



# A Biblical Study Of The Godhead

## *Champions In Christ*

***5284 Avery Rd. Dublin, Ohio 43016 614.771.6777***

***www.ColumbusChurch.com Pastor Eric D. Smith***

©2004 Eric Smith

---

**LESSON #1** **5**

<b>WHY A STUDY OF THE GODHEAD?</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>GODHEAD THEORIES</b>	<b>5</b>
THEORY 1	5
THEORY 2	5
THEORY 2	6
THEORY 3	6
<b>WHO, WHAT AND WHERE IS GOD?</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>GOD IS A SPIRIT</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>GOD IS OMNIPRESENT (EVERYWHERE)</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>GOD IS INVISIBLE</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>GOD IS IMMORTAL (EVERLASTING, CANNOT DIE)</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>THE GLORY OF GOD</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>COMPARING SCRIPTURES OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>JESUS AS THE FATHER</b>	<b>15</b>

---

**LESSON #2** **20**

<b>AGREEING IN ONE</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>THE NAME OF THE ONE COMING BACK</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>THE KING, THE FIRST AND THE LAST</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>PROPHECIES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT FULFILLED</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>THE CONTROVERSIES OF THE GODHEAD</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE...</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE...</b>	<b>29</b>
ELOHIM	29
THE MEANING OF ONE	31
THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD	31
WHO WAS JESUS PRAYING TO?	33



## Lesson #1

### Why a Study of the Godhead?

#### Romans 1:20

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Romans 1:20 explains the purpose of having a Godhead study. The Godhead is without excuse, and we must understand this in order to receive the full revelation of who God is.

#### Godhead theories

There are basically three theories of the Godhead as it relates to Christianity. We will look at each of these theories before we actually start reading the Word of God. Then, as we read Scripture, we can see which theory the Word of God supports.

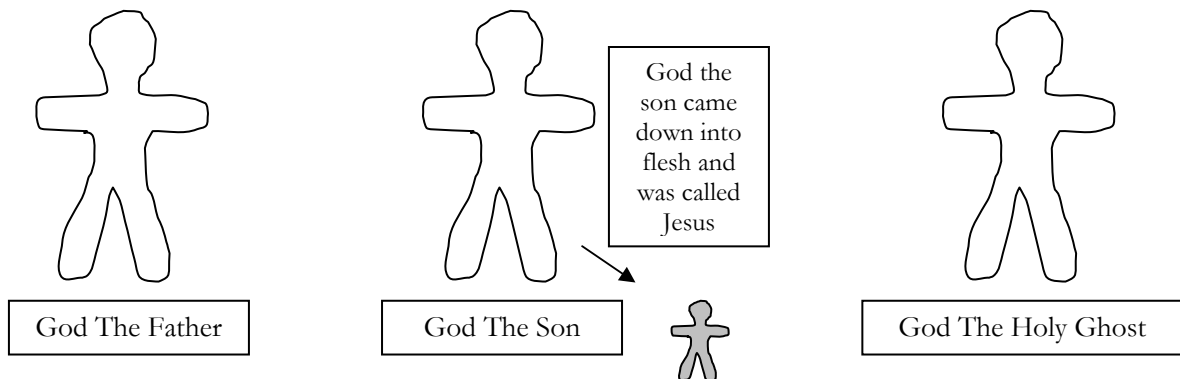
##### Theory 1

1. The first theory is one that many people are familiar with – the Trinity. This belief basically states that there are three co-equal, co-eternal persons or beings that make up one God. Though there may be some variations of belief among different denominations, the basic terms used define the Godhead as follows:

\*God consists of three persons, each of these persons have the same amount of power, and therefore, the term co-equal.

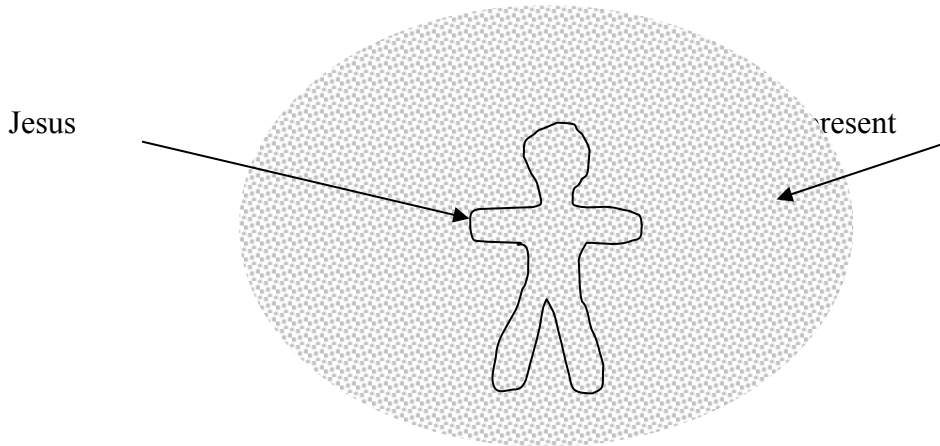
\*Each of these persons in the Godhead have always existed throughout eternity, and always will exist.

