



Truth For These Times



34. THE GODHEAD

There is a great deal of evidence about us to show the existence of a Creator God, but God cannot be proved, tested or demonstrated from a human point of view. Job said, “Can you search out the deep things of God?” Job 11:7. The greatness of God is beyond our finite understanding. God has always existed; there never was a time when He did not exist. “From everlasting to everlasting you are God”. Psalms 90:2. In simple terms, He is like a circle, the circumference of which cannot be measured, and whose centre is everywhere. We, humans, do not have the capacity to understand eternity, just as a dog cannot understand mathematics. However, God has revealed certain things about Himself in the Bible, and this will be the content of our study.

THE ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

1. **He is omniscient** – He knows all.

Isaiah 46:9,10

Remember the former things of old, for I *am* God, and *there is* no other; I *am* God, and *there is* none like Me, **DECLARING THE END FROM THE BEGINNING**, and from ancient times *things* that are not *yet* done, saying, “My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.”

2. **He is omnipotent** – He is all powerful.

Revelation 19:6

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the **LORD GOD OMNIPOTENT REIGNS!**”

God is all powerful – without limit.

3. **He is omnipresent** – He is present everywhere.

Proverbs 15:3

The **EYES OF THE LORD ARE IN EVERY PLACE**, keeping watch on the evil and the good.

Nothing happens without the knowledge of God. He knows if a sparrow falls He knows the number of hairs on your head. He is constantly in touch with all of His creation. He has the ability to be in all places at the same time.

THERE IS MORE THAN ONE MEMBER IN THE GODHEAD

Genesis 1:26

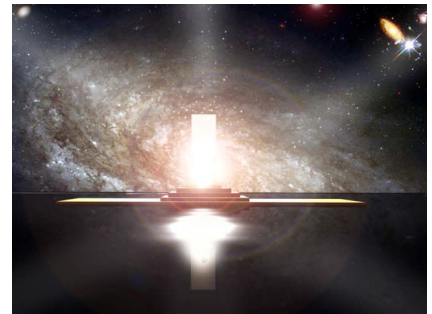
Then God said, “LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”



Notice it does not say let ME (singular), but let US (plural). Who

were involved in creation? Genesis 1:2 says the SPIRIT OF GOD was hovering over face of the waters. In Ephesians 3:9 we note “GOD, who created all things through JESUS CHRIST”. Now the US are identified.

Matthew 28:19 **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the FATHER and of the SON and of the HOLY SPIRIT.**



Here the triune Godhead is described. The Godhead consists of the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Are the Three equal in power, substance and eternity? Yes.

THEY ARE ALL ETERNAL

1 Timothy 1:17 Now TO THE KING ETERNAL, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

God is eternal.

Micah 5:2 But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, WHOSE GOINGS FORTH *ARE* FROM OF OLD, from EVERLASTING.

In this prophecy, predicting the birthplace of the Messiah, Christ is said to have existed from eternity. Therefore Christ too is eternal, but what of the Holy Spirit?

Hebrews 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the ETERNAL SPIRIT offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

The Holy Spirit is given the same attribute. He is eternal.

IS JESUS CHRIST GOD?

Matthew 1:23 Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which is translated, “GOD WITH US.”

Jesus was said to be “God with us”.



John 20:28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, “MY LORD AND MY GOD!”

Jesus accepted the praise of Thomas when he called Him God.

John 1:1-3 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.

Some have mistakenly translated this text “a God”, not knowing the established rule of Greek grammar, which states, “A definite predicate nominative has the article when it follows the verb; it does not have the article when it precedes the verb.” All reputable Greek scholars translate this text correctly – “The Word” (or Christ) see verse 14, “was God.” This text clearly states Christ is God. The Godhead is likened to a rope, with three strands. It is one rope, but three strands. The Godhead is one God, made up of three personalities: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



Acts 5:3,4

But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to LIE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT and keep back *part* of the price of the land for yourself? While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have NOT LIED TO MEN BUT TO GOD.”

Verse 3 states that Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit, and verse 4 says he lied unto God. Quite clearly, the Holy Spirit is called God.

