send to Israel. Peter had just healed a man who had been lame from birth and as a result, a crowd had gathered around him. Here is what he tells them.

Act 3:19 Repent ye [\[Peter was speaking to Israelites\]](#) therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from

the [presence](#) of the Lord;

Act 3:20 And he [\[God\]](#) shall send [Jesus Christ](#), which before was preached unto you:

When Peter spoke these words, Christ had gone back to His Father in heaven. Based on what Peter clearly says in Act 3:20, CHRIST IS TO COME BACK A SECOND TIME TO THE PHYSICAL NATION OF ISRAEL.

Act 3:21 Whom the heaven must receive [until the times of restitution of all things](#), [\[Mat 17: 11\]](#) which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

Christ is ascended to heaven and is to remain there until the time comes for Him to return to the physical nation of Israel and restitute or restore all things to them. What will be restored to them is God's law and the statutes and judgments which they have forgotten.

Mal 4:4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

When Christ returns to Israel , it will be the time of the making of the New Covenant. [\[Heb 8:8\]](#)

Heb 8:8 For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

Act 3:22 For Moses truly said [\[Deu 18: 15-19\]](#) unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, [\[Christ is an Israelite of the tribe of Judah\]](#) like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

Act 3:23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Anyone who does not enter into the New Covenant will not be physically destroyed but rather will not become a member of

God's spiritual nation of Israel. Not all of Israel will enter the New Covenant as many are called but few are chosen (Mat 22: 14) and few of the chosen remain faithful (Mat 7:13-14). After Christ's 2nd Coming all those who did not enter into the New Covenant will constitute the unconverted nation of Israel and the converted members of Israel (those who entered into the New Covenant) will have become part of God's spiritual nation of Israel which began on the day of Pentecost.

Summary

God told ancient Israel that He would send them a prophet who would be a brother, an Israelite. In the book of Malachi which is addressed to THE PHYSICAL NATION OF ISRAEL (Mal 1:1), God says that He will send them Elijah THE PROPHET before the coming of the Great and Dreadful Day of the Lord. Christ at His First Coming to Israel confirmed that indeed Elijah will first come to Israel and restore all things (Mat 17:11). He will first come before what event: the great and dreadful day of the Lord (Mal 4: 5). And in the book of Acts, Peter tells us that Christ is ascended into heaven and is to remain there until the time comes for the restitution or restoration of all things to Israel (Act 3:21). CHRIST AT HIS SECOND COMING IS RETURNING TO THE PHYSICAL NATION OF ISRAEL (Act 3: 19-20).

The Elijah who is to come to the physical nation of Israel and restore all things is Jesus-Christ. Christ is an Israelite of the tribe of Judah. At His Second Coming to Israel is the time when He will complete His ministry to them which was to last 7 years (Dan 9:27) but which was cut off after 3 1/2 years when He died on the stake. It will be the time of the making of the New Covenant (Heb 8: 8) with the full nation of Israel returned from its end time captivity to the original Promised Land. It will be the time of the restoration of Israel that Paul spoke about in the 11th chapter of the book of Romans.

The Elijah promised to Israel by God will not come to God's spiritual nation of Israel which is scattered all over the nations of the world. It is not a group of people located in a specific geographical location to whom the promised Elijah could come. The members of God's spiritual nation of Israel are all being taught all things

by the God the Word and Spokesman (John 14:26) because they are remaining faithful to the truth given them at the time of their conversion when called by God the Father.

There is no need for Elijah to come to them as they are converted and are obeying God in all things to the best of their abilities.

Final Remarks

Some of you reading this study, including the author of this study, have been subjected to a lot of erroneous teachings by organizations of men who have decided that they are God's Church. There are many of them but Christ said there would only be one true church not many separated from each other by significant doctrinal differences.

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Which one of them if any is God's one true church or can there be many different true, true church of God? They have all departed from the teachings of HWA which they all said in the beginning that they were faithfully preserving. This was the main reason why former members of the WCG joined them. 40 years since the death of HWA in 1986, they have all drifted from what he taught, and those who joined them because they were supposedly holding on to the teachings of HWA, for the greatest part are still there waiting for Christ's Second Coming to happen which they think will change the world and waiting for the signal to go off to the promised Place of Safety just before the start of the Great Tribulation.

Who and what is God's Church has been covered in several studies available on this web site. Please take the time to go through some of them and decide for yourselves where the truth lies on this matter: "[God's Church is Spiritual](#)" "[God's Church Today](#)" "[Who Can Feed the Flock?](#)" and "[God's Church after its Scattering.](#)"