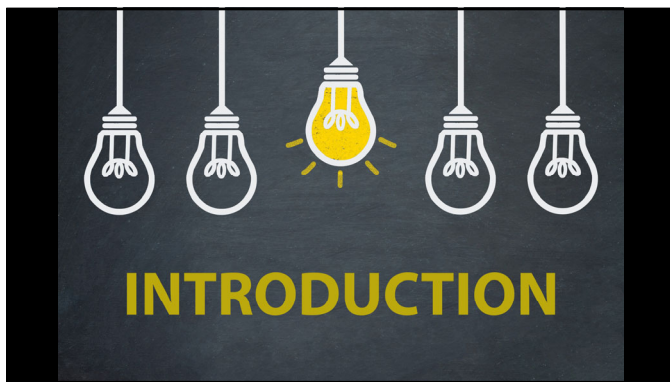


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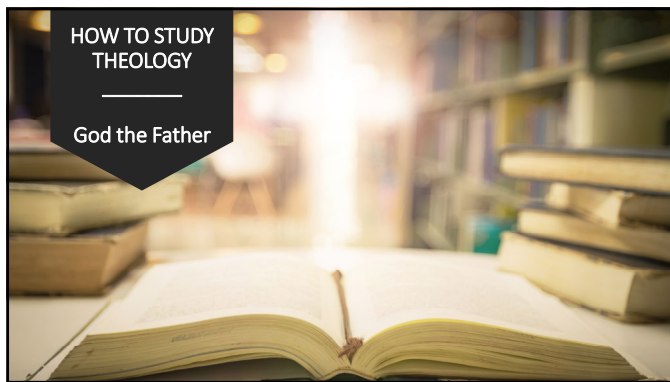
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3



4



5

And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.

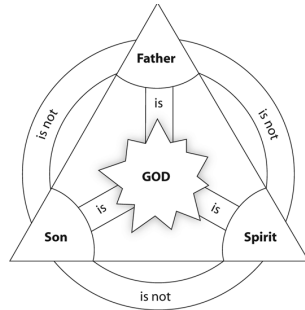
NKJV

Revelation 4:3 thru 6

6

Key Ideas to Study

- Distinguishing the Person (Father, Son, Spirit)
- The Attributes / Who God is
- The Actions / What He Says & What He Does



7

UNDERSTANDING THE TRINITY

Avoiding Heresy
&
Bad Analogies

Persons(s), Nature,
Deity, Humanity,
Relation



8

HERESIES (Thinking Wrongly about God)

• **Tritheism**

- Tritheism is the belief that there are three gods or three separate beings in the Godhead. Few, if any, have held this view consciously, though unwittingly many have fallen into it verbally by their incautious language about the Godhead.
- By correctly stressing the three persons as **distinct**, it is easy to slip into the language of tritheism, which wrongly posits three separate beings.

9

HERESIES (Thinking Wrongly about God)

- **Modalism**
- Modalism is also called sabellianism after its founder, Sabellius (~217–220 AD).
- Modalism holds that **God is only one person** who **appears in different modes** or roles at different times in the divine economy, from which it gets the title “Economic Trinity,” as opposed to the “Ontological(Nature) Trinity” of orthodox theology.

10

HERESIES (Thinking Wrongly about God)

- **Arianism**
- Following Arius (250–336 AD), its founder, this heresy denies that Jesus is fully God, allowing Him a created status below God. Arianism was opposed by Athanasius and condemned as heretical at the Council of Nicea (325 AD).

11

HERESIES (Thinking Wrongly about God)

- **Docetism**
- From the Greek word dokeo, “I seem,” docetism affirms the deity of Christ but denies His humanity, claiming it was only an apparent, but not real, humanity.
- Elements of this error had appeared already in New Testament times (1 John 4:1–3; 2 John 7; Col. 2:8–9); in some forms it held that Jesus escaped the ignominy of death by crucifixion when either Judas Iscariot or Simon of Cyrene exchanged places with Him on the cross.

