

THE TRINITY. IS IT IN THE BIBLE?

This subject has been debated for centuries but can it be proven from the Bible and if so, where does it tell us that from the pages of scripture? In the book of Genesis there is some insight into what the “trinity” is not!

Genesis 1:1 Here the Bible tells us that “God created the heavens and the earth”. And this God went on to create all that was needed for this planet earth to function and to give a perfect home for all of God’s creatures to live in. But when looking at this account in Genesis 1 we can see that the Almighty God declares that He is in fact the “creator” and therefore is able to say who He is and what He is!

In Genesis 1:1 The word “God” is translated in the Hebrew as “Elohim” which, in the Old Testament, means, God, gods, or the objects of worship. And this can be found in Genesis 1:3-5 when God separated the darkness from the light. When He separated the land from the sea in verses 9-10. Then He went on to create vegetation in verses 11 and 12 and then He went on to set the heavenly planets in their order in verses 14-18. And also, He, God went on to create the animals of the earth and also the birds of the air in verses 20-25. Now, it must be understood that the word for “God” in the Hebrew scriptures can be applied in various ways in the Bible and we can see this in Genesis 3:5 where Satan uses the term God-Hebrew-Elohim. And when you look at Exodus 20:3 the command is given that you shall have no other “gods” which is “elohim” in the Hebrew, before me! The word “Elohim” is or has a plural meaning. And means more than one. And so, it can have no limits when it comes to the family of God! It must be understood that when we think of God and His family, He is not limited to three persons! And this is where those who believe in the trinity have a problem. They limit God to just three people but the scriptures tell us a different story.

God and the Word

John 1:1-3 Now notice what the word of God tells us here. In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Now a question: Who was the “Word” that is spoken of here? Let’s look at verse 14 and see who that is. The scripture tells us that he is the “only begotten of the Father”! And this is none other than Jesus Christ and He was made flesh and dwelt amongst us. He was not only the begotten the Father but He was “with God” and is in fact God! It was Jesus who created all things and without Him there was nothing that was made! Now think for a moment about this great and important person. He was and is, the very Son of God, the Father! He was at the beginning with God, the Father!

When Jesus Was Born

Now let's look at Matthew 1:18-25 and let's see how the birth of Jesus took place and see the way He was born. Because it is important to understand by what method He was born. Before there was any relations with Joseph and his wife Mary, she was found to be with child by the "Holy Spirit" and by the fact that she was pregnant because of the holy spirit, Joseph was not the human father of Jesus! So, Joseph was instructed by the angel of the Lord to call the child Jesus but in fact in verse 23 it tells us that He was called "Emmanuel" meaning "God with us"! So, here is a couple of names that the Son of God has.

Question: Who is the Father of Jesus? Is He the son of the Father or is He the son of the "holy spirit"? If the holy spirit is a "third" person of the "trinity" then Jesus could not rightly call the Father in heaven His Father and that would make Him out a liar and an impostor would it not? Yes! That is a real problem which the "Trinitarians" have and that's why they call the "trinity" a "mystery" which they say, cannot be understood! But God is not the author of confusion! 1 Corinthians 14: 33 " For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints". God leaves us in no doubt that He can be understood and that He wants us to understand His Word from Genesis to Revelation! And when one looks at the Bible you will find that the word "trinity" is not mentioned once! And nowhere in the Bible are we told that we should worship the holy spirit.

What is the holy spirit?

Before Jesus went back to heaven, He told His disciples that He would send the "promise" of the Father to or upon them. (Luke 24:49) So, what was the "promise of the Father? Let's look at Acts 2:1-2 "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting." Now what was causing the great sound? What was happening? Notice that the sound had come from Heaven and that the disciples were all filled with the holy spirit! That spirit which Jesus said would come upon them was in fact the "Power from on high" as it states in Luke 24:49. So, this power is the spirit that comes from the Father in heaven and is not a "third" person as some would have you believe! And so, when you look at it that way you can see the definition of the holy spirit! And this would be rendered as "Power" from on high. Let's look at Romans 15:13 " Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power the "Holy Ghost."(holy spirit) And so, it is important for us to remember that the holy spirit is indeed the "power" of God.

Indwelling of the holy spirit of God

The indwelling of the holy spirit gives the power to each individual to live the life that God wants in a persons life and to have the power to overcome the temptations of our human nature. God's word tells us that we are the children of God if we obey Him and keep His commandments.

