

THE TRUTH ABOUT ONE GOD

Biblical and Historical Proof

From the "dark ages" of Christendom, brought about by the theories and ideas of men, utter confusion has been left in the minds of people concerning the truth about one God. Without the knowledge of the truth, which only comes to an honest heart by divine revelation, many have misunderstood the manifestations of God, and have tried to form three Persons, or Deities. Do not be confused by false, powerless, man-made doctrines. Learn the truth about this important subject.

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is ONE LORD" (Deut. 6:4). This commandment given to Israel is confirmed in the New Testament (Mark 12:29), and must be obeyed by all Christians today. "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble" (James 2:19).

"God is a Spirit..." (John 4:24). "No man hath seen God at any time..." (John 1:18). God, the invisible Spirit, has only revealed Himself to man by manifestations. Although there are many manifestations of God, the Scriptures teach that there are basically three offices or positions in which God has manifested Himself. God was manifested as the Father in creation, the Son in incarnation, and the Holy Ghost in emanation.

GOD MANIFESTED AS THE FATHER IN CREATION

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). No one else but God performed the miracle of creation. And God said, "Let us make man in our image..." (Gen. 1:26). To use the word "us" and try to form other Gods in the creation, clashes not only with the Scriptures, but with common sense. The word God means Supreme Being, the eternal and infinite Spirit, Creator and Sovereign of the universe. There cannot be more than one Supreme Being. By no means was God talking or counseling with other Gods. He was counseling with His own will (Eph. 1:11). In the creation of man, God, the eternal Spirit, foresaw the image or the Son In which He would some day reveal Himself to man. The Son did not exist at the creation in bodily form, but only in the mind of God. "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law" (Gal. 4:4). The Son, who is the image of God, was made thousands of years after the creation. Also God spoke of things which be not as though they were (Rom. 4:17). "So God created man in HIS OWN IMAGE" (Gen. 1:27). "Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of Him that was to come" (Rom. 5:14). God, referring to the Sonship, made Adam in the figure of Him that was to come.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" (John 1:1). The Word cannot be separated from God. The term "Word" is derived from the Greek term "logos" which means "thought or plan". God's thoughts are with Him, but they cannot be separated from Him. "The Word was with God, and the WORD WAS GOD." "All things were made by Him (Word); and without Him (Word) was not anything made that was made" (John 1:3). "...The worlds were framed by the Word of God..." (Heb. 11:3). So by His Word, God created all things.

"Thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God Himself that formed the earth and made it... I am the LORD; and there is NONE ELSE" (Isa. 45:18). "...I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens ALONE; that spreadeth abroad the earth BY MYSELF" (Isa. 44:24). "...Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any" (Isa. 44:8). "See now that I, even I, am He, and there is NO GOD WITH ME..." (Deut. 32:39). "Have we not all ONE Father? Hath not ONE God created us? ..." (Mal. 2:10).

GOD MANIFESTED AS THE SON IN INCARNATION

The incarnation is the union of Divinity with humanity in Christ. It is the state of being clothed with flesh (Webster).

The purpose of the incarnation is to provide a blood sacrifice without sin for the redemption of man. Without shedding of blood there is no remission of sins (Heb. 9:22). So by His Word (plan), God, the invisible Spirit, made Himself a body born of the virgin Mary, and dwelt among us. He became God incarnate in man. "And the Word (which was God) was made flesh, and dwelt among us..." (John 1:14). This body was the only begotten Son, or image, of God. Paul said that the Son is the image (body) of the invisible God (Col. 1:13-15).

The Sonship was planned from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8) and prophesied as early as Gen 3:15. Hundreds of years later Isaiah prophesied, "...Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and

shall call His name Immanuel...which being interpreted is, GOD WITH US" (Is. 7:14; Matt. 1:23). "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting FATHER, The Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6). To Joseph the angel said, "...thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins...and he called His name JESUS" (Mat. 1:21-25). Fosset's Bible Encyclopedia declares that Jesus means JHVH-Salvation, or JHVH is become Saviour.

The name Jesus was not revealed until God made Himself a body. Until then He was called JHVH. For example:

JHVH-Jireh - The Lord provides (Gen. 22:14).
JHVH-Rapha - The Lord that healeth (Exod. 15:26).
JHVH-Nissi - The Lord is our banner (Exod. 17:15).
JHVH-Shalom - The Lord our peace (Judges 6:24).
JHVH-Ra-ah - The Lord is my shepherd (Psa. 23).
JHVH-Tsidkenu - The Lord our righteousness (Jer. 23:6).
JHVH-Shammah - The Lord is present (Ezek. 48:35).