12

HERESIES (Thinking Wrongly about God)

- **Nestorianism**
- It is doubtful that Nestorius (d. c. a.d. 451) held the view bearing his name, though some of his followers are credited with it. This posited not only **two natures in Christ (which is orthodox)** but also **two persons (which is not)**.
- Allegedly, if there is both a human and a divine person in Christ, then it was only the human person who died on the cross; hence, His sacrifice for our sins would have no divine efficacy. The truth is, only if one and the same person, who was both God and man, died for our sins, can He truly be mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5).
- It is against nestorianism that the creeds speak when they insist on a hypostatic union of the two natures in one person. While "hypostasis" literally means "substance," it also bore the meaning of "individual reality," and from the fourth century on it came to mean "person" (see Cross, *ODCC*, 685).

13

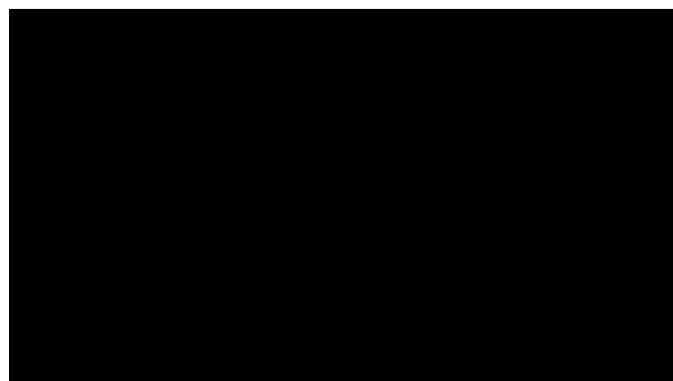
	PERSON(S)	NATURE(S)	
Trinitarianism	Three	One	
Tritheism	Three	Three	
Polytheism	Many	Many	
Modalism	One	One	
Binitarianism	Two	One	

	DEITY	HUMANITY	RELATION
Athanasian Creed (orthodoxy)	Affirmed	Affirmed	United
Arianism	Denied	Affirmed	United
Nestorianism	Affirmed	Affirmed	Separated ⁷
Eutychianism (Monophysitism)	Affirmed	Affirmed	Merged
Docetism	Affirmed	Denied	United
Adoptionism	Denied	Affirmed	Adopted
Apollinarianism	Affirmed	Diminished	United
Subordinationism	Diminished	Affirmed	United
Modalism (Sabellianism)	Affirmed	Affirmed	Separated ⁷

SUMMARY

- **Unity:** There are not two or more gods.
- **Simplicity:** There are not two or more parts in God.
- **Triunity:** There are three persons in the one God.

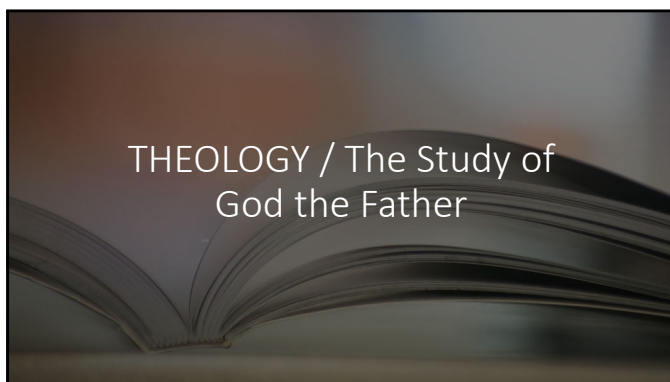
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15



16



17



18

OUR BELIEFS

The Godhead

We believe in one Triune God, eternally existing in three persons - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - co-equal in power and glory.

(Deuteronomy 6:4; II Corinthians 13:14)

19

Attributes of God

The characteristics or qualities of God that constitute Him as what He is.

They should not be thought of as something attributed to or predicated of Him, as if something could be added to his nature.

