

The Trinity

by Wayne Goff

There are several religious sects today who deny the biblical doctrine of the Trinity. They suggest that Roman Catholicism invented the idea, and that Protestants have promoted it since. So let us see if the concept of the Trinity comes from God or man:

Trinity

The English dictionary defines **trinity** as “the Christian Godhead as one God in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” However, it is not quite that simple. The dictionary goes on to say that it means “the state of being three: *God is said to be trinity in unity.*”

We will be safe in using the word “**trinity**” to define the Godhead if we understand by that term the concept of “One Divine essence of three personalities — Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” It is true that the word is not a biblical word, but it relates a biblical concept. There are three Persons in the Godhead — three distinct Beings who make up the Divine essence. By “essence” we mean “the intrinsic nature or indispensable quality of” God. The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit all have that Divine essence.

The Old Testament

The Old Testament stresses the unity of God without clearly revealing the plurality of the Godhead (three in one). But there are several intimations to which we can point.

“In the beginning God (elohim) created the heavens and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). The word translated “God” comes from a plural Hebrew word, and it is coupled with a singular verb. This suggests unity of action among plural Beings.

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the Lord is one LORD” (Deuteronomy 6:4, KJV). Notice what God reveals about Himself in this passage. First, “LORD” is the Hebrew *Jehovah* (singular). Second, “our God” (*elohim*, plural). Third, “is one LORD” (*Jehovah*). There could be no clearer revelation than this — the plural is called one! God exists as three Persons in one essence.

“Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth” (Ecclesiastes 12:1). “Creator” is the Hebrew *bara’*, which is plural! See John 1:3 and Genesis 1:26.

“The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool’” (Psalm 110:1). “The LORD (*Jehovah*) said to my Lord (*Adonai*)...” Peter applied this name to Christ in Acts 2:34-35. Thus a Hebrew title for God is applied to both the Father and the Son!

Isaiah prophesied of “the virgin” conceiving and bearing a Son whose Name would be called “**Immanuel**” which means “*God with us*”! (Isaiah 7:14). The inspired writer and apostle Matthew applied this to Jesus (Matt. 1:21-23). This Son would also be called “*Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*” (Isaiah 9:6).

The New Testament

The New Testament reveals more fully the Divine Nature of the Godhead. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all God and equal with One Another.

Of Jesus Christ, John wrote: *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made”* (John 1:1-3). Jesus is Creator with the Father, and made all things that have ever been made. He is God!

Hebrews 1:3 says that Jesus is “*the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person...*” Jesus is exactly, identically what the heavenly Father is.

Acts 5:3-4 shows that the Holy Spirit is God as well. When Peter rebuked Ananias for lying to **the Holy Spirit** (v. 3), he said “*You have not lied to men but to God*” (v. 4).

Hebrews 9:14 says that Jesus Christ offered His own blood as a sacrifice “*through the eternal Spirit.*”

All of this plus much, much more can reveal to us something about the Divine Nature we call “**God**.” He is three Persons — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — and yet one in essence. It is difficult for the human mind to comprehend, but it is true **because** the Bible reveals it to be so. Jesus told Philip, “*He who has seen Me has seen the Father...*” (John 14:9). Study carefully the subject, dear reader!

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