When God made Himself a body to redeem man from sin, He then was called JESUS - JHVH-Salvation. Jesus is the saving name of God. "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

Zechariah prophesied, "...In that day (day of salvation) shall there be ONE LORD, and HIS NAME ONE" (Zec. 14:9). "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow...and that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord..." (Phil. 2:9-11).

The angel announced, "For unto you is born...a Saviour, which is CHRIST THE LORD" (Luke 2:11). Throughout the Old Testament God is also called the Lord. Compare the following:

The Lord God is the Creator (Isa. 42:5).
The Lord Jesus is the Creator (John 1:3, 10).
The Lord God said, "I am He" (Isa. 43:10).
The Lord Jesus said, "I am He" (John 8:24).
The Lord God is the only Saviour (Isa. 43:10,11).
The Lord Jesus is the Saviour (Titus 1:4).
The Lord God shall reign forever (Psa. 146:10).
The Lord Jesus shall reign forever (Luke 1:33).
The Lord God is the King of Israel (Isa. 43:15).
The Lord Jesus is the King of Israel (Matt. 27:37).
The Lord God is the First and the Last (Isa. 44:6).
The Lord Jesus is the First and the Last (Rev. 1:8).
The Lord God is Almighty (Gen. 17:1).
The Lord Jesus is Almighty (Rev. 1:8).

There is only one Lord (Eph. 4:5). When Paul was struck down on the road to Damascus, he cried, "Who art thou, Lord?" And the Lord said, "I AM JESUS" (Acts 9:5). When Thomas acknowledged who Jesus was, he said, "MY LORD and MY GOD" (John 20:28). Beyond a shadow of a doubt the Lord God JHVH of the Old Testament is the Lord Jesus Christ of the New Testament!

Jesus confirmed that He was not a separate Person, but God manifested in the flesh. Jesus said unto Philip, "...He that hath seen me hath seen the Father...The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself; but the Father that DWELLETH IN ME, He doeth the works...Believe me that I am in the Father, and the FATHER IN ME..." (John 14:9-11). Jesus simply stated, "I and My Father are ONE (not two)" (John 10:30).

Jesus emphasized the importance of His identity as He taught the people in the temple. He said, "...For if ye believe not that I AM HE, ye shall die in your sins...They understood not that He spake to them of the FATHER" (John 8:24-27).

When Jesus was baptized by John in Jordan River, the voice of God spoke, "This is my beloved Son, IN WHOM I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17). Notice, God said, "IN WHOM" - -not with whom! "To wit, that GOD WAS IN CHRIST, reconciling the world unto Himself..." (2 Cor. 5:19).

As Stephen was facing death, he saw Jesus standing on the right hand of God (Acts 7:55). The term "right hand" does not form a part of another Person or Deity. It is symbolic of the power and authority of God. Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28:18). Paul said that Christ is the power and the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24). Note the following symbolical uses of the term "right hand" as correlated to power and authority:

"My right hand hath spanned the heavens" (Isa. 48:13).
God led Israel by the right hand of Moses (Isa. 63:12).
"The right hand of the Lord is exalted" (Psa. 118:16).
"Thy right hand shall save me" (Psa. 138:7).
"Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the POWER OF GOD" (Luke 22:69). (Also Mark 14:62.)

The question may be asked, "Is Jesus in the Godhead, or is the Godhead in Jesus?" If the Godhead is in Jesus, there can only be one person. The Bible clearly states, "For IN HIM (Christ) DWELLETH all the FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY. And ye are COMPLETE IN HIM, which is the HEAD OF ALL PRINCIPALITY AND POWER" (Co. 2:9, 10). So there is only ONE PERSON in which the Godhead is manifested, because the GODHEAD IS IN JESUS!

