

ASSOCIATE

pg. 1

"Awake, O sword, against My shepherd, and against the Man who is **My Associate** (My Companion), says the LORD of Hosts; strike the Shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered..." (Zechariah 13:7)

Associate: from the Hebrew word **amith** which means "an associate, a fellow, a relation, a companion, a friend, a neighbor. From a primitive root meaning: to associate." (Similar to the Greek word **koinonos** which means: "a sharer, a fellow, a partner, a companion; properly, a participant who mutually belongs and shares fellowship; a joint-participant.")

The supreme significance of this title of Jesus, '**My Associate**', is that it is the Father Who is calling Jesus **His Associate**; and it is the context of what the Father's prophetic command of death is towards His beloved Son. This is and always was an eternal understanding...!

It is the Father of Jesus, the Lord Jehovah of Hosts who said, "Awake, O sword, **against My Shepherd, and against the Man who is My Associate, strike the Shepherd.**" The Father Himself issues the command to put to death His intimate Associate, His precious Companion, His Only Begotten beloved Son; the One whom He has had eternal fellowship with, and through whom He created all things!

Why, why....?

"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. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes on 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. ." (John 3:16-8)

The Name of the Father's only begotten Son is **Jesus**, which means ... ad lib

Jesus Himself, during the Last Passover Supper, with His apostles, quoted in part from Zechariah 13:7:

"Then Jesus said unto them, "You will all fall away because of Me this night; for it is written, "I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered."" (Matthew 26:31)

This may very well be one of the most heartbreaking statements of the Father, concerning His Son!

Consider the story of Abraham, **who was commanded by God to slay his only begotten son Isaac as a burnt offering to God!** (ad lib - see Genesis 22:1-19)

From the command to do so, to the moment Abraham raised the knife in his hand, Abraham experienced heart anguish. So also the Father had from the moment Jesus was born; perhaps even from the beginning of time. The difference is that God intervened and stopped Abraham from killing his beloved son; But, the Father **did not** intervene in the crucifixion and death of His only begotten Beloved Son, His intimate eternal companion!

At some moment in the early life of Jesus, as He continued to grow in strength, and in the fullness of wisdom (Luke 2:40), and in the business of His Father (Luke 2:49), He became aware of His prophetic future with the Cross. **He realized that He was the Shepherd who would be slain** (Matthew 26:31). During His ministry years, with His intimate Associate, His Father in heaven, He humbled Himself and set His mind towards this calling: as it says:

ASSOCIATE

pg. 2

"Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; but made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Himself the form of a bond-servant, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (Philippians 2:6-8)

When the hour of His destiny arrived, His human nature said to His intimate Associate, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me;" but His Devine nature said, "**yet not My will, but Yours be done.**" Although the agony in the garden was shared by both the Son and the Father; the Father did not remove the 'cup' of sacrificial death on the cross from His dearly beloved Son. For the joy set before Him, really them, they both endured the agony in the garden, and the agony of scouraging, and agony of the Cross, and the anguish of Separation! For then, for a moment in time eternal, the Father forsook Jesus, and severed His intimate association with His dying Son. And Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46, Psalm 22:1) We can only wonder if the Father ever revealed to His Son, that He would forsake Him, in such a manner, as He hung dying on the Cross. Why did the Father forsake His dearly beloved Son, while He hung there dying on the cross? Why???

Consider these verses:

"For He (the Father) has made Him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him." (2 Corinthians 5:21)

"...and He Himself (Jesus) bore our sins in His own body on the cross, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes you, (we) were healed." (1 Peter 2:24)

"So Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many; and unto those who look forward to Him, He shall appear the second time without sin, for salvation." (Hebrews 9:28)

There is only one thing that caused the the Father to briefly forsake His association with His Son Jesus: Sin - **'My Sin', 'Our Sin'** which Jesus took upon Himself on the Cross!

Now consider these verses:

Jesus "Who being the brightness of His (the Father's) glory, and the Exact Image of His (the Father's) person, and upholding all things by the Word of His power, when He had by Himself (on the Cross) purged our sins, sat down on the Right Hand of the Majesty on High." (Hebrews 1:3) – Praise to You Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

"Therefore,...let us run the race set before us, looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our Faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2) - Praise to You Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

Jesus is...

...God's Associate

... the Father's close and intimate Companion,
Crucified on the Cross for the forgiveness of our sins,
by His Father's decree.

Jesus now sits at the Right Hand of the throne of the Majesty on High,
interceding 'for us' Always and always; Forever and ever! Amen!!

All Praise and Honor and Glory to the Father and the Son - always and forever!