\*The second person of this Godhead left Heaven and came down to the earth to dwell in an earthly body.



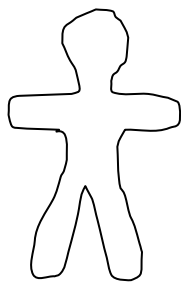
### Theory 2

2. The next theory of the Godhead can be labeled as Oneness. This belief basically states that there is one God, which is a Spirit. This Spirit created a human body through a virgin birth and then that Spirit dwelt in that human body to bring redemption to mankind. Basic Biblical terms such as Father, Spirit, Holy Ghost, and God, all refer to Deity. Biblical terms such as Son, flesh, Man, and Lamb refer to humanity. Jesus is both humanity and Deity at the same time.



### Theory 3

3. The third theory of the Godhead can be viewed as having two Gods. This belief basically states that there is God Almighty, whose name is Jehovah, and Jesus was a man born in this earth that possesses some deity, but is not Jehovah. He could be labeled as only a mighty god who lived upon this earth. This type of theory is what the Jehovah's Witnesses hold.



Jehovah - God the Father



Jesus - a god on Earth

These are the three basic theories that Christianity has accepted over the years. The first thing that we must establish, is the Word of God should be the basis for all establishment of TRUTH.

**John 17:17** Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Let's turn now to the Bible to see which theory the Word of God supports.

## **WHO, WHAT AND WHERE IS GOD?**

### **God is a spirit**

John 4:23-24

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Since God is a Spirit, when you see the term “God”, it is referring to a Spirit.

### **Acts 7:48-49**

48 Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet,

49 Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?

God is not a little figure or a person off in Heaven somewhere. God is a Spirit that fills Heaven and earth, since Heaven is His throne and the earth is His footstool.

## **GOD IS OMNIPRESENT (Everywhere)**

### **Ps 139:7-10**

7 Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

8 If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.

9 If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea;

10 Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.

Again, God is a Spirit that is everywhere. You cannot hide from God.

### **I King 8:27**

27 But will God indeed dwell on the earth? behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?

The heaven and the heavens of heavens cannot contain God. Why? Because God is everywhere.

**Deut 4:35, 39**

35 Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him.

39 Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD\* he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none else.

The LORD, He is God. There is none else beside Him.

\*The term “LORD” when used in all capitals always refers to Jehovah.

Verse 39 – Only one God that is in Heaven above and the earth beneath.

That one God, or Spirit, is everywhere.

**Prov 15:3**

3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

The eyes of the LORD are everywhere (omnipresent). You cannot make God (Spirit) out to be human, or He would be all eyes according to this scripture. It is simply saying that He is an omnipresent Spirit.

**Jer 23:24**

24 Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

You cannot hide from the LORD. He fills heaven and the earth. If the LORD Jehovah is speaking here, and He says that there is only one, where are the other two? We are establishing the fact, not the theory, that there is only one God, and that He is a Spirit.

**GOD IS INVISIBLE****John 1:18**

18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

No man has seen God at any time. Some say that Moses saw the hinder part of God. The scripture said in Exo. 33:22, that God passed by and allowed Moses to see the back parts of God. In other words, the glory of God that still lingered after the Spirit withdrew Himself. God has manifested Himself many times though. He was in the burning bush, as a dove, etc., but you cannot see the Spirit itself, because it is invisible, and no man has ever seen it.

### **Col 1:14-15**

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Jesus is the image of the invisible God. He is all of God that we can ever see.

### **GOD IS IMMORTAL (Everlasting, Cannot Die)**

#### **1 Tim 1:17**

17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Immortal means God (the Spirit) can never die. This is important to know so you can understand about the crucifixion of Jesus.

### **THE GLORY OF GOD**

#### **1 Tim 6:14-16**

14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

This is an interesting passage of scripture. It talks of the second coming of Jesus. It speaks of the King of kings and the Lord of lords. It speaks of His immortality. Then it speaks of Jesus dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto. This is referring to the GLORY of God. Again it is mentioned that no man hath seen, nor can see. Moses was not allowed to see God, only manifestations of God. Once in the Old Testament, Moses came down from speaking with God and his face glowed from just being near God's GLORY, and the Israelites were afraid (Exo. 34:29). Moses ended up putting a vail over his face until the glow faded away. God will never cease to be an omnipresent Spirit, so the only way that we will ever see God is in the face of Jesus Christ.

#### **Rev 21:22-23**

22 And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.

23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

Here we can see in eternity that the glory of God is the brightness that lights up all of Heaven, but that brightness is coming from Jesus. This would be a similar the light that comes from a light bulb. You can see the bulb itself, but the brightness of the light emanating throughout the room is what drives the darkness out.

**John 1:14**

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

When Jesus was made flesh, the glory of the Father was seen.

**Eph 4:4-6**

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

One God and one Spirit (refer to chart). There is one God who is through all and in you all. That is why the Spirit in you is called the Holy Ghost, but also Christ in you. There are three offices of God, but not three Gods.

