

Lesson 4

“God The Trinity”

1. You will never UNDERSTAND the Trinity but you must BELIEVE it because the Bible TEACHES it.
2. The reason you will not understand it is because our minds are FINITE, His mind is INFINITE.

Special Notation

If the prophets had not been inspired, they would have left the trinity out because of its inability to be understood by “natural” man. But we, the children of God, must accept it by faith even as we accepted Christ by faith.

3. The word TRINITY is not found in the SCRIPTURE, but the TRUTH of the Trinity can be found there.
4. The word “trinity” is from the Latin word TRINITAS which means THREEFOLD. The threefold manifestation of God.
5. The statement of the TRINITY became common in most statements of Christian faith as far back as 160 A.D. and first placed in Christian writings in 317 A.D.

Basic Scriptures include:

Genesis 1-3; 11:1-9; Psalm 110:1; Isaiah 6:8; 48:16; 63:8-10; Matthew 3:16&17; 28:19-20; John 1:1; 8:54; 14:16-17; 15:26&27; 16:7-15; 1 Corinthians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:13&14; Titus 3:4-6

6. There is only ONE God, not THREE, and He is God the FATHER, God the SON, and God the HOLY SPIRIT.
7. God the Father did not MAKE the Son and the Holy Spirit as an act of His CREATIVE power, but God has always been the ETERNAL Father, the ETERNAL Son, and the ETERNAL Spirit.

Special Notation

Many efforts have been made to explain what the trinity is like. Water is liquid, vapor, or ice but is always water. The egg is shell, white, and yolk but one egg. But the clearest explanation is found in 1 Thessalonians 5:23. We are not three persons, but a three-in-one person as is God.

8. The Old Testament teaches the Trinity from the beginning BOOK, the beginning CHAPTER, and the beginning VERSE.
9. In Genesis 1:1 we read, “In the beginning ELOHIM created the heavens and the earth.”
10. ELOHIM is a plural noun which in English means TWO or more but in Hebrew means THREE or more.
11. MOSES, writer of the LAW, uses the name ELOHIM 500 times in the first FIVE books of the CANON of Scripture.
12. The key words of Genesis 1:26&27 are US and OUR, HIS and HE, in addition to the name ELOHIM.

Special Notation

This is another use of the plural noun indicating the Trinity at work in the creation of man, yet indicating one God in the phrase “in His own image.”

13. The Godhead is a TRINITY in UNITY. See Genesis 3:22; Genesis 11:7; and Isaiah 6:8.
14. The HOLY SPIRIT is stated in the Old Testament. See: Genesis 1:2; Isaiah 11:1-2; and Isaiah 63:10.
15. The TRINITY is declared in the NEW TESTAMENT far more frequently than in the Old Testament and this is done by the fact that the names of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are used SEPARATELY as well as TOGETHER. See: John 5:36; John 7:37-39; 8:42; 1:1; 1:32 and John 3:34.
16. The Lord’s birth gives testimony of the TRINITY in both Luke 1:35 and in Matthew 1:20-23.
17. The Lord’s BAPTISM is one of the GREATEST proofs of the Trinity. Matthew 3:13-17.
18. In verse 16 Jesus WAS BAPTIZED, the Spirit DESCENDED LIKE A DOVE and the Father SPOKE. A similar experience took place at the Mount of TRANSFIGURATION. See Mark 1:9-11 and Luke 3:21&22 as additional verses of Christ’s baptism as well as Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:2-5; and Luke 9:28-33 for verses regarding the transfiguration.
19. Another vital reference to the Trinity appears as Christ’s LAST WORDS on earth also known as the GREAT COMMISSION. Matthew 28:16-20.

20. The important thing to note in the Great Commission is the use of the SINGULAR form "NAME": i.e.; "the name of the Father" not NAMES.
21. Paul's letters are FILLED with references to the TRINITY. So many that we couldn't begin to list them all.
- See: Romans 1:3&4; 8:1-4; 8:16&17; 1 Corinthians 1:3&4; 2:10-13; 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 3:3; 13:14; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 2:18; 4:4-6; 5:18&20; 1 Thessalonians 5:18&19 and 2 Thessalonians 2:13&14.
22. The GENERAL EPISTLES also declare the Trinity. See: 1 John 4:2; 4:12-15; Jude 20 and 21.

Special Notation

The General Epistles are those New Testament books which are neither the Gospels or the writings of the Apostle Paul. They include: Hebrews, James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3 John and Jude. Acts is considered to be a historical or transitional book and Revelation, although an epistle written by the Apostle John, is placed in a category all its own, primarily because of its coverage of prophetic events.

Conclusion:

The facts of the biblical teaching of the Trinity are these: There is one God. This one God has a plural nature. This one God is called the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, all distinct personalities, all designated God and all eternal and equal.

As persons we are a trinity having body, soul, and spirit, all separate but one person. So it is with the Trinity, all three persons are God.

The name "Elohim," remember, as used throughout Scripture, is a plural noun meaning three or more.

Do we understand it? No! Do we believe it? Yes! Why? Because God revealed Himself this way in the inspired Word of God. God said it, I believe it, and that settles it.