1 John 5:1-5 Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loves him that begat loves him also that is begotten of him. 2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. 3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous. 4 For whatsoever is born of God over-cometh the world: and this is the victory that over-cometh the world, even our faith. 5 Who is he that over-cometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Let's notice something that is really important and let's see what Jesus said about the holy spirit. Everything that we do or live by is based on the words of Jesus and by the example that He set for us to follow! It would be well to remember of what God the Father and the Son are composed of, they are in fact SPIRIT! Yet they are two individual beings but both of them are Spirit! Let's see what Jesus said concerning His Father in John 4:24. "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" So, the holy spirit is really the power of God that comes in us like "rivers of living water"!

Prayer to God

It is interesting to note that when a person prays to God, that person conceives in his or her mind that God is an individual and as such, we are talking to Him as one being who would talk to us. When you consider the time that the disciples of Jesus asked Him how to pray He showed them to whom they should pray to. Let's look at Matthew 6:9-13.

"After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."

Now the question is this, why didn't Jesus instruct His disciples to pray not only to the Father in heaven but also to pray to the holy spirit? If the holy spirit is a member of the Godhead,

why didn't Jesus mention him as well? Surely, Jesus would not have forgotten the third member of the Godhead if the holy spirit were a person! The reason why He didn't was because there was no such being!

The simple truth is that God is a real person, in bodily form; and the Holy Spirit is truly the Spirit of God, a divine power proceeding from the Father and also from the Son. The Bible never in any case calls the

Holy Spirit a person, though it frequently does both of the Father and Son.

But, someone may ask, what about 1 John 5:7? Doesn't this scripture clearly teach that there is a third person of the trinity? The truth is, that 1 John 5:7, as it appears in the King James Version, does not even belong in the Bible! Notice what The Wycliffe Bible commentary says about verse 7: "The text of this verse should read, 'Because there are three that bear record.' The remainder of the verse is spurious. There is no single manuscript containing the Trinitarian addition before the fourteenth century, and the verse is never quoted in the controversies over the Trinity in the first 400 years of the Church!

Let's come to 1 John 5:6-8: And see how the Revised Standard Version says.

6 This is he who came by water and blood---Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth.7For there are three that testify: 8the Spirit and the water and these three agree.

The question then arises; to what do these "three witnesses" bear record to? Let's look at verses 11 and 12, because they give us the answer:

11 And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

12 Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

These verses then show us that the "spirit" is the holy spirit, which is given to a repentant believer. (see 2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5.) the "water" is the water of baptism, which pictures the death and burial of the old sinful self, and the resurrection of the new person whose sins have been blotted out; and the "blood" is Christ's blood, or death, which pays the penalty for sins of the believer.

The Thrones of God

Some other interesting points to consider in regards to the doctrine of the Trinity. In His Word, God has said that He has a throne and so does Jesus have a throne. Now in the kingdom of God, in the time when Jesus is ruling for a period of 1,000 years, something happens in regards to the saints of God.

In Revelation 5:10 It tells us that the saints of God are to be kings and priests and that they will reign upon the earth. No mention here of the holy spirit as a "being" who will rule upon a throne in the Kingdom of God. Now you would think that if the holy spirit is a separate person of a so-called "trinity" within the Godhead why is he not mentioned within the kingdom of God when Jesus is ruling, along with the saints of God?

Another interesting passage of Scripture which will help us to understand is

Rev. 3:21 Here, Jesus is saying that "whoever overcomes." (that is, those who qualify to become a king and priest in God's Kingdom) will sit on His Throne just as He sits on His Father's Throne! Yet, again, no mention of a throne for the holy spirit. But let's go further and see some more evidence that the holy

spirit of God is not a person and let's go on a journey way into the future, to a time when there are a new heaven and a new earth because if there was a time for the holy spirit to be assigned a throne, (if he was a separate person) then surely we would be told by Our Father and Our Saviour Jesus in His Word!

NEW HEAVEN AND THE NEW EARTH

Let's come to Revelation 21:1-7

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

Now, you would think that even in the new heaven and the new earth that the holy spirit would be found a throne for him if he were a third person of the trinity BUT THERE IS SIMPLY NONE!

The truth is evident. The Holy Spirit is NOT a person, NOT an individual, but is an influence or power proceeding from the Godhead.

Drinking of The Spirit

The very idea that the spirit is a person is completely inconsistent with all the illustrations of it in the Bible.

Let's look at Acts 2:17. "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:"

Now, how can a single person be split up into thousands of pieces? Simply can't be done! Let's look at

another portion of Scripture and let's see how it is used when it comes to baptism. Let's turn to Matthew 3:11-16. "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:"

The question here is, how can you baptise one person into another? It simply can't be done. No, the plain truth from God's Word is that the Holy Spirit of God is not a person but is the Power that comes from God The Father and of God The Son! And when, rightly understood from God's own Word we can see that there is no such thing as the Trinity in The Bible!

All of these illustrations plainly show that the "Spirit of God" is NOT an individual.