THE ATTRIBUTES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. He has a will.

1 Corinthians 12:11 But one and the same SPIRIT works all these things, distributing to each one individually AS HE WILLS.

The Holy Spirit has a will. He is not merely a force like electricity, but he is a personality with a will. Notice also the personal pronoun “HE”.

2. He has a mind.

Romans 8:27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what THE MIND OF THE SPIRIT *is*, because He makes intercession for the saints according to *the will of God*.

Only a personality has a mind. A mere force does not

3. He has feelings.

Ephesians 4:30 And DO NOT GRIEVE THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.



Jesus explaining to Nicodemus about the Holy Spirit.

Only a personality has feelings.

HOW CAN ONE GOD BE THREE?

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD *IS* ONE!

In one family there may be several members, but it is still called one family. God is one, but there are three personalities

involved. In this text the word LORD is translated from “Jehovah” which is God’s name. The word “God” in this text is plural in the Hebrew language, thus showing more than one personality involved in the Godhead. The same plurality is seen in Genesis 1:26.

GOD IS INTERESTED IN US

John 3:16

For GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.



God did all He could to save humanity.

Philippians 2:5-8

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, BEING IN THE FORM OF GOD, DID NOT CONSIDER IT ROBBERY TO BE EQUAL WITH GOD, but MADE HIMSELF OF NO REPUTATION, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He HUMBLED HIMSELF and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.

When Jesus walked this earth as a man He had to say, “My Father is greater than I” and this was certainly true.

Christ was veiled in the weakness of humanity, but this was not always so. Before He came to this earth He was “in the form of God” and “equal with God”, but He forsook this glory to live and die for sinful humanity. He did all He possibly could to secure our salvation.

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but THE SPIRIT HIMSELF MAKES INTERCESSION FOR US with groanings which cannot be uttered.

The Holy Spirit also works toward our salvation.



The Holy Spirit points us to Christ and reveals Christ to us.

The Bible is clear, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are equal in power, substance and eternity. True, we cannot understand all there is to know about God, but we do see a revelation of His character of love. What more could God have done that we might have eternal life? Rather than involving one’s discussion about who’s who in the Godhead, surely we would benefit more from contemplating God’s great love, or the supreme sacrifice on Calvary, or, co-operation, as the Holy Spirit leads us day by day. Friend, let’s put first things first. When we copy the pattern of Christ’s lovely character, and pray that we might be like Him, we have our values straight.

ADDED NOTES ON THE FIRSTBORN – FIRST BEGOTTEN

Some are mistaken in claiming God created Christ because He is referred to as “Firstborn” or “Firstbegotten”. The misunderstanding stems from not understanding what these terms mean. The Bible is clear that Christ is equal to God and existed with Him from all eternity as explained in the above study.

Colossians 1:15-18 He is the image of the invisible God, the **FIRSTBORN OVER ALL CREATION**. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the **FIRSTBORN FROM THE DEAD**, that in all things **HE MAY HAVE THE PREEMINENCE**.

The word firstborn means “first in rank”, and in the context of this chapter shows Christ as responsible for all creation. This places Him as first in rank. Verse 15 does not say He was created by God. Verse 18 gives Him the position of “first in rank” once again in reference to the resurrection. He was not first in “time”, but resurrections were only possible by virtue of Christ’s resurrection; or in this He was “first in rank”.



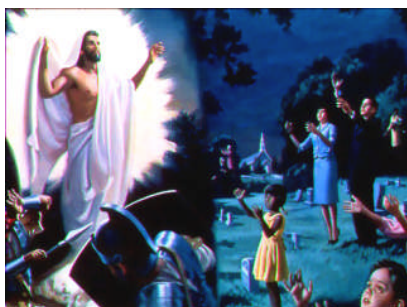
Christ has created all things.

Notice the word “firstborn”. There is a Greek word for “first created”, but it is not used here. If the thought to be conveyed was that God created Christ the word “first created” would have been used, but it was not. The explanation is simple the Bible writer, Paul, had no intention of giving such an idea. The thought is simply that Christ was the only one of His kind; He was preeminent.