Father – Spirit as creator and ruler.

Son – Flesh in which the Spirit dwelt, making Him God.

Holy Ghost – Spirit of God, as it deals with man.

(I am a father, a son and a husband, three offices, but not three persons.)

**Mark 12:29-37**

29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

30 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.

31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

32 And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he:

33 And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

34 And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.

35 And Jesus answered and said, while he taught in the temple, How say the scribes that Christ is the Son of David?

36 For David himself said by the Holy Ghost, The LORD said to my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool.

37 David therefore himself calleth him Lord; and whence is he then his son? And the common people heard him gladly.

The first commandment: The Lord our God is One Lord. After quoting scripture that there would be only one Lord, Jesus quotes from Psalm 110:1 to the Jews and asks them how the Messiah was going to be David's son and David's Lord at the same time. The flesh that was born of Mary was of David's lineage, yet the Spirit that was to dwell inside of the flesh was the God of David. Hence, Jesus was both David's Lord and his son. The God that David prayed to was the same God that dwelt inside that human body.

### **1 Tim 3:16**

16 And 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.

God (Deity) was manifest in the flesh. Yet, only in the flesh, could the other statements made here be possible.

### **2 Cor 5:19**

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

Once again, remember the terms. God (Deity) was in Christ, changing the world into something that He could accept unto Himself.

### **John 3:34-35**

34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

35 The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

The Spirit in Christ was given without measure. If the Son was a co-equal God, why would He have to give anything from the Father? But the Son referred to the flesh who had to have the Spirit of God in Him to be able to do the works of His Father. Now the question comes up, who was the Father of Jesus?

### **Matt 1:18-25**

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily.

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

Mary was overshadowed by the Holy Ghost, making Jesus the Son of the Holy Ghost. So, if the Holy Ghost and the Father are two separate, co-equal persons, then Jesus is either the Son of the Holy Ghost, or He has two fathers. We realize from this that these terms refer to only offices of the one Spirit of God. The Spirit of God is called here the Holy Ghost because it is dealing with man.

Verse 21: His name shall be called "Jesus" which means "Jehovah has become our salvation." An angel named Him, not Joseph.

Verse 23: Jesus was God (Spirit) with us.

## COMPARING SCRIPTURES OF THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS

The following are scriptural comparisons, concerning the prophecies about Jehovah of the Old Testament being fulfilled by Jesus in the New Testament, thereby proving Jehovah and Jesus are the same.

There are several attributes about God that we have already seen and will see continually in scripture. Some of these are as follows:

1. A Spirit
2. Everywhere
3. Immortal – Eternal
4. One Spirit – One God
5. Only Saviour – One Saviour
6. Only King – One King
7. Only Redeemer – One Redeemer
8. The First and the Last
9. Only Creator
10. Jesus claimed to be all these as God.

### **Isa 43:3, 10-15, 25**

3 For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee.

10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

11 I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

12 I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God.

13 Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?

14 Thus saith the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans, whose cry is in the ships.

15 I am the LORD, your Holy One, the creator of Israel, your King.

25 I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

Jehovah is the Holy One and the Saviour. There is no Saviour other than this one God that is speaking in these scriptures, so when the Saviour comes to this world, we should know who He is. These terms such as Redeemer, Holy One, Saviour, Creator, and King, are all terms that are applied to Jesus in the New Testament.

#### **Isa 44:6, 8, 24**

6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

8 Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.

24 Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself; Again, He is the LORD, King, Redeemer, the First and the Last, and beside Him there is NO GOD.

Verse 8: If there is another God, Jehovah does not know about it.

Verse 24: He is the God that made all things, created the Heavens and earth alone, by Himself, and there was no other God with Him.

#### **Isa 45:5-6, 15, 18**

5 I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else.

15 Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour.

18 For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.

All these scriptures simply re-emphasize the fact that there is only one God that is the Saviour and Creator, and there is no other God beside Him.

**Isa 45:21-24**

21 Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.

22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

24 Surely, shall one say, in the LORD have I righteousness and strength: even to him shall men come; and all that are incensed against him shall be ashamed.

He is the only God and Saviour there is, and unto Him every knee will bow and every tongue will confess.

**Isa 48:11-12**

11 For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? and I will not give my glory unto another.

12 Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last.

Later, we will see scriptures where Jesus is called the first and the last, but see here how Jehovah declares that His Glory will remain upon Himself.

**Phil 2:9-11**

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The name of Jesus is above every name, and at the name of Jesus, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. This is the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah. It proves that Jesus is the one God of the Old Testament. Notice the terms used here also. Verse 9: God (Spirit) exalted him (the flesh that He is using to bring redemption). Verse 11: Every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Spirit).

## **JESUS AS THE FATHER**

### **Isa 9:6-7**

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

The son to be born is referred to as the Mighty God, and the Everlasting FATHER, which proves again that Jesus is the one God of the Old Testament that came in human flesh to redeem man from the penalty for sin through the death of His flesh on Calvary.