Rather, they are inseparable from his being.

20

Attributes of God

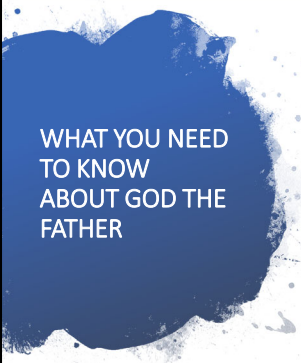
Incommunicable:

Attributes Belonging to God alone

Communicable:

Attributes of God Reflected in people

21

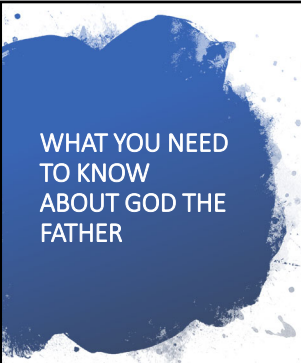


WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GOD THE FATHER

Non-moral /Omnipresent

- **Psalms 139:7** Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? **8** If I ascend to heaven, You are there; If I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there. **9** If I take the wings of the dawn, If I dwell in the remotest part of the sea, **10** Even there Your hand will lead me, And Your right hand will lay hold of me.
- **Hebrews 4:13** And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.

22

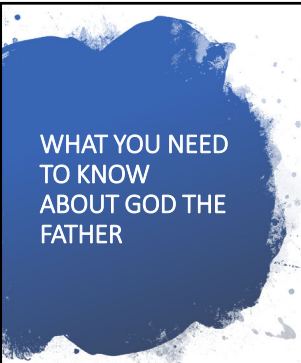


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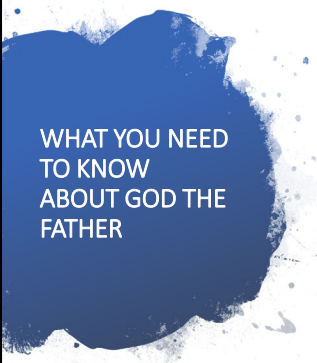


WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GOD THE FATHER

NON-MORAL / Omniscient

- **Proverbs 15:3** The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.
- **Psalms 147:4** He counts the number of the stars; He gives names to all of them.
- **Isaiah 46:9** "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, **10** Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';

24

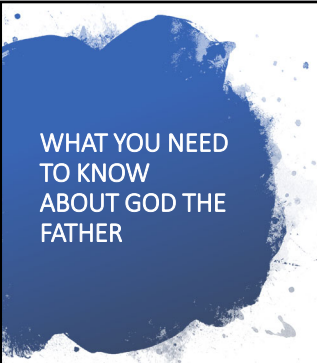


**WHAT YOU NEED
TO KNOW
ABOUT GOD THE
FATHER**

NON-MORAL / Omnipotent

- **Jeremiah 32:17** 'Ah Lord God! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You,
- **Job 42:2** "I know that You can do all things, And that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted."

25

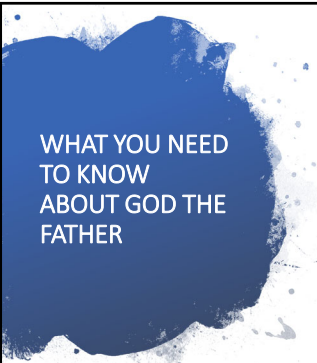


**WHAT YOU NEED
TO KNOW
ABOUT GOD THE
FATHER**

MORAL / Holy

- **Isaiah 6:3** And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory."
- **Revelation 4:8** And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come."

