

SEEING God FACE to FACE? !!!! ?????

The King James bible says this:

*John 1:18 No man hath **seen** God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, **he** hath declared him.* [KJV]

The Complete Jewish bible renders that last part as:

*...at the Father's side — **he** [Yeshua] has made him [Father] known.* [CJB]



The new testament seems to have a bad way of referring only to “Father” as “God”, while it refers to Yeshua, our savior by many other titles, but is short-sighted in that Yeshua is ALSO God. We should remember that God (uppercase) or god (lowercase) both mean the same thing: mighty one or mighty ones. Earlier in John 1 we read:

*1 In the beginning was **the Word**, and the Word was with [**along side**] God, and **the Word was God**. 2 He [the Word who became Yeshua] was with [**along side**] God in the beginning.* You see “God” is a TITLE, not a name, and BOTH are GOD, but most Greek to English bibles deny Father God’s name, so they simply only call Father God, except for John 1:1.

Does this say that there is one single being here? No, however it could be misunderstood that way, but that is NOT what is said, it says: “WITH” or “ALONG SIDE” **TWICE**. John says that in verse 1, then repeats it in verse 2. You do not say someone is WITH or ALONG SIDE **THEMSELF**. This is also supported in multiple places in the new testament:

*Acts 7:55 & 56 But he, full of the Ruach HaKodesh (Holy Spirit), looked up to heaven and saw God’s **Glory**, with Yeshua standing at the right hand of God. 56 “Look!” he exclaimed, “I see heaven opened and the Son of Man standing **at the right hand of God!**”* Again, should say Father or Yehovah, instead of God, which in fact applies to BOTH. (*see Rev 3:21 which is correct)

*Romans 8:34 Who punishes them? Certainly not the Messiah Yeshua, who died and — more than that — has been raised, is at *the right hand of God...*

Also Ephesians 1:2, Colossians 3:1, Hebrew 1:3, Heb 8:1 (and several more)

The point of this rabbit trail is that BOTH, who are TWO but **UNITED as One** are BOTH GOD in title, so it’s a shame that the newer division of the Bible [new testament] excludes Yeshua in the majority of places as God.... BUT



not from more reliable versions such as the known Hebrew Mattityahu (Matthew) [confirmed by early church writers *see footnote] that clearing uses YHVH as the one translated in our English bibles as “God”. [Mat 1:22 &24]

Now, back to *John 1:18 No man hath **seen** God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, **he** hath declared him.* [KJV]
From this statement by John, how do we reconcile Exodus 24:9 *Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: 10 and they **saw** the God of Israel; and there was **under his feet** as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and as it were the very **heaven** for clearness. 11 And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: and they beheld God, and did eat and drink.* [ASV]

From the Complete Jewish Bible...

10 and they **saw** the God of Isra’el. **Under his feet** was **something like** a sapphire stone **pavement** as clear as the sky itself. 11 He did not reach out his hand against these notables of Isra’el; on the contrary, they **saw** God, even as **they** were eating and drinking. [CJB]

Notice verse 10 from the Orthodox Jewish Bible:

10 And they saw the Elohei Yisroel; and there was **under** His **feet the likeness** of sapphire stone pavement, **and like** the very Shomayim [Heaven] in its clearness. 11 And against the leaders of the Bnei Yisroel He laid not His yad; also they saw HaElohim, and did eat and drink. [OJB]

Notice this description is “as it were”, “something like”, “the likeness”, much like a **vision or dream** would be described.

Let’s keep reading and look at the account from

*Matthew 17:1 And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart: 2 and he was **transfigured** before them; and his **face did shine as the sun**, and his **garments became white as the light**. 3 And behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elijah talking with him. 4 And Peter answered, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, I will make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah. 5 While he was yet speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him. 6 And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid. 7 And Jesus came and touched them and said,*

Arise, and be not afraid. 8 And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one, save Jesus only.

*9 And as they were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded them, saying, Tell **the vision** to no man, until the Son of man be risen from the dead. [ASV]*

As real as can be, yet it was **a vision**, because Yeshua had not yet gone through his physical death and resurrection, as we all must undergo, which AFTER that will have NEW bodies JUST AS Yeshua, Moses, and Elijah in this Sneak Peek into the FUTURE, as Yeshua instructed them to “tell no-one” until after his resurrection. Moses and Elijah were not yet resurrected to a glorious state, an obvious Sneak-Peek into the future.