### **John 3:13**

13 And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven.

Jesus was on the earth talking to Nicodemus, yet He said He was in heaven also. This statement shows that is referring to the God that is everywhere (Deity) that lives in His flesh. Not a separate person, but the same one Spirit of an omnipresent God.

### **1 Cor 8:4-6**

4 As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is none other God but one.

5 For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,)

6 But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

There is but one God, the Father (term "Father" as pertaining to God always refers to the omnipresent Spirit) and there is one Lord Jesus Christ. Now look at the next scripture.

### **2 Cor 3:17**

17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

When compared with the previous scripture, this shows that Jesus is the same one God as the Father (Spirit).

### **John 10:30-31**

30 I and my Father are one.

31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

How are they one? When the Spirit was put in the flesh, they became one person. He was fully God and fully man in one person. This statement made the Jews to try to kill Him because they could not accept Him as the one God of the Old Testament. Their rejection of Him as God eventually resulted in their being cut off because of unbelief, and God turning to the Gentiles to take out a people for His Name's sake.

### **John 14:5-11**

5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

11 Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake.

Jesus told the disciples from henceforth you know the Father and have seen Him. Since the Father is an invisible Spirit that no man can see, then how could the statement that Jesus made be true? Philip asked to see the Father and it would satisfy him. Jesus seemed surprised that He had been so long with Philip and Philip still had not recognized that Jesus was the Father. He let Philip know that when you see Jesus, you have seen the Father. He then revealed that it was the Father (Spirit) that was in Him who was doing the works of the Spirit.

### **John 8:24-27**

24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

25 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning.

26 I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him.

27 They understood not that he spake to them of the Father.

Jesus was speaking of the Father in all of these verse, letting them know they would die in their sins if they did not believe that He was the Father. WHY? Because they would never be baptized in His name for the remission of sins as commanded by the apostles.

## **Col 1:14-20**

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Verse 14 lets us know that the following verses are referring to Jesus. Verse 15 tells us that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. Jesus is the only physical part of God that we will ever see.

Verse 16-20 shows us that the New Testament is saying that Jesus is the Creator of all things, which means that He is the one Creator that Isaiah prophesied about saying there was no other God beside Him.

Verse 20 says that He reconciled all things unto Himself. There is no other God.

## **Col 2:8-12**

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

Paul warned against philosophy, vain deceit, tradition of men, and rudiments of the world.

Verses 9-10: The fullness of the Godhead bodily is in Jesus Christ. The body of Jesus did not contain all of the quantity of God since the Spirit still filled the heaven and the earth. But all of the fullness of the quality of God was in Jesus. We are complete in Jesus and Jesus alone, because He is the head of all principality and power. Baptism is then mentioned because this is the New Testament means of receiving the name of Jesus upon one's life.

**Matt 28:17-20**

17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Jesus did not stop people from worshipping Him. In verse 18, Jesus then says that all power was given to Him in Heaven and in earth. If He was a co-equal God, then why would He have to be given anything, but especially, why would He be given the power of the other two co-equal Gods? But here, humanity had to receive power from Deity. This is the Father setting the Son upon the throne as prophesied. We are to baptize in the name of the Father (not in the name “Father” etc.) Jesus said that He had come in His Father’s name. (John 5:43) If the apostles use the name of Jesus in baptism, then we will know that this is the correct meaning and fulfillment of this scripture.

**Acts 2:38**

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

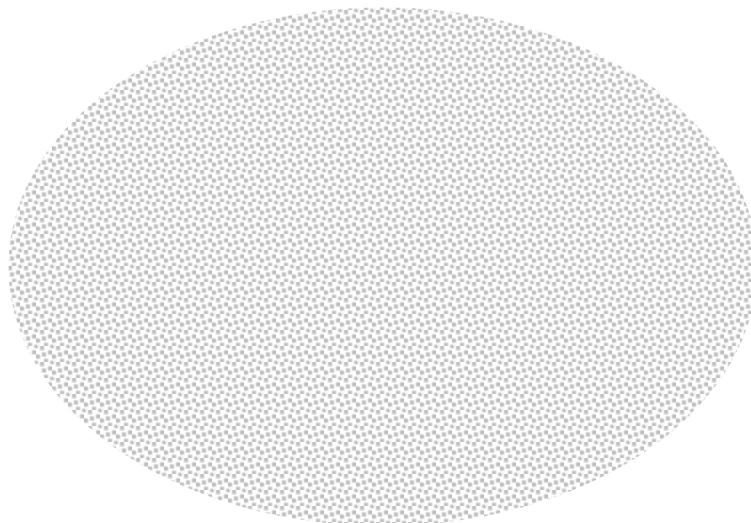
So we can see that the apostles did baptize in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins.

