



Kingdom Center - JUSTIN HERNANDEZ

The Trinity (God in three persons)

I. The Unity of the Divine Trinity

A. In general, the Old Testament emphasizes the unity of God

- Exodus 20:3
- Deuteronomy 6:4
- Isaiah 44:6
- A fact which is also taught in the New Testament
 - John 10:30, 14:19, 17:11
 - Colossians 1:15

1. Both the Old Testament and to a greater extent the New Testament, indicate that God exists as a Trinity- God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

- The doctrine of the trinity is implicit in the use of the Word Elohim, as a name for God which is in plural form and refers to the triune God.

2. Early in Genesis there are references to the Spirit of God, and he plural personal pronouns are used for God

- Genesis 1:26, 3:22, 11:7
- Frequently in the Old Testament there are distinctions within the nature of God in terms of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
 - Isaiah 7:14 speaks of the Son as the Immanuel, “God with us” who was to be distinct from the Father and the Spirit.
- In Psalm 2:7 God the Father referred to as “I” indicates that it is His purpose to have the Son as the supreme sovereign over the earth.
 - Just as the Father and the Son are distinguished, so God is also distinguished from the Holy Spirit
 - Psalm 104:30 the Lord sends his Spirit
- To all these evidences may be added all the references to the Angel of Jehovah, which indicate the appearance of the Son of God in the Old Testament as one sent by the Father

B. To these Old Testament evidences the New Testament gives additional revelation

1. Here in the Person of Jesus Christ is God incarnate conceived by the Holy Spirit and yet Son of God the Father.



- At the baptism of Jesus, the distinctions in the Trinity are evident with God the Father speaking from heaven, the Holy Spirit descending like a dove and lighting upon Him, and Jesus Himself being baptized.
 - Matthew 3:16-17
 - These distinctions are also seen in the book of John where the Father and the comforter are distinguished from Christ himself
 - John 14:16
 - In Matthew the disciples are instructed to baptize believers in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
 - Matthew 28:19
2. The many indications in both the Old and New Testaments that God exists or subsists as a triune being have made the doctrine of the Trinity a central fact in the early and modern church
- Any departure for the doctrine of the Trinity is considered a departure from scriptural truth.
 - While the doctrine of the Trinity is a central fact of Christian faith, it is also beyond human comprehension and has no parallel in human experience
- C. The Trinity is best defined as while God is one, He exist in three persons
1. These persons are equal, have the same attributes, and are equally worthy of adoration, worship, and faith.
- The doctrine of the unity of the Godhead makes clear that they are not separate gods, it is one Godhead expressed in three persons
 - The trinity must not be explained as three modes of existence, that is, one God manifesting Himself in three ways.
 - The three persons of the Trinity, while having equal attributes, differ in certain properties.
 - The first person of the Trinity is called the Father
 - The second person is called the Son and is sent forth by the Father
 - The third person is the Holy Spirit who is sent forth by the Father and the Son
2. In the nature of the uniqueness of the Godhead, there is no illustration or parallel in human experience.
- This doctrine should be accepted by faith on the basis of scriptural revelation even if it is beyond human comprehension and definition.

II. The Names of God

- A. In the Old Testament, three principal names are ascribed to God.



1. The first name, Jehovah or Yahweh is the name of God applied only to the true God. The name first appears in connection with the Creation in Genesis
 - Genesis 2:4
 - The name is defined in Exodus
 - Exodus 3:13-14 the self-existent God, eternal God
 2. The most common name for God is Elohim
 - Introduced in Genesis 1:1
 - The name has to do with being the strong one and being one who is to be feared and revered.
 - The name is in plural form which includes the trinity.
 3. The Third name for God in the Old Testament is Adonai, which means master or lord
 - This name is frequently joined with Elohim, as in Genesis 15:2
 - This name emphasizes the fact God is our Master that God is our Lord
 4. The primary combination names of God are found in the Old Testament
 - Jehovah Jireh - Lord will provide
 - Genesis 22:13-14
 - Jehovah Rapha - The Lord who heals
 - Exodus 15:26
 - Jehovah Nissi - The Lord my Banner
 - Exodus 17:8-15
 - Jehovah Shalom - The Lord our peace
 - Judges 6:24
 - Jehovah Tsidkenu - The Lord our righteousness
 - Jeremiah 23:6
 - Jehovah Shammah - The Lord is present
 - Ezekiel 48:35
 - B. In the New Testament additional titles of God are found,
 1. The First Person being distinguished as the Father
 - The Second Person distinguished as the Son and the Third Person distinguished as the Holy Spirit
 - These titles are also found in the Old Testament but are more common in the New Testament
- ### III. The Attributes of God



- A. In the essential being of God, there are certain inherent attributes or essential qualities of God.
1. These attributes are eternally held by the triune God and are equal for each person of the Godhead.
 - Included in the attributes is the fact that God is Spirit - John 4:24
 - God is life - John 5:26
 - God is self-existent - Exodus 3:14
 - God is infinite - Psalm 145:3
 - God is immutable - Psalm 102:27; Malachi 3:6; James 1:17
 - God is truth - Deuteronomy 32:4; John 17:3
 - God is love - 1 John 4:8
 - God is eternal - Psalm 90:2
 - God is holy - 1 Peter 1:16, 1 John 1:5
 - God is omnipresent - Psalm 90:2; Jeremiah 23:23-24
 - God is omniscient - Psalm 139:8
 - God is omnipotent - Matthew 19:26
 2. Variations of these attributes can be seen in the fact that God is good, God is merciful, and God is sovereign
 - All perfections are ascribed to God to infinity, and His works as well as being perfect.
 - The great detail and design of the universe are evidence of His sovereignty, power, and wisdom,
 - His plan of salvation as revealed in the scriptures is evidence of His love, righteousness, and grace.

IV. The Sovereignty of God

- A. The attributes of God make clear that God is supreme over all
1. God yields to no other power, authority of glory, and is not subject to any absolute greater than Himself.
 - He represents perfection to an infinite degree in every aspect of His being.
 - He can never be surprised, defeated, or uncertain.
 - It has pleased God to give to men a measure of freedom of choice, and for the exercise of this choice God holds man responsible.
 2. Because man in his depraved state is blind and insensitive to the work of God, it is clear from scripture that men do not turn to God apart from the moving of His spirit in their hearts



- John 6:44; John 16:7-11
- In the affairs of men, especially of Christians, God works to accomplish His will
 - Philippians 2:13
- Yet he does not force men to yield themselves to God but rather appeals to them to do so
 - Romans 12:1-2

V. The Decree of God

A. The sovereign purpose of God is defined theologically as the decree of God

1. This refers to the comprehensive plan that includes all events of every classification which will occur
 - The decree of God includes those events which God does Himself and also includes all that God accomplishes through his complete sovereignty
 - The decree of God is not fatalism- a blind mechanical control of all events
 - But it is an intelligent, loving, and wise plan in which man, is responsible for his choices, and is held accountable for what he does and rewarded for His good works
 - His decree includes his promises, covenants, and His grace manifested towards man
 - Before such a God, man can only bow in submission, love and adoration

VI. Questions

1. How would you define the doctrine of the Trinity?
2. Explain how there trinity is distinguished by certain properties?
3. State and define three names of God?
4. Name two compound names of God?
5. What are the Three different titles of three persons of the trinity?
6. Name three attributes of God