In Jesus Christ, two wills or natures are portrayed: a human will and a Divine will. He was man (flesh) and He was God (Spirit). As man He prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, "O my Father...not as I WILL, but as THOU WILT" (Matt. 26:39). Also He cried out on the cross, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46). Certainly these Scriptures do not imply that Jesus Christ is a separate Person or Deity with the Father. For Deity does not pray to Deity! Furthermore, deity cannot die! So as man, Jesus Christ prayed in His human nature to His Divine nature. Because, in His human nature, the flesh did not want to die, but He knew the will of the Spirit must be done. Also at Calvary He cried out in His human nature to His Divine nature; and when the Spirit left the body, He fulfilled His human role of death. As man, He was hungry, He slept, He became weary, He wept, He increased in wisdom and stature, He prayed, and He died. (See Matt. 4:2, Matt. 8:24, John 4:6, John 11:35, Luke 2:52, Matt. 26:39, Matt. 27:50.) As God, He healed the sick, He cast out devils, He raised the dead, He calmed the sea. He forgave sins, He answered prayer, and He arose from the grave. (See Matt. 4:23, Luke 8:35, John 11:43, 44, Mark 4:39, Mark 2:5, John 14:14, John 2:19-21.) Jesus Christ said, "I can of mine own self (human nature) do nothing... (John 5:30) ...but the FATHER that DWELLETH IN ME (Divine nature), HE doeth the works (John 14:10)." As man, He even expressed His limited knowledge (Mark 13:32); but as God, He knew all things (John 21:17). Compare the following titles which also portray the dual nature of Jesus Christ:

DIVINE

Everlasting Father (Isa. 9:6)
Chief Shepherd (1 Pet. 5:4)
King of Kings (Rev. 17:14)
Lord God (John 20:28)
The Almighty (Rev. 1:8)

HUMAN

Son of Man (Luke 9:22)
Lamb (1 Pet. 1:19)
Servant (Phil. 2:7)
High Priest (Heb. 2:17)
Mediator (1 Tim. 2:5)

"Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the

Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (1 Tim. 3:16). How clearly brought out is this glorious truth that Jesus Christ was God manifested in the flesh. He became God incarnate in man, Spirit in body to bring redemption to man.

GOD MANIFESTED AS THE HOLY GHOST IN EMANATION

God, the eternal Spirit, is "Omni-present" - everywhere at the same time. His Substance fills heaven and earth (Jer. 23:24). The only way God can manifest Himself in the hearts of people today is by the process of emanation. To emanate is to issue forth from a source. As the Holy Spirit, God is issuing forth from His Substance to fill the hearts of people today.

The Holy Spirit cannot be separated from the Father, for it is a part of His Substance. That which was conceived in the virgin Mary was of the Holy Ghost (Matt. 1:20). The truth becomes evident that the Holy Spirit is the Father of the Son. To try to separate the Father and the Holy Spirit and form two Persons, would give the Son two Fathers, which is impossible. Definitely the Father and the Holy Spirit are the same Spirit.

There is only ONE SPIRIT (Eph. 4:4). "For by ONE SPIRIT are we all baptized into one body..." (1 Cor. 12:13). The Bible proves that the ONE Spirit is the Holy Ghost. "This spake He (Jesus) of the SPIRIT, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the HOLY GHOST was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified" (John 7:39).

The Bible proves that the ONE Spirit is the Father. "There is but ONE GOD, the FATHER..." (1 Cor. 8:6). "GOD (the Father) is a SPIRIT..." (John 4:24).

The Bible proves that the ONE Spirit is Jesus. There is ONE LORD JESUS CHRIST (1 Cor. 8:6). "Now the LORD (Jesus) is that SPIRIT..." (2 Cor. 3:17).

"There are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are ONE" (1 John 5:7).

By no means did Jesus teach that the Holy Ghost was another Person. Jesus said, "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, He shall teach you all things..." (John 14:26). Again Jesus said, "...if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you" (John 16:7). Also Jesus said, "I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you" (John 14:18). Compare John 14:26 with John 16:7; Jesus spoke of the Father and Himself as ONE. Compare John 14:26 with John 14:18. Jesus spoke of the Holy Ghost and Himself as ONE. If the Father and Jesus are one, and Jesus and the Holy Ghost are one: then the Father, Jesus and Holy Spirit are ONE. (Also the following Scriptures show that the Father, Jesus and the Holy Ghost are ONE: Matt. 10:20, Mark 13:11, Luke 21:15.)