**Acts 4:12**

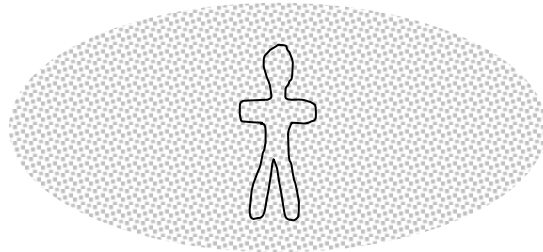
12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Jesus is the only name that will save you. And where was the name given in the plan of salvation? Baptism for the remission of sins. That is why Jesus said, “Unless you believe that I am He, ye shall die in your sins.”

Can you begin to see that God is a Spirit and that Spirit is omnipresent (everywhere). God continually spoke of only one God, and not of any other.



God's plan was to create a human body that was free from sin to dwell in, thus becoming our Saviour and our Redeemer. He allowed this body to give the ultimate sacrifice at Calvary. But it was the Spirit (the Father or Deity) that did the works through Him, and it was the words of the Spirit (the Father or Deity) that spoke through Him. Jesus continually spoke of this.



## Lesson #2

### Agreeing in one

#### **I Jn 5:5-8**

5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

6 This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth.

7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.

This is a very interesting scripture to start this lesson with. First, look at and remember the later half of verse 6. It tells us that the Spirit bears witness, because **THE SPIRIT IS TRUTH**. This will come to light in some of the scriptures that we will study next. Verse 7 tells us that there are three that bear record in Heaven. It does not say that there are three persons, but simply “three.” The three that are mentioned are the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost. Notice that the Son (flesh on the earth) was not mentioned as bearing record in Heaven. The word “Word” comes from the Greek word *logos*, and means something that is spoken or mental reasoning. It refers to the plan that God had made in Heaven. That plan did become flesh (John 1:14), but the flesh originated on this earth, born of a woman. Next notice that which is in Heaven, the verse says that these three are **ONE**. In the next verse, the three in the earth, the spirit, the water and the blood, which are three separate things, and are referred to as agreeing in one, but does not say that they are one. The trinity doctrine often refers to three separate persons who agree in unity, thereby making one God. Verses 7 & 8 show that there is a difference between being **ONE** and agreeing in one.

#### **I Jn 5:20**

20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Earlier John said that the Spirit is truth. Now he continues by saying that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. After making the statement about being in Jesus Christ, John makes the statement that Jesus Christ is the true God, and eternal life.

#### **Jer 10:10**

10 But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.

The LORD (Jehovah) of the Old Testament is stated as being the true God. Since there is only one God, the Jesus of the New Testament must be the Jehovah of the Old Testament.

## **Zechariah 14:1-5, 9**

1 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

3 Then shall the LORD go forth, and fight against those nations, as when he fought in the day of battle.

4 And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.

5 And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.

9 And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.

The LORD's feet will touch the Mount of Olives. The feet of Jesus are the only feet God has because a Spirit does not have flesh and bone.

When the LORD comes, he will be with His saints and He will have only one name.

## **Acts 1:9-12**

9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

10 And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

12 Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

When Jesus was taken up from the Mount of Olives, two angels told the apostles that this same Jesus would return in like manner. So this also confirms that Jesus will be the God whose feet would touch the Mount of Olives. And remember, He will have only ONE NAME. (Zechariah 14:9)

## **1Thes 3:12-13**

12 And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you:

13 To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.

This states that Jesus is the One coming with His saints (fulfilling the prophesy of Zechariah 14:5) proving again that Jesus is the Jehovah of the Old Testament.

## THE NAME OF THE ONE COMING BACK

### Rev 19:11-16

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Here we can see that Jesus is called the Word of God. Scripture will show the name of the Word in our next scripture reading. Also note that he is called the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords.

### John 1:1, 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Here we see that when the Word (plan of God) was made flesh, we saw the Son. Matt. 1:21 tells us that they called His name “Jesus”, which means “Jehovah has become our salvation.”

### Acts 9:5

5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

The Lord said that His name was Jesus. Paul was a monotheist Jew who only believed in one God.

## THE KING, THE FIRST AND THE LAST

### Isa 44:6

6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

The LORD is the King, and the first and the last, and beside Him, there is no God.

**Rev 1:8, 11, 17-18**

8 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.

11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Verses 8, 11 – Jesus is called the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last, the one which is, which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. Jesus is the Almighty God.

**Zech 9:9**

9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass. Israel's King will come to them riding on the colt of a donkey. We see this fulfilled in the next verses.

**Matt 21:2-9**

2 Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me.

3 And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.

4 All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying,

5 Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

6 And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them,

7 And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon.

8 And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way.

9 And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Zechariah in these verses proving that Jesus knew He was the born King of Israel.

### **1 Tim 6:14-16**

14 That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ:

15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

Jesus Christ is the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

## **PROPHECIES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT FULFILLED**

### **Isa 35:1-6**

1 The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

2 It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the LORD, and the excellency of our God.

3 Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees.

4 Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.

6 Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

He prophesied that God (remember Isaiah's other prophecies about there only being one God) would come and save them and that they would see the glory of the Lord. When this God comes, the blind would see, the deaf would hear, the lame would walk, and the dumb would talk.

