

LESSON 8: CHRISTIANS BELIEVE IN THE TRINITY: THE ONE TRUE GOD

THE ONE TRUE GOD

Christianity has all of its roots in the Old Testament religion of the Jews. It is quite accurate to say that Christianity is actually Jewish.

To fully understand the Jewish religion and its God, YHWH, we must understand something of their background. The first real Jew was Abraham. The Bible informs us that Abraham's father was actually an idol worshipper (Joshua 24:2). All of civilization at this time worshipped a variety of different gods. There were sun-gods, rain-gods, gods of luck, gods of fate, and even unknown gods. In brief, anything that could not be explained by the human mind was attributed to a god. We will call this condition of many gods "pluristic society." By this we mean that there were many explanations for the universe, meaning and existence and a corresponding god for each answer. This is the environment that Abraham lived in.

Abraham was a regular sort of guy, there was nothing "special" or different about him other than the fact that God decided to "reveal" Himself to him (Gen. 12:1). The fact of the matter is that God "chose" to "reveal" Himself to Abraham for no reason at all except that He decided to. The calling of Abraham was a total act of grace, yet Abraham did choose to follow. When God did choose to reveal Himself, He did so as the ONE TRUE GOD, a personal God with a name and personality, thereby making all other "gods" false and the product of the unaided imagination man. He was YHWH, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

It is important to realize that we also live in a pluralistic society and that God has chosen to "reveal" Himself to us as the ONE TRUE GOD. May this cause us to be grateful and thankful!

(I) THE ONE TRUE GOD

- A. The Bible continually reinforces the idea of ONE TRUE GOD.
 - 1. "Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord."
(Deut. 6:4)
 - 2. "First...last...besides me there is no God."
(Isa. 44:6-8)
 - 3. "There is none else, there is no God beside me."
(Isa. 45:5)
 - 4. "There is one God."
(I Tim. 2:5)
 - 5. There is no other God but one.
(I Cor. 8:4)

(II) ALTHOUGH GOD IS ONE, HE IS PLURAL IN NATURE

(the idea is one of "compound unity.")

- A. "Let 'US' make man in 'OUR' image, after 'OUR' likeness."
(Gen. 1:27-28)
- B. Elohim = God in the plural.
- C. Father speaking, Servant and Spirit mentioned.
(Isa. 42:1; Mt. 12:18)
- D. All three members at the same time.
(Isa. 48:16-17)
- E. Baptismal formula.
(Matt. 28:19)
- F. Family is a singular word for a plural reality

(III) CHRIST IS REFERRED TO AS GOD

- A. "The Word of God...the Word was God."
(Jn. 1:1, 18)
- B. God calls the Son God.
(Heb. 1:8)
- C. YHWH attributed to the Son the New Testament.
(Ps. 24:7; I Cor. 2:8)
- D. "Unto us a child is born...mighty God, everlasting Father."
(Isa. 9:6)

(IV) SPIRIT IS REFERRED TO AS GOD

- A. Never grieve God's Spirit.
(Eph.4:30)
- B. Holy Spirit is called God.
(Acts 5:3-4)
- C. The Lord is that Spirit.
(II Cor. 3:17)

(V) WHY IS THIS SORT OF THING EVEN IMPORTANT?

- A. If there isn't one true God than one god is as good as another.
- B. Wherever this concept is misunderstood, another plan of salvation follows.
 - 1. Jews, because of their misunderstanding of Deut. 6:4 crucified Jesus Christ.
 - 2. Cults always deny this doctrine.
 - 3. It answers theological questions; thereby, making the Bible a unity.

4. We can know we are right and this is important.
5. $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$

(VI) JESUS AS GOD REVEALED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

CREATOR

Job 33:4----Heb. 1:8-12
Gen 1:1-----Jn. 1:3

FIRST AND LAST

Isa. 48:12-----Rev. 1:17
Isa. 44:6-----Rev. 2:8
Isa. 43:10-----Rev. 22:13

SAVIOR

Ps. 106:21---Jn. 4:42
Is. 43:3-----Acts 5:31

ROCK

I Cor. 10:4- Deut. 32:4
II Sam. 22:32-I Pet. 2:6-8

I AM (EGO EIMI)

Exo. 3:13-14
Jn. 8:58
Jn. 13:19, 18:5

JUDGE

Joel 3:12-----II Tim. 4:1
Gen. 18:25----II Cor. 5:10
Rom. 14:10

KING

Jer. 10:10---Matt. 2:1-6
Isa. 44:6----Lu. 23:3
Ps. 47:8-----Jn. 19:21

SHEPHERD

Isa. 40:11---Jn. 10:11
Ps. 100-----Heb. 13:20
Ps. 23-----I Pet. 5:4

LIGHT

Isa. 60:20---Jn. 1:9, 8:12
Ps. 27:1-----Lu. 2:32

- Gen. 1:2 - The Spirit in creation.
- Ps. 139:7-10 - The Spirit is present everywhere.
- Heb. 9:14 - The Spirit is eternal.
- Acts 5:4 - The Spirit is called God.
- Jn. 20:28 - Thomas says "My Lord and my God", Jesus doesn't argue.
- I Jn. 5:20 - His Son, Jesus Christ, this is the true God.
- Jn. 1:1 - The Word was God.
- Jn. 1:3 - All things were made through Him.
- Matt. 18:20 - For where two or more are gathered...Jesus is everywhere.

(X) WORSHIP OF JESUS

The Bible demands that only God be worshipped, yet throughout the New Testament Jesus is worshipped and receives worship:

- Matt. 2:2 "and asked, 'Where is the One who has been born King of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him'."
- Matt. 9:18 "While He was saying this, a ruler came and knelt before Him and said, 'My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her and she will live'."
- Matt. 14:33 "Then those who were in the boat worshipped him, saying, 'Truly You are the Son of God'."
- Matt. 15:25 "The woman came and knelt before Him. 'Lord, help me!' she said."
- Matt. 20:20 "Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of Him."
- Matt. 28:9 "Suddenly Jesus met them. 'Greetings,' He said. They came to Him, clasped His feet and worshipped Him."
- Lu. 5:8 "When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus' knees and said, 'Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!'"
- Lu. 24:52 "Then they worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy."
- Jn. 5:23 "that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, Who sent Him."
- Jn. 9:38 "Then the man said, 'Lord, I believe,' and he worshipped Him."
- I Cor. 1:2 "To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ - their Lord and ours."
- Phil. 2:10 "that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,"
- Heb. 1:6 "And again, when God brings His firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all God's angels worship Him'."

