

Week 2 Correction

I made a few mistakes about God as Father in the Old Testament and I want to correct them right away. I appreciate hearing from you about this!

Malachi 2:10 is one of the places where in my opinion the general statement: “Have we not all one father” in context refers to Abraham. It’s safe to say that one of the definitions of the people of Israel is that they have one father, literally by blood. “Was not Abraham our father” *James 2:21*.

I was wrong about *Isaiah 63:16*, where the prophet is addressing God and says “You are our Father.” In the Hebrew OT the word for “Our Father” is the compound *avenu*. In the Septuagint Greek translation, before the NT, the words for “Our Father” are *pater emon*.” (In this biblical Greek, or koine, the word for father in Greek and contemporary Latin is the same *pater*, and survives in a common English word for the Lord’s Prayer, the paternoster—Our Father). So there is no doubt here, and no problem of translation; at least one time in the OT God is addressed as Father. The general conclusion that God is referred to as Father many more times in the NT as Father remains valid.