### **Isa 42:5-9**

5 Thus saith God the LORD, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:

6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

8 I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.

9 Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

When He comes, He will be a light to the Gentiles, bring prisoners from the prison house, and His glory He will not give to another.

**Isa 40:3-5**

3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

Isaiah prophesies that one would come before the coming of God which will prepare the way of the LORD (Jehovah). Verse 5 tells us that the glory of the LORD will be revealed at this time.

**Matt 3:1-3**

1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

3 For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

John the Baptist fulfilled this prophecy. The next scripture shows that he was told what to look for to prove to him who this Saviour was.

**John 1:33-34**

33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.

The One that sent John did not want John to be deceived.

**Matt 3:10-17**

10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

John only had water to offer, but the LORD will baptize with the Holy Ghost.

Verse 13 says, “then cometh Jesus...”. He was the Lord for whom John was preparing the way.

### **Luke 7:19-22**

19 And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

20 When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another?

21 And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight.

22 Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.

John, in his last days, sent word from prison to ask Jesus if He was the One who was to come. Jesus simply answered him by reminding him of the fulfillment of the prophecy. The blind would see, the lame would walk...

### **THE CONTROVERSIES OF THE GODHEAD**

We realize that there are some scriptures that seem to indicate that God could be a Trinity, or more than one. However, these scriptures become clearer as to what they are teaching when they are compared with other related scriptures. The purpose of this part of the study is to answer these contentions scripturally.

### **Rev 5:1-7**

1 And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?

3 And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon.

4 And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon.

5 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

7 And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne.

Some say that this is showing at least two in Heaven because the Lamb took the book from Him who sat on the throne. This is simply showing the purpose of God's plan for coming in the flesh to redeem man. Remember terms. The Lamb is the flesh, but God is the Spirit that is on the throne and cannot die. The Lamb is called the Root of David (flesh) which was slain.

**Rev 5:9-10**

9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

This is why He is able to open the book. This is what redeemed us by blood.

**1 Tim 2:5-6**

5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

There is one God (Spirit) and one mediator between God and man, the man (flesh, Lamb) Christ Jesus. The fifth chapter of Revelation is showing this taking place in symbolic form.

**2 Cor 5:17-19**

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

This is a more literal fulfillment of what is symbolized in the fifth chapter of Revelation.

**Heb 7:24-25**

24 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

The man (flesh, Lamb) is able to make intercession to the Spirit (God on the Throne in Revelation chapter 5) for us.

**Rev 7:17**

17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

The Lamb is in the midst of the throne, which simply reveals that you cannot divide Him from the Godhead.

אלהים      וַיֹּאמֶר  
'Elohiym   Wayo'mer  
God,      said And  
430      559<sup>A</sup>

Genesis 1:26

There has been much debate concerning the word *Elohiym*, and whether it can be viewed in a pluralistic, Trinitarian sense. In the Hebrew, the word *Elohiym* has referred to other pagan gods, but when referring to the Almighty God, some have tried to say that Gen. 1:26 is referring to a plurality of persons that is doing the speaking. They point to the “*Let us make man...*” to try to show this.

וַיֹּאמְרוּ  
Wayo'm<sup>r</sup>uw  
said, they And  
559<sup>A</sup>

Genesis 9:26

Hebrew scholars have repeatedly stated that when this Hebrew word *Elohiym* is used to refer to God Almighty, that it is referring to One God with a emphasis on His Majesty. But despite the scholarly advice, some people continually point to the “*Let us*” to say that more than one persons in the Godhead were speaking. For some reason, they are referring to the “*Let us*” as the verb for the subject, “*God*”. But the verb in this sentence is the word “*said*”.

וַיֹּאמֶר  
Wayo'mer  
said, he And  
559<sup>A</sup>

Genesis 26:28

It is of interest then to see the subject / verb relationship in this sentence. In English, a verb will often change its spelling to agree with the subject. But the verb “*said*” in ENGLISH, does not have any difference in spelling when agreeing in plurality with the subject. An example of a verb changing would be something as simple as the word “*run*”. In agreeing with the subject – “*The boys run the race,*” but “*A boy runs the race.*” The verb changed to match the subject. Again, in ENGLISH, the verb “*said*” does not show a change to reflect the number in the subject, BUT IN HEBREW, the word that is used which is translated “*said*” does show change when the subject changes from singular to plural!

וַיֹּאמְרוּ  
Wano'mer  
said, we and  
559<sup>A</sup>

Genesis 26:28

If you have access to an Interlinear Bible (English with the original Hebrew side by side), you will find that the word which is translated into “*said*” (Strong’s # 559) is used hundreds of times in the Old Testament. Just by looking at a Strong’s Concordance, you would not be able to see any reflection differences for a singular or plural subject. But if you use the Interlinear Bible, you can see that it consistently uses the Wayo’mer in connection with a singular subject, but when the subject is plural, it changes its spelling. The first example on the left shows the singular subject / verb agreeing in number. The second example shows the same verb in a singular tense again, which is the way that it appears in most of the hundreds of times that the Old Testament uses it. The next three examples are of the few times that a plural subject is speaking, but notice that the verb changes with a plural subject. Therefore, this proves that the one doing the speaking in Genesis 1:26 is regarded in a singular tense.