The scene in Exodus 24 that ALSO hints to be a VISION, and nowhere in this passage does it mention God’s “FACE”, but calls attention to His **feet** with inclusions of heaven. Did God actually bring heaven itself down and roll it out before these elders so they could have a heavenly luncheon?

I am not doubting or discounting that God’s “Presence” was there in SPIRIT, which is what God is. Throughout scripture we see a distinction between the glory of the spiritual body of the face, versus feet and other parts of the body.

Let’s take a look at Moses very first, shall we say Face-to-Face encounter with God.

*Exodus 3:1 Now Moses was keeping the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian: and he led the flock to the back of the wilderness, and came to the mountain of God, unto Horeb. 2 And **the angel** of Jehovah appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush.... [ASV]*

Wait! WHO appeared unto Moses? “**the angel**”. “Angel” and “Messenger” are basically interchangeable,- the same thing. There is a vast multitude of scripture that begin an encounter with “the messenger of Yehovah” [see my writing “Word of YHVH- Angel of YHVH”].

I don’t recall much attention paid to this from the pulpit, which is just one of many encounters that begin this same way “the angel of Yehovah”, and then simply continues as “Yehovah HIMSELF”! As Moses continues his conversation and encounter here in Exodus 3, it is as though he is speaking directly to God Himself, and being spoken to by God Himself. But **keep in**

mind, that technically this is Yehovah- God's "**messenger**" as we read on.....

Notice how the scene continues... 4 And when **Jehovah** saw that he turned aside to see, **God** called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses.

The conversation and encounter continues as "Yehovah- God" himself speaking, yet it is Yehovah's "messenger".... [the one who became "the Word"?]

6 Moreover he said, ***I am the God of thy father***, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ***And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.***

Ownership of the authority of Yehovah's messenger is so complete, that he even answers Moses's request for his name ***as in the 1st person...***

15 And God said moreover unto Moses, *Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **Jehovah**, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath sent me unto you: this is my **name for ever**, and this is **my memorial** unto all generations.*

It's important to understand that Yehovah- God Most High uses messengers AND MEN for His spokesperson(s), He tell Moses that "He- God" will provide the words and Aaron, and Moses will be His (God's) "MOUTH", not only His mouth, but Moses will be as God to Aaron...

*Exodus 2:16 And he [Aaron] shall be thy spokesman unto the people; and it shall come to pass, that he [Aaron] shall be to thee a mouth, and thou [Moses] shalt be to him [Aaron] **as God**.* <— Moses will be to Aaron as God! [We will also be in a similar role after Christ's return and our resurrection- see Rev 1-6]

So, Moses first encounter with God doesn't mention seeing God, but does say he saw and spoke to God's **messenger**, who first took the form of a flame in a bush that was not burned up by this fire. Where is a more direct encounter as in a face to face encounter.....

Exodus 33:11 And Jehovah spake unto Moses ***face to face***, as a man ***speaketh*** unto his friend.

This encounter was in what was called “the tent of meeting”. Is it possible that God who consumed mount Sinai as smoke and fire would enter this tent and not also burn it up? There is absolutely no mention of smoke and fire coming from this tent that Moses was in. That’s because Exodus 33:11 is referring to God “**SPEAKING**” to Moses, as a man **speaks** to his friend, and really has nothing to do with an actual appearance. The face to face reference is in regard to how Moses heard, spoke, interacted with God,- as a “man to his friend”. The term face to face is a metaphor. <- Remember this.

Is this only speculation or is there any biblical support?...

The Hebrew Scriptures of old were written in what tongue? Yes, Hebrew, so let’s look at it from that vantage point, from several scriptures, not just one....

*Exodus 33:17 And Jehovah said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken; for thou hast found favor in my sight, and **I know thee by name**. [notable to see the relevance here that God Himself puts on “knowing” Moses “**by NAME**”] 18 And he said, **Show me**, I pray thee, **thy glory**. 19 And he said, I will make **all my goodness** pass before thee, and will proclaim the name of Jehovah before thee; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. 20 And he said, **Thou canst not see my face**; for **man** shall not see me and live. 21 And Jehovah said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon the rock: 22 and it shall come to pass, while my **glory** passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand until I have passed by: 23 and I will take away my hand, and **thou shalt see my back**; but my **face shall not be seen**.*

The word that is translated “**face**” in Exodus 33:20 is the Hebrew word **panim**. While this word can have a specific, literal, and anatomical sense in reference to the front of a person’s head (Ex 10:28 Pharaoh speaking to Moses), it can also refer to the surface of something – “**the face (panim) of the earth**” (Exod. 33:16), the front of something – “**the forefront (panim) of the tent**” (Exod. 26:9), it can mean to be before someone “**your males shall appear before (panim) Yehovah GOD**” (Exod. 23:17), or it can even refer to the presence of someone “**they were driven out from Pharaoh’s presence (panim)**” (Exod. 10:11).

