

John 3:16 versus Exodus 3:16

John 3:16 might be one of the most often quoted versus of the New Testament . . . and for a good reason. However, it is easy to forget that a story is being told. Thanks again to www.blueletterbible.org, let's read the rest of the story . . .

Jhn 3:16 NKJV - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Jhn 3:17 NKJV - "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

Jhn 3:18 NKJV - "He who believes in Him is not condemned; **but he who does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Notice John 3:18, "he who does not believe is condemned already." How can that be? It is easy to forget, that the gospel was first and foremost, to the Jews. What could John have been talking about to his Jewish audience? Remember, salvation is of the Jews, for the Jew first and then for the Gentile, taking liberties with quotes from Jesus and Paul.

Notice, John 3:17, ". . . but that the world through Him might be saved." Remember, that the name of Jesus is found in Dr. Strong's Concordance under the Greek #2424. Remember, it is found as well under the Hebrew #3091. In both instances, the name of Jesus means, "Jehovah (Yahweh) is salvation."

Now, let's go to Exodus 3 and look at the story being told by Moses.

Exd 3:14 NKJV - And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Exd 3:15 NKJV - Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD (Jehovah or Yahweh) God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.'

Exd 3:16 NKJV - "Go and gather the elders of Israel together, and say to them, 'The LORD (Jehovah or Yahweh) God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, appeared to me, saying, "I have surely visited you and seen what is done to you in Egypt;

Remember, we have already established that Jesus of Nazareth is the "LORD God" of the 'Old Testament.' Read or re-read the "Gospel of Thomas as recorded by John and the Gospel of Paul," if you are not convinced.

John is telling his Jewish audience that "he who does not believe is condemned already" because they have not believed in the "LORD God" who appeared to Moses in the "burning bush" narrative of Exodus 3. John is telling his Jewish audience that Jesus, "Jehovah or Yahweh is salvation" has already condemned them for not believing in Him before He was born of a virgin in Bethlehem.

Let me phrase this another way, "For God (Father) so loved the world that He sent His only begotten son, the LORD (Jehovah or Yahweh) God, to the children of Israel in the wilderness that they might believe in His only son and have life everlasting." The Jews of the first century were being offered a better covenant, a new covenant, sealed not in the blood of animals as required by the Lawgiver, but sealed in the blood of the Lawgiver Himself.

The Gentiles were never excluded from the "Old Covenant" but they just had to be circumcised according to Moses and submit to the Torah, just like the Jews. Now, "all flesh," Jew or Gentile could be saved by a "better covenant." Remember, Jeremiah 32:27, "Behold, I am the LORD (Yahweh or Jehovah), the God of "all flesh." Is there anything too hard for Me?"

Let's go back to the story being told in Exodus 3 and 4. To paraphrase, Moses is sent to the elders and the people to tell them about the LORD God. He is not convinced that they will believe him. The LORD God gives him some "signs and wonders" to perform for the Hebrews. They see these "signs and wonders" and they believe . . .

Exd 4:30 NKJV - And Aaron spoke all the words which the LORD had spoken to Moses. Then he did the signs in the sight of the people.

Exd 4:31 NKJV - **So the people believed**; and when they heard that the LORD (Jehovah or Yahweh) had visited the children of Israel and that He had looked on their affliction, then **they bowed their heads and worshiped**. So, John understands who Jesus of Nazareth was and is telling the story for the benefit of the Jew first, and then the Gentile. To his Jewish audience, he is simply stating that Jesus (Strong's #G 2424) is Jehovah . . . that Jesus (Strong's #H 3091) is Yahweh or Yahveh. Jesus . . . Yehoshua . . . Yeshua . . . is their Yahweh or Yahveh and He has come to save them and not condemn them . . . He has not come to judge them.

John's message to these Observant Jews was to reinforce what they had long waited for had come to pass. What they were challenged by is that Messiah had come to save from their sins and not from the Roman oppressors. These Observant Jews would have come to understand that their sins against Yahweh their God were the root of their physical oppression by the Romans.

It was these Observant Jews, 3000 of them that were added to the 120 in Acts 2. Holy Spirit, the Spirit of the LORD (Jehovah or Yahweh) shows up and reveals "Yeshua of Nazareth" as "Yahweh of Nazareth" who had come to save them . . . If He had come to Judge them, He would have been born Jehoshaphat of Nazareth . . .

It is all about the blood of the Lawgiver . . . Yahweh . . . Jehovah . . . the LORD our Lawgiver of Isaiah 33:22,

Isa 33:22 NKJV - (For the LORD is our Judge, The LORD is our Lawgiver, The LORD is our King; He will save us); from www.blueletterbible.org.

Some jobs are too important for "ordinary men." So the LORD God who usually sent anointed but ordinary men to accomplish a task decided to become human . . . to become "flesh" so He could save "all flesh."

Too hard? No, not for the God of Jeremiah . . .