זקני      וַיֹּאמְרוּ  
ziqueey   Wayo'm<sup>r</sup>uw  
of elders the      said And  
2205<sup>A</sup>      559<sup>A</sup>

Judges 11:8

## LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE...

### Gen 1:26-27

26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

### Elohim

(The following is taken from the book “The Oneness of God” by David K. Bernard)

The most commonly used Hebrew word of God is Elohim. This is the original word in almost every Old Testament passage where we see the English Lord God. It is the plural form of the Hebrew word Eloah, which means God or deity. Most scholars agree that the use of the plural word Elohim indicates God’s greatness or His multiple attributes; it does not imply a plurality of persons or personalities. The Jews certainly do not see the plural form as compromising their strong monotheism. Flanders and Cresson explained that the plural usage in Hebrew has a certain function other than to indicate plurality: “The form of the word, Elohim, is plural. The Hebrews pluralized nouns to express greatness or majesty.”

The Bible itself reveals that the only way to understand the plural form of Elohim is that it expresses God’s majesty and not a plurality in the Godhead, by its insistence on one God, by its use of singular verbs with Elohim, and by its use of Elohim in situations that definitely portray only one person or personality.

For example, Elohim identifies the singular manifestation of God in human form to Jacob (Genesis 32:30). The Israelites used the word elohim for the golden calf they made in the wilderness (Exodus 32:1, 4, 8, 23, 31), yet the Bible account makes it clear that there was only one golden calf (Exodus 32:4, 5, 8, 19-20, 24, 35). The Old Testament often uses elohim for singular pagan gods such as Baalberith (Judges 8:33), Chemosh (Judges 11:24), Dagon (Judges 16:23), Baalzebub (II Kings 1:2-3), and Nisroch (II Kings 19:37). The Bible even applies Elohim to Jesus Christ (Psalm 45:6; Zechariah 12:8-10; 14:5), and no one suggests there is a plurality of persons in Jesus. So the word Elohim does not indicate three persons in the Godhead. Only one being called Elohim wrestled with Jacob, only one golden calf was called elohim, and one Lord Jesus Christ is God made manifest in flesh.

### Genesis 1:26

“And God said, Let us make man in our image” (Genesis 1:26).

Why does this verse use a plural pronoun for God? Before we answer this, let us note that the Bible uses singular pronouns to refer to God hundreds of times. The very next verse uses the singular to show how God fulfilled verse 26: “So God created man in his own image” (Genesis 1:27). Genesis 2:7 says, “And the LORD God formed man.” We must therefore reconcile the plural in 1:26 with the singular in 1:27 and 2:7. We must also look at God’s image creature, which is humanity. (It is significant to understand that in fulfilling verse 26, God created Adam as one person, with one body, mind, personality, spirit, and will.) Since he was created in God’s image, this should show us the

Oneness of God's Being. Regardless of how we identify the various components that make up a person, he definitely has one personality and will. He is one person in every way. This indicates that the Creator in whose image humans were made is also one being with one personality and will.

Any interpretation of Genesis 1:26 that permits the existence of more than one person of God runs into severe difficulties. Isaiah 44:24 says the LORD created the heavens alone and created the earth by Himself. There was only one Creator according to Malachi 2:10. Furthermore, if the plural in Genesis 1:26 refers to the Son of God, how do we reconcile this with the scriptural record that the Son was not born until thousands of years later in Bethlehem? The Son was made of a woman (Galatians 4:4); if the Son was present in the beginning, who was His mother? If the Son was a spirit being, who was His spirit mother? Since Genesis 1:26 cannot mean two or more persons in the Godhead, what does it mean? The Jews have traditionally interpreted it to mean that God talked to the angels at creation.

This does not imply that the angels actually took part in creation but that God informed them of His plans and solicited their comments out of courtesy and respect. On at least one other occasion God talked to the angels and requested their opinions in formulating His plans (I Kings 22:19-22). We do know that the angels were present at the creation (Job 38:4-7). Other commentators have suggested that Genesis 1:26 simply describes God as He counseled with His own will. Ephesians 1:11 supports this view, saying that God works all things "after the counsel of his own will." By analogy, this is similar to a person saying, "Let's see" (let us see) even when he is planning by himself.

Others explain this passage as a majestic or literary plural. That is, in formal speaking and writing the speaker or writer often refers to himself in the plural, especially if the speaker is royal. Biblical examples of the majestic plural can be cited to illustrate this practice. For example, Daniel told King Nebuchadnezzar, "We will tell the interpretation thereof before the king," even though Daniel alone proceeded to give the interpretation to the king (Daniel 2:36). King Artaxerxes alternately referred to himself in the singular and the plural in his correspondence. Once, he wrote, "The letter which ye sent unto us hath been plainly read before me" (Ezra 4:18). In a letter to Ezra, Artaxerxes called himself "I" in one place (Ezra 7:13) but "we" in another place (7:24).