Just a few verses earlier in this same chapter, “panim” is used but we have a different “English” translated word: “**presence**”...

*14 And he said, My **presence** (panim) shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest.*

Of course in verse 23, we know this is God’s front side, as He tells Moses he will be allowed to see His back, or as He is GOING. By this with the two uses of the very same word, yet having different meanings, we must understand that there are different levels of GLORY to God, distinctly between that of His feet for instance- in the vision for the elders, and also God’s back as he passed away from Moses, distinct from that of His Face. God used His **HAND** to shield Moses from the Face of His Glory. It is also clear that the phrase “see me” or “be seen” (depending on translation), does not include His “back”, and even gets used in the earlier example of “**face to face**, as a man **speake**th unto his friend”.

You will see a multitude of different English words translated from the Hebrew word panim. For continued study look at Strong’s # 6440 <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/6440.htm>

There are so many lessons rolled up in this study and understanding of Seeing God Face to Face. I feel deeply that the more I study and learn in God’s scriptures that He provided for us, the **MORE DEEPLY I SEE GOD “FACE TO FACE”**. Now, do I mean that in a literal sense? Of course not, I mean it in a sense of better knowing **God’s HEART**, which to me helps me SEE God more in a FACE TO FACE metaphor sense. Or as God Himself put it: “**I know thee by name**” as God said of Moses in Ex 33:17.

Yes, as often as possible when we SPEAK to Father and to our brother Yeshua, we should STOP- sit quiet and LISTEN, listen for God’s voice, come to KNOW them as a FRIEND speaks to a friend, as Face-to-Face.

I’m going to end this blog with 1 John 4:12-16, which is also a mirror of the entire chapter of John 17 that I recommend reading and putting yourself in that prayer as one of Yeshua’s OWN disciples, because if you do join yourself to him through your acceptance of him as your Savior and Lord, then the prayer he prayed in John 17 is for you also- PERSONALLY, as if you were there at that time- in that room,- Face-to-Face. SEE the lesson of 1 John 4 below, understand that it is NOT about a physical seeing of God’s face, but

the point is to focus on **SEEING God through our SPIRIT**, - becoming “UNITED” as ONE though LOVE for God and for EACH OTHER.....

*1 John 4:12 **No one has ever seen God**;... .. if we **love** one another, God remains **united** with us, and our **love** for him has been brought to its goal in us. 13 Here is how we know that we remain **united** with him and he with us: he has given to us **from his own Spirit**. 14 Moreover, we **have seen** and we testify that the Father has sent his Son as Deliverer of the world. 15 If someone acknowledges that Yeshua is the Son of God, God remains **united** with him, and he with God. 16 Also we have come to know and trust the **love** that God has for us. God is **love**; and those who remain in this **love** remain **united** with God, and God remains **united** with them. [CJB]*

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-footnote

* Fifty years earlier [around 130AD] **Papias**, bishop of Hieropolis in Asia Minor, wrote, “Matthew compiled the sayings [of the Lord] in the Aramaic [Hebrew] language, and everyone translated them as well as he could” (Explanation of the Sayings of the Lord [cited by Eusebius in History of the Church 3:39]).

Sometime after 244 the Scripture scholar Origen wrote, “Among the four Gospels, which are the only indisputable ones in the Church of God under heaven, I have learned by tradition that the first was written by **Matthew**, who was once a publican, but afterwards an apostle of Jesus Christ, and it was prepared for the converts from Judaism and published in **the Hebrew language**” (Commentaries on Matthew [cited by Eusebius in History of the Church 6:25]).

Eusebius himself declared that “**Matthew had begun by preaching to the Hebrews**, and when he made up his mind to go to others too, he committed his own Gospel to writing in his native tongue [Aramaic], so that for those with whom he was no longer present the gap left by his departure was filled by what he wrote” (History of the Church 3:24 [inter 300-325]).

SOURCE: <https://www.catholic.com/qa/was-matthews-gospel-first-written-in-aramaic-or-hebrew>

— There is good evidence that the writings of Matthew were first in Hebrew, then Aramaic, then Greek, - making Greek the THIRD translation.