26



**WHAT YOU NEED
TO KNOW
ABOUT GOD THE
FATHER**

INCOMMUNICABLE / Eternal

- **Psalms 41:13** Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, From everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen.
- **Psalms 45:6** Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.
- **Psalms 90:1** Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.
- **2** Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

27

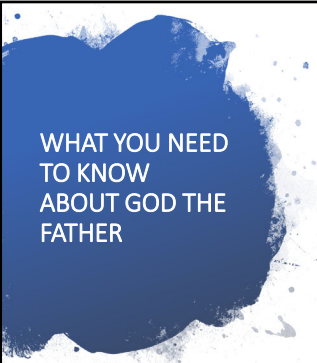


WHAT YOU NEED
TO KNOW
ABOUT GOD THE
FATHER

INCOMMUNICABLE / Perfect

- **Matthew 5:48** "Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

28

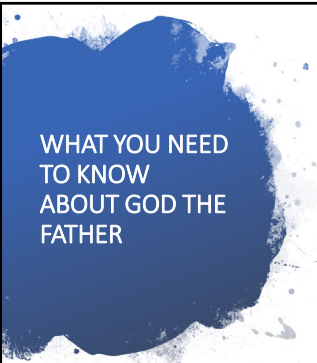


WHAT YOU NEED
TO KNOW
ABOUT GOD THE
FATHER

INCOMMUNICABLE / IMMUTABLE

- **Numbers 23:19** "God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent; Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?"
- **Isaiah 46:9** "Remember the former things long past, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, **10** Declaring the end from the beginning, And from ancient times things which have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, And I will accomplish all My good pleasure';"

29



WHAT YOU NEED
TO KNOW
ABOUT GOD THE
FATHER

ETHICAL / Love

- **1 John 4:16** We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.
- **Psalms 36:7** How precious is Your lovingkindness, O God! And the children of men take refuge in the shadow of Your wings.

30

GOODNESS / Righteous

**WHAT YOU NEED
TO KNOW
ABOUT GOD THE
FATHER**

- **Psalms 11:7** For the Lord is righteous, He loves righteousness; The upright will behold His face.
- **Psalms 89:14** Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Lovingkindness and truth go before You.
- **Psalms 33:4** For the word of the Lord is upright, And all His work is done in faithfulness. **5** He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the Lord.

31

COMMUNICABLE / Sovereign

**WHAT YOU NEED
TO KNOW
ABOUT GOD THE
FATHER**

- **Psalms 115:3** But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases.
- **Ephesians 4:6** one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

32

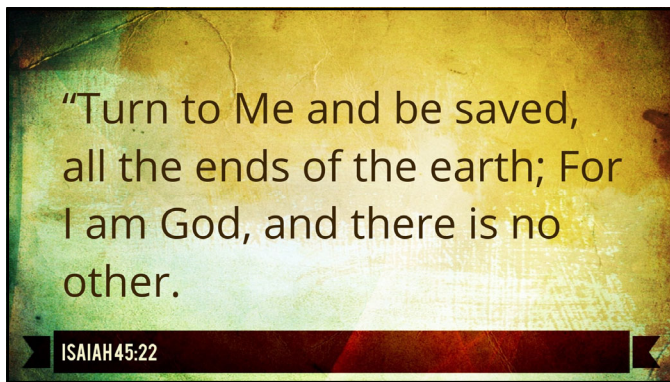


TRACE

33



34



35



36

And there is no creature
hidden from His sight, but all
things are naked and open to
the eyes of Him to whom we
must give account.

Hebrews 4:13

NKJV

37

And one called out to another and said,
"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of
hosts,
The whole earth is full of His glory."

Isaiah 6:3

NASB95

38

Exodus 34:6-7

THE LORD, THE LORD, A GOD MERCIFUL & GRACIOUS

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, keeping steadfast love for
thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the
guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children,
to the third and fourth generation.