A Trinitarian concept contends that the Father, Son and Holy Ghost are one in holiness, love, glory, wisdom and eternal power; but, three in Person. No Scripture can be found to support such a concept. Note the following:

His holiness (not their holiness - Psa. 47:8)

His love (not their love - Rom. 5:8)

My glory (not our glory - Isa. 42:8)

The only wise God (not the wise three - 1 Tim. 1:17)

His eternal power (not their eternal power - Rom. 1:20)

The term persons (plural) used in reference to God does violence to the oneness of God. "I am the Lord...and my glory will I not give to another" (Isa. 42:8). The Bible proves that God is ONE IN PERSON. John declared, "...I was in the Spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and ONE sat on the throne" (Rev. 4:2).

When the Holy Ghost came on the day of Pentecost, 120 disciples were filled and began to speak with tongues as the SPIRIT gave them utterance (Acts 2:4). Peter preached that the Holy Ghost was the Spirit of God. As he used the prophecy of Joel 2:28, he said, "It shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of MY SPIRIT upon all flesh..." (Acts 2:17).

Paul used the terms "Spirit of God" and "Spirit of Christ" as synonymous terms in reference to the Holy Spirit. He said, "Ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the SPIRIT OF GOD dwell in you.

Now if any man have not the SPIRIT OF CHRIST, he is none of His" (Rom. 8:9). (Also Col. 1:27, Gal. 4:6.)

There is ONE GOD and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and IN YOU ALL (Eph. 4:6). There is only ONE GOD manifested in the flesh and received in the hearts of believers.

History also proves that the truth about one God was universally preached by the New Testament Church for many years after Christ, until the development of the "Trinity" doctrine by the Roman Catholic Church.

The doctrine of the "Trinity did not form part of the apostles' preaching, as this is reported in the New Testament (Encyclopedia International, 1982 Edition, Vol. 18, p. 226).

The first use of the Latin word "trinitas" (trinity) with reference to God, is found in Tertulian's writings (about 213 A.D.). He was the first to use the term "persons" (plural) in a Trinitarian context (New Catholic Encyclopedia, 1977 Edition, Vol. 13, p. 1021).

The word "Trinity" is not in Scripture. The term "persons" (plural) is not applied in Scripture to the Trinity (Encyclopedia Americana, 1957 Edition, Vol. 27, p. 69).

Belief in Father, Son and Holy Ghost was first defined by the earliest general council of churches. This was the First Council of Nicaea in 325 A. D. (World Book Encyclopedia, 1987 Edition, Vol. T, p. 363). (For Nicene Creed see Encyclopedia Americana, 1992 Edition, Vol. 20, p. 310.)

The Trinity doctrine - The Catholic Faith is this: We Worship one in trinity, but there is one person of the Father, another of the Son and another of the Holy Ghost - The Glory equal; the Majesty coeternal. The doctrine is not found in its fully developed form in the Scriptures. Modern theology does not seek to find it in the Old Testament. At the time of the Reformation, the Protestant Churches took over the doctrine of the Trinity without serious examination (New International Encyclopedia, 1916 Edition, Vol. 22, p. 476, 477). The Catholics made this statement concerning their doctrine of the Trinity, to defend the dogma of the assumption of Mary, in an article written by Graham Greene: "Our opponents sometimes claim that no belief should be held dogmatically which is not explicitly stated in Scripture...But the PROTESTANT CHURCHES have themselves accepted such dogmas as THE TRINITY, for which there is NO SUCH PRECISE AUTHORITY in the Gospels" (Life Magazine, October 30, 1950, Vol. 29, No. 18, p. 51).

You will find no record that the New Testament Church ever believed or taught the doctrine of the Trinity. For the Scriptures prove that the Father, Son and Holy Ghost are only manifestations (not three Persons) of the ONE GOD; and God is ONE IN PERSON. In Creation God was manifested as the Father (Invisible Spirit - John 1:18, 4:24); in incarnation God was manifested as the Son (Spirit in body - Col. 1:13-15, 2:9); and in emanation God was and is being manifested as the Holy Ghost (Spirit in believers - Acts 2:4, 17, Rom. 8:9, Eph. 4:6).

Honest hearts, receive the truth! There is only ONE Supreme Being: the eternal, omni-present Spirit; sovereign Creator of the universe, and Saviour of man. God said, "...Before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the Lord; and beside me there is no Saviour" (Isa. 43:10-11). "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God and there is NONE ELSE" (Isa. 45:22). "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, THE ALMIGHTY" (Rev. 1:8). "...In that day shall there be ONE LORD, and His NAME ONE" (Zec. 14:9). And every tongue shall confess that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD (Phil. 2:11).

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