Nehemiah 9:6 You alone *are* the LORD; YOU HAVE MADE HEAVEN, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.

In the previous verses Jesus is credited with creation. In this verse Jehovah is credited with creation. It was a co-operative effort.

Exodus 4:22 Then you shall say to Pharaoh, Thus says the LORD: “ISRAEL IS MY SON, MY FIRSTBORN.”



The resurrection of every person depends upon the resurrection of Jesus.

The children of Israel were regarded by God as His firstborn or “first in rank” of all nations.

Psalm 89:20,27 I have found My servant David; with My holy oil I have anointed him, also I will make HIM *MY* FIRSTBORN, the highest of the kings of the earth.

David was regarded by God as “firstborn”, or first in rank. God said David was a man after His own heart, and exalted him.

Revelation 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the FIRSTBORN from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.

Firstbegotten is exactly the same Greek word as firstborn. Sometimes the translators use firstborn and other times firstbegotten.

Hebrews 1:5,6 For to which of the angels did He ever say: “You are My Son, Today I have begotten You”? And again: “I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son”? But when He again brings the FIRSTBORN into the world, He says: “Let all the angels of God worship Him.”



Christ – the God-man interceding for us.

This chapter is about Christ’s victory after He had “purged our sins” (verse 3). Angels are the highest creation, but here Christ is shown to be above angels. When He was victorious at Calvary and was resurrected, God called Him His Son; He was first in rank. Also at Christ’s birth, He is called the “firstbegotten” first in rank and indeed He was the only one of His kind the “God-man”. Christ is paralleled to our elder brother, the leader of the redeemed, which gives Him first place again.

HE IS THE ROCK

Deuteronomy 32:3,4 For I proclaim the name of the LORD: ascribe greatness to our God. *HE IS THE ROCK*, His work *is* perfect; for all His ways *are* justice, a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright *is* He.

God is referred to as the “Rock”.

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, AND THAT ROCK WAS CHRIST.



Here the “Rock” is identified as Christ.

Doctrinal error has constantly endeavoured to downgrade Christ in some way, and not give Him His rightful place, but He is our Rock, our Saviour and our God. With Thomas we must say, “My Lord and my God” John 20:28. Jesus accepted this praise, and will accept the same praise from us today.

Review Sheet – The Godhead

Assignment: Read the Bible study carefully before answering the following questions.

1. Name three attributes of God. Isaiah 46:9,10; Revelation 19:6; Proverbs 15:3
 1. _____.
 2. _____.
 3. _____.

2. How do we know the Godhead consists of more than one member? Genesis 1:26
Then God said, “ _____ ,”

3. Who are the three members of the Godhead? Matthew 28:19
In the name of _____ ,

4. What attribute of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is described in 1 Timothy 1:17; Micah 5:2; Hebrews 9:14?
_____.

5. How did Thomas reply to Jesus when he saw the Saviour? John 20:28.
“My _____ !”

6. Is Jesus (the Word) called God? John 1:1-3
The Word was with God and the _____ .

7. Is the Holy Spirit called God? Acts 5:3,4
Lie to the Holy Spirit ... you have not lied _____ .

8. Name three personality traits of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:11; Romans 8:27; Ephesians 4:30
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

9. In Deuteronomy 6:4 is stated the Lord our God is one Lord. How can one God be three?
(In your own words). _____

10. Did Christ claim equality with God? Philippians 2:5-8
Being in the form of God, did not consider it _____ ,

11. Is Christ referred to as Jehovah? Nehemiah 9:6
You alone *are* the LORD; (i.e. Jehovah) _____ ,
Note: Colossians 1:15-18 and John 1:1-3 show Christ as Creator.

12. In Deuteronomy 32:3,4 God is referred to as the rock. Who is identified as the ROCK in
1 Corinthians 10:1-4?
That spiritual Rock that followed them , _____ .

Are you thankful that such an all- powerful, loving God, has made it possible for you to have eternal life?