39

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

NKJV

40

When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:28

NASB95

41



TRANSFORM

42

15 Things God Sees and Knows

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------------|
| 1. | He sees all things. | Prov. 15:3 |
| 2. | He knows the size and scope of the universe | Ps. 147:4 |
| 3. | He knows about the animal creation. | Matt. 10:29 |
| 4. | He knows mankind. | Matt. 10:30 |
| 5. | He knows our thoughts. | Ps. 139:2b; 44:21 |
| 6. | He knows our words. | Ps. 139:4 |
| 7. | He knows our deeds. | Ps. 139:2a |
| 8. | He knows our sorrows. | Exod. 3:7 |

43

15 Things God Sees and Knows

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 9. | He knows our needs. | Matt. 6:32 |
| 10. | He knows our devotions. | Gen. 18:17–19; 22:11–12; 2 Chron. 16:9 |
| 11. | He knows our frailties. | Ps. 103:14 |
| 12. | He knows our foolishness. | Ps. 69:5 |
| 13. | He knows his own. | John 10:14; 2 Tim. 2:19 |
| 14. | He knows the past, present, and future. | Acts 15:18 |
| 15. | He knows what might or could have been. | Matt. 11:23 |

44

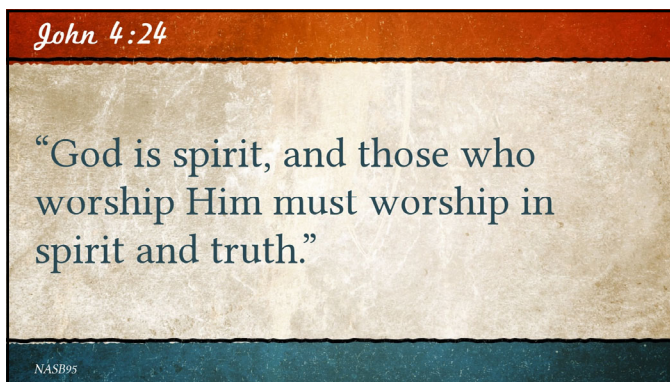
SIGNIFICANT PICTURES OF THE FATHER

- Genesis 22: Abraham and His Son Isaac / Father and Christ on the Cross
- Genesis 24: Abraham Send Servant for Son's Bride / Father Sends the Spirit
- Genesis 37: Pharaoh exalts Joseph over Egypt / Father exalts Christ (Millennial Kingdom)

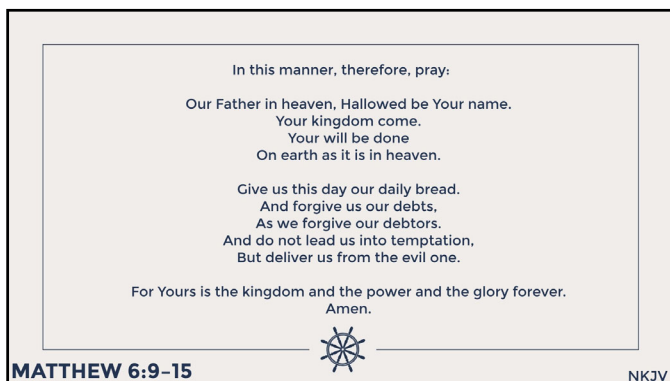
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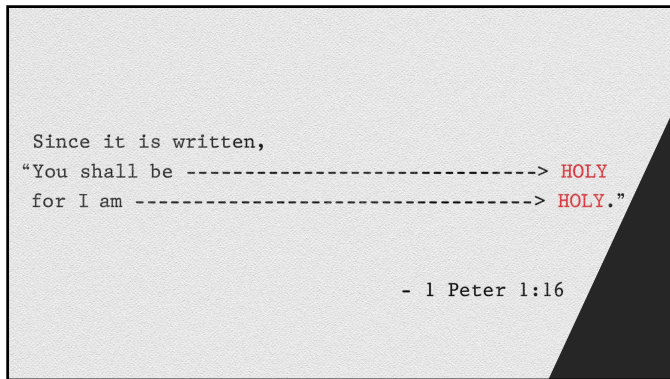
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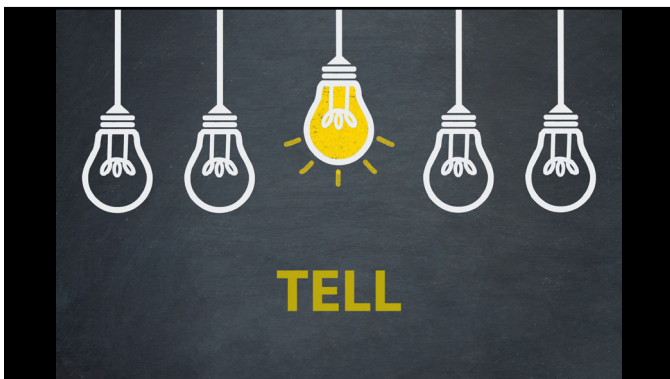
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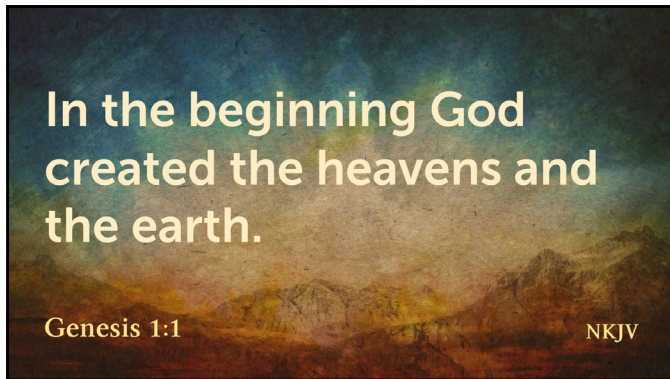
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50



