

## "God, by His grace, tasted death in the place of every person" (1905 Peshitta)

### Hebrews 2:9 variant

χαριτι θεου -Greek reading of most Greek manuscripts ("**in the grace of God**")

χωρις θεου - Greek reading of one Greek manuscript ("**without God**")

### Aramaic Peshitta

ܢܠܢ ܟܝ ܕܘܢܐ -"without God"

ܢܠܢ ܕܢܠܢܘܟܝܢܐ - "in his grace, God"

### Consider this:

ܢܠܢ ܕܢܠܢܘܟܝܢܐ - in his grace, God

ܢܠܢ ܕܢܠܢܘܟܝܢܐ -without a part of God (one space removed)

Aside from the two red letters, the two readings are very similar in appearance in this 1st century Aramaic script, found in Dead Sea Scrolls and in the Hebrew Peshier Habbakkuk scroll.

The two readings have 80% letter to letter correlation. The second reading is rather awkward, and eliminating the red letters would greatly improve and clarify the sense-"without God", at least linguistically. Theologically, this reading presents a glaring, even offensive and sacrilegious meaning to the atonement, which is the very core of Christian doctrine. The idea that God had no part in the atonement for the sins of the world is so contradictory to the rest of the revelation of God's word that it is self condemned on the face of it. "Without God" assigns the atonement to the category of the works of man, notwithstanding the fact that Jesus was a perfect and sinless man. No merely human sacrifice, no matter how good and sinless, can atone for all the sin of all mankind of all time and eternity. This is self evident.

The Nestorians who claim this reading is the original and true reading affirm that Christ's death was merely a human death, not divine. The Nestorians believe it did not involve His divine nature and qnuma (Aramaic for "person", "essence"), as God is impassible (incapable of suffering and dying). "Apart from God", for them, means that Christ's divine nature and Person had no part in His death. His sacrifice was a human one only.

This plainly contradicts all that the New Testament reveals about The Messiah Son of God. It even contradicts the Nestorians' belief that the Messiah is God. Christianity is based on the faith that Jesus The Messiah is Deity, the Son of God, and the central and second Person of the Triune Godhead. This statement must be clearly understood and considered. Christianity does not affirm merely that Jesus of Nazareth was indwelt by God; it does not affirm merely that Jesus of Nazareth had more of God's Spirit than any other person in history; it affirms that this man Yeshua Natsraya is The Lord Jehovah God of

Heaven Himself! There is no dissection or separation of His Person possible. He is the Eternal Creator and Sovereign of Heaven and the universe. Anyone that denies this cannot be a Christian, by definition.

When Paul wrote "The Christ (Messiah) died for us", and "The Messiah died for our sins", he was not dissecting Him into parts, like a human cadaver specimen, and labeling His various parts with their various functions and qualities: "This is His human qnuma; here is His divine qnuma, this is His human nature; here is His divine nature; His human spirit is here; here is the Spirit of Holiness; here is His human soul. This part is divine and incapable of suffering; this part is mortal humanity."

Yet I have seen this very thing explained by a Nestorian adherent as an explanation of his faith that Jesus' death on the cross did not involve His divine nature or Being at all. This is the grossest sacrilege and blasphemy to me, and, I believe, to most true believers and lovers of our Savior. Perhaps those who hold to this doctrine of Nestorius are innocently deceived and know and love Him truly, in spite of their indoctrination.

The Apostle Paul wrote: "Is Christ divided?" (1 Cor. 1:13) He was referring to division in the church at Corinth and asking, in effect, "Does this division exist in the church because Christ is divided?" This question is very important for us to consider and answer, especially in light of God's word to Moses: "Hear, O Israel: **The LORD our God is one LORD.**" The essential nature of The Messiah, as Deity, is unity. There is no division in Him.

**Everything that He does, He does with everything He is.** That is why our Lord said in connection with the above scripture, called "the Shema"- "**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:** this *is* the first commandment."- Mark 12:29,30

Whatever Jesus did, He did with all His heart and soul and mind and power. That is the nature of Jesus, because that is the nature of God. He made us in His image, therefore we act most consistently with our own nature and humanity when we act with all our being-heart,soul, mind and power.

Jesus did nothing half heartedly, or with half His Being or Mind. It simply is not Who He is. Of all the works He did, the greatest and most difficult was- His Great Sacrifice of His Life for the whole world- all the souls and bodies and spirits of all the peoples of all time since the beginning of the universe unto all the ages of all time and eternity to come. What, did He tell us to love God with all our Heart,soul, mind and power, and then love us with half of His, or even less than half? Did He lay down His Life in its entirety and fulness, or only His human life, which is nothing by comparison to His Divine Life? Did He shed mere human blood, or did He shed the blood of Eternal Jehovah? Did He give His body, and not His Soul and Spirit as an offering of The Eternal Love of God? *See Isaiah 53:10-12. See also Hebrews 9-*

16. For where there is a testament, it shows the death of him who made it;

17. But it is only valid concerning one who is dead, because as long as he who made it lives, there is no use for it.

*Note that a testament is another word for a will or a covenant.*

*Now consider this passage from Jeremiah 31, which is also quoted in Hebrews 10:*

Jer 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the **LORD** (Literally "**Jehovah**"), **that I will make a new covenant** with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

Jer 31:32 Not according to the **covenant** that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my **covenant** they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

Jer 31:33 But this *shall be* **the covenant that I will make** with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Putting this scripture together with the passage in Hebrews 9:16,17, which is all about this New Covenant, we see that **Jehovah Himself Who made the New Covenant (or Will & Testament) had to die in order to make it effective!**

I don't believe many Christians have fully grasped the significance of this.

**Did He give some, but not all**, as Ananias and Sapphira, who kept back part of their money when everyone else was giving all they had to the church, yet pretended to be giving all in their offering- **He who commended the poor widow who gave more than anyone**, because, though she gave only two mites (1/2 cent), yet gave all that she had, even all her living?

Whoever denies that The Lord Jesus Christ gave up all that He was and had for us, that we might live, does not truly know Him.

But that person will know Him, because He did give up all He was to save everyone of us, and He is Almighty to save.

If you read this and the light now shines upon your heart and mind from His Spirit of infinite Love, give Him praise and thanks for His Tremendous Love and Sacrifice for your eternal welfare- spirit, soul and body, and for all mankind. Scripture enjoins us to "give thanks for all men,...for Yeshua The Messiah gave Himself a ransom in the place of every person..." 1st Tim. 2:1,5,6

And then consider God His Father...("He who has seen me has seen The Father"; "The Son can do nothing but what He sees the Father doing.")

And God The Spirit of Holiness...(The Breath of The Living God, His dying Breath, and the Breath of His Resurrection)-

**"Hear O Israel, Jehovah our God, Jehovah is One."**

And become a follower of the Godhead, as a supremely loved child of God.

Amen.