The use of the plural in Genesis 1:26 also may be similar to the plural Elohim in denoting the greatness and majesty of God or the multiple attributes of God. In other words, the plural pronoun simply agrees with and substitutes for the plural noun Elohim.

In summary, Genesis 1:26 cannot mean a plurality in the Godhead, for that would contradict the rest of Scripture. We have offered several other harmonizing explanations. (1) The Jews and many Christians see this as a reference to the angels. Many other Christians see it as (2) a description of God counseling with His own will, (3) a majestic or literary plural, or (4) a pro-noun simply agreeing with the noun Elohim.

## **The Meaning of One**

(Hebrew, Echad)

Without wavering, the Bible states that God is one (Deuteronomy 6:4). Some trinitarians suggest that one in respect to God means one in unity rather than absolutely one in numerical value. To support this theory they appeal to the Hebrew word echad, which the Bible uses to express the concept of one God. The word apparently can mean both one in unity and one numerically, for Strong defines it as “united, one, first.” Biblical examples of the word used in the sense of absolute numerical oneness are enlightening: a list of Canaanite kings each designated by the word echad (Joshua 12:9-24); the prophet Micaiah (I Kings 22:8); Abraham (Ezekiel 33:24); a list of gates each designated by echad (Ezekiel 48:31-34); and the angel Michael (Daniel 10:13). Certainly, in each of the above cases echad means one in numerical value. In view of the many Old Testament passages that describe in unequivocal terms God’s absolute oneness (see chapter 1, especially the Scripture references in Isaiah), it is evident that echad as used of God does mean the absolute numerical oneness of His being. To the extent that echad does convey a concept of unity, it connotes a unity of God’s multiple attributes, not a cooperative union of distinct persons. If echad does not mean one in number, then we have no defense against polytheism, because three (or more) separate gods could be one in unity of mind and purpose. However, it is clearly the intent of the Old Testament to deny polytheism, and it does use echad to mean one in numerical value. (The Oneness of God – By David K. Bernard.)

## **THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD**

### **Acts 7:55-56**

55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

Stephen did not say that he saw two people, but the glory of God and Jesus on the right hand. He was not speaking of a geographical location. (How do you get on the right side of a Spirit that is everywhere?) The right hand is a Jewish term that speaks of being in a place of power and authority. He saw Jesus in His exalted position that was prophesied in the scripture. The next scriptures will make this clear.

### **Mark 14:62**

62 And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

He will be sitting on the right hand of power (not a person). This is describing His exalted position at His return as Lord of lords and King of kings.

### **Col 1:19**

19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

It pleased the Father (Spirit) that in Him should all the fullness dwell.

Matt 28:18

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. All power in Heaven and in earth was given to Jesus.

**Exod 15:6-8**

6 Thy right hand, O LORD, is become glorious in power: thy right hand, O LORD, hath dashed in pieces the enemy.

7 And in the greatness of thine excellency thou hast overthrown them that rose up against thee: thou sentest forth thy wrath, which consumed them as stubble.

8 And with the blast of thy nostrils the waters were gathered together, the floods stood upright as an heap, and the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea.

Human terms are often used in the Bible to describe a spiritual truth. Here we have two examples of this. God's right hand did not literally come down and dash the enemy to pieces. Also, a big nose did not come out of Heaven and blow on the water.

**Ps 20:6**

6 Now know I that the LORD saveth his anointed; he will hear him from his holy heaven with the saving strength of his right hand.

This speaks of the strength of His right hand, letting us know it is a symbol of power.

**Isa 63:12**

12 That led them by the right hand of Moses with his glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make himself an everlasting name?

Right hand here symbolizes the power of God working through Moses to lead the children of Israel from Egypt.

**Luke 11:20**

20 But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you.

Here we see the finger of God symbolized as the power of God to cast out devils. If you try to make it literal, then you will have Jesus reaching into Heaven and grabbing a big finger and pulling it down to people possessed with devils.

**Ps 16:8**

8 I have set the LORD always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Here we see the psalmist saying that the Lord is on his right hand, his strength.

## WHO WAS JESUS PRAYING TO?

### **Matt 26:39-42**

39 And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

42 He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done.

This is an example of the humanity praying to the Spirit. The will of the flesh was to live, but the Son (flesh) knew it was the will of the God (Spirit) to die for the redemption of lost souls. If He was a co-equal God, why would He have to pray to another God when He would already have the power to do anything Himself?

### **Matt 27:46**

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Humanity (the fleshly man that was about to die) was crying out to Divinity (the Spirit of God which can never die). If the Spirit had not withdrew Himself, Jesus could have never died.

### **Ps 65:2**

O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come.

Since Jehovah did create a body that was flesh, the flesh had to pray to the Spirit. Jesus had to keep the flesh under subjection to the Spirit.

Our prayers are that you will come to a greater knowledge of who God is!

God bless you!