51



52

Arguments about God

- The Ontological Argument
- The Cosmological Argument
- The Teleological Argument.
- The Moral Argument
- Presuppositional Apologetics (Van Til)
- The Transcendental Argument
 - Debate: Greg Bahnsen and Gordon Stein

53

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

NKJV **Romans 1:18-23**

54

TRINITY HELPS

- **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."
- **Psalm 110:1** "The LORD (yhwh) says to my Lord (adōni): 'Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet' " (see Matt. 22:41–45; also Num. 6:24; Isa. 33:22; Dan. 9:19) which implies plurality within the Godhead.

55

TRINITY HELPS

- A fascinating trinitarian passage that many suggest is found in the Old Testament is:
- **Isaiah 63:9–10** "In all their distress **he** (God the Father) **too was distressed**, and the **angel of his presence** (Jesus the son) **saved them**. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. Yet they rebelled and **grieved his Holy Spirit** (God the Spirit). So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them";

56

TRINITY HELPS

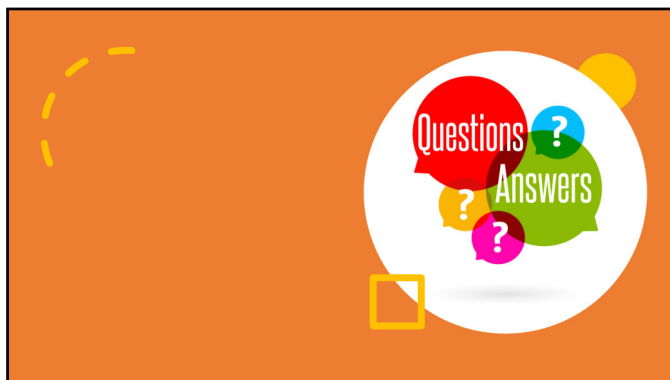
- A **plural noun** is employed to refer to God (This would never happen grammatically if God was not a Trinity)
- **Deuteronomy 7:16** Also you shall destroy all the peoples whom the Lord your **God (plural)** delivers over to you; your eye shall have no pity on them; nor shall you serve their **gods** (plural), for that will be a snare to you.

- **Psalm 149:2** Let Israel rejoice in their **Maker** (Plural); Let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
- **Ecclesiastes 12:1** Remember now your **Creator** (plural) in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them":
- **Isaiah 54:5–6** **5** For your **Maker (plural)** is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. **6** For the LORD has called you Like a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, Like a youthful wife when you were refused," Says your God.
- The Old Testament emphasizes the "unity of the Godhead" "one", whereas the New Testament emphasizes the plurality within this unity.

57



58



59

HERESIES (Thinking Wrongly about God)

- **Monophysitism**
- Monophysitism is also dubbed eutychianism after its alleged founder, Eutyches (c.375–454). Monophysitism confuses the two natures of Christ, so that the **divine and human natures intermingle**. Besides being a heresy, it is a contradiction, since it holds that there is an infinite finite and an uncreated created blending of the two natures of Christ.

60

HERESIES (Thinking Wrongly about God)

• **Patripassianism**

- Patripassianism means literally the “Father suffered.” It arose in the early third century in the form of monarchianism (see below), holding that **God the Father suffered on the cross as well as Christ**.
- However, the divine nature possessed by Christ did not suffer or die: God is impassible and, hence, incapable of undergoing suffering. Only the Son became incarnated in a human nature; thus, only the Son, not the Father or the Spirit, suffered on the cross.

61

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62

HERESIES (Thinking Wrongly about God)

• **Monothelitism**

- From two Greek words meaning “one” and “to will,” this unorthodox seventh-century view held that **Jesus has only one will, not both a human and a divine will**.
- This is contrary to our Lord’s words in Gethsemane, where He said, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will” (Matt. 26:39, emphasis added).
- Further, by insisting that Christ has only one will, monothelitism in effect confuses His two natures through which He (one person) operated. This doctrine was condemned as a heresy by the Lateran Council of 649 and the Council of Constantinople of 680.

63

HERESIES (Thinking Wrongly about God)

- **Apollinarianism**
- Following their leader, Apollinarius (c. 310–c. 390), this sect diminished the humanity of Christ; that is, while affirming His full deity, they **denied His full humanity by claiming that Jesus had no human spirit** (only a body and a soul).
- They held that the divine *Logos replaced the human spirit in Jesus*. Apollinarianism was condemned by the Synods in Rome (374–380) and the Council of Constantinople (381).

64

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65

HERESIES (Thinking Wrongly about God)

- **Subordinationism**
- This heresy was held by Justin Martyr (c. 100–c. 165) and Origen (c. 185–c. 254) and condemned at the Council of Constantinople (381).
- It asserts that the Son is subordinate in **nature to the Father**.
- Subordinationism is not to be confused with the orthodox belief that the Son (Christ) is **functionally subordinate** to (i.e., subject to) the Father, though essentially equal with Him.

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67

HERESIES (Thinking Wrongly about God)

- **Monarchianism**

- This second and third century nontrinitarian heresy stressed the unity (monarchy) of God to the neglect of Christ's deity.
- Supposedly, **Jesus was only a power or influence from God**.
- There were two main groups of monarchianists: modalists and adoptionists. The modalists were represented by Noetus, Praxeas, and Sabellius. The main adoptionists were Theodotus and Artemon and, perhaps, Paul of Samosata (see Cross, *ODCC*, 929).

68

HERESIES (Thinking Wrongly about God)

- **Adoptionism**

- Adoptionism was rooted in second-and third-century monarchianism but flourished in the eighth century.
- According to this view, **Jesus was only a man** but was adopted by God because of His divine powers.
- This is said to have occurred when God declared from heaven: "This is my Son" (Matt. 3:17).

69

HERESIES (Thinking Wrongly about God)

- ***Binitarianism***

- According to binitarianism, there are only two persons in the Godhead. While few, if any, early Fathers explicitly affirmed binitarianism, some inadvertently and implicitly fell into it by denying the deity of the Son.
- Some modern proponents of this view deny the personality of the Holy Spirit, thus leaving only two persons in the Godhead. Both the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ (sister group to the Mormons) and the old Worldwide Church of God under Herbert W. Armstrong embraced this view.
