

Great Questions: Trinity



4G Mentoring: Growing, Guiding, and
Guarding the Global Bride of Christ

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www.4GMentoring.com
4GMentoring@gmail.com

Foreword

This document has been designed for use with small groups using cell-phones, tablets, computers, TV connections, or projectors. This document is not designed as a printed book (though it may be printed) or large group presentation but rather an electronic discussion guide for small or medium sized multi-language groups. The graphics on each page are designed to ease cross-cultural communication issues when using a translator or with group members using a second language. We hope that this document helps facilitate discussions about the Gospel of Jesus Christ in both formal and informal discussion groups in homes, churches, and coffee shops around the world. The copyright on this document allows you to freely distribute and even modify the content (except modifying the King's Witness symbols) to meet your needs.

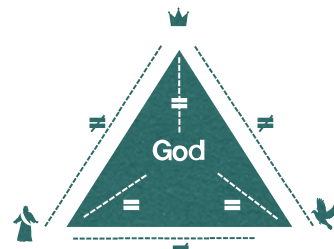
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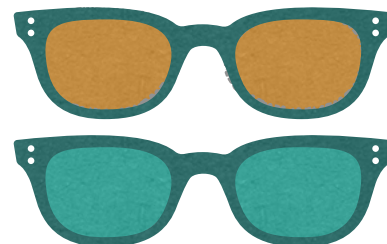
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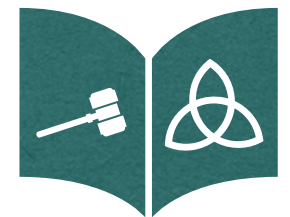
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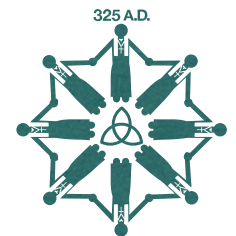
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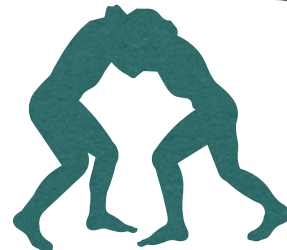
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God Is the First
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God Is the
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The Son Created
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Every Knee Will
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The Son Was
Not Created



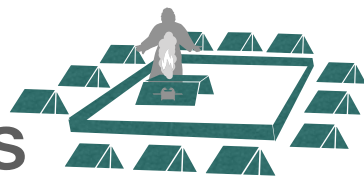
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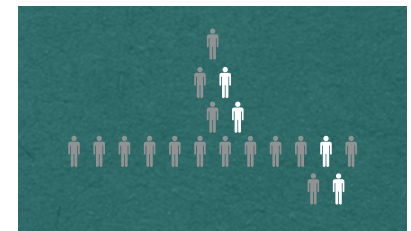
The Son Is
Not an Angel



God “Dwelt” Or
“Tented” Among Us



Firstborn =
Legal Title



The Son Is 100% Divine:

I Am = Yahweh:

I am = Yahweh



Jesus Claimed
To Be “I Am”



Jesus’ 7 “I Am”
Statements



Jesus Is Worshipped:

The Shema -
one God



Worship Only God



The Apostles
Called Jesus God



Immanuel -
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Jesus, the
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The Messiah =
Mighty God

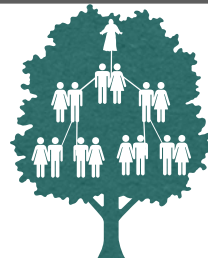


Possible Early
Christian Hymn



Jesus Is 100% Human:

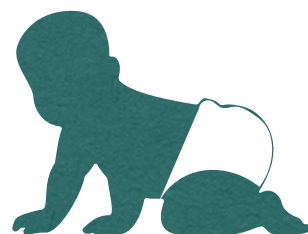
The Family Tree
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Humble but
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Jesus Grew Like
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Jesus Humbled
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Jesus Was Tempted
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Jesus Experienced
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Jesus Lived and
Died Under the Law



Only a Human and Divine
Sacrifice Was Valuable Enough



Jesus Did Things
Only God Can Do:

Jesus Has Power
To Heal the Sick



Jesus Has Power
Over Demons



Jesus Has Power
Over Nature



Jesus Has Authority
To Forgive Sins



Jesus Has Power
Over Death



The Holy Spirit Is 100%
Divine:

The Holy Spirit
Is God



The Holy Spirit
Is Eternal



The Holy Spirit Is
All-Knowing and Ever



The Holy Spirit
Is Personal



Why Doesn't Jesus
Know the End Times?

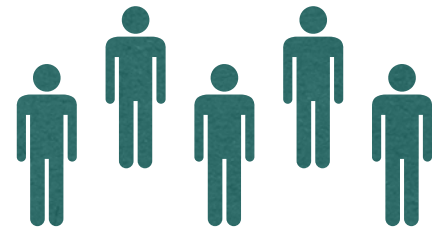


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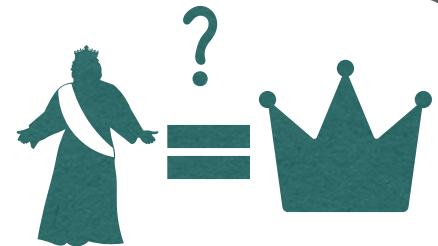
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Is Jesus Equal
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Why Did Jesus
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The Son
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God Is One Person
In Three Modes



Jesus Only Seemed
To Be Human



The Trinity Is Split
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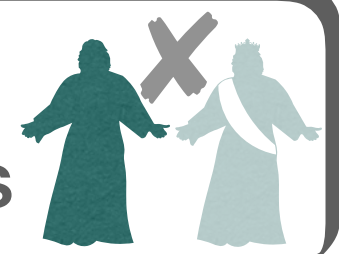
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Worship of Mary



Jesus and the Son
Are Separate Beings



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Islam



Hinduism



Buddhism



Atheism and
Agnostics



Jehovah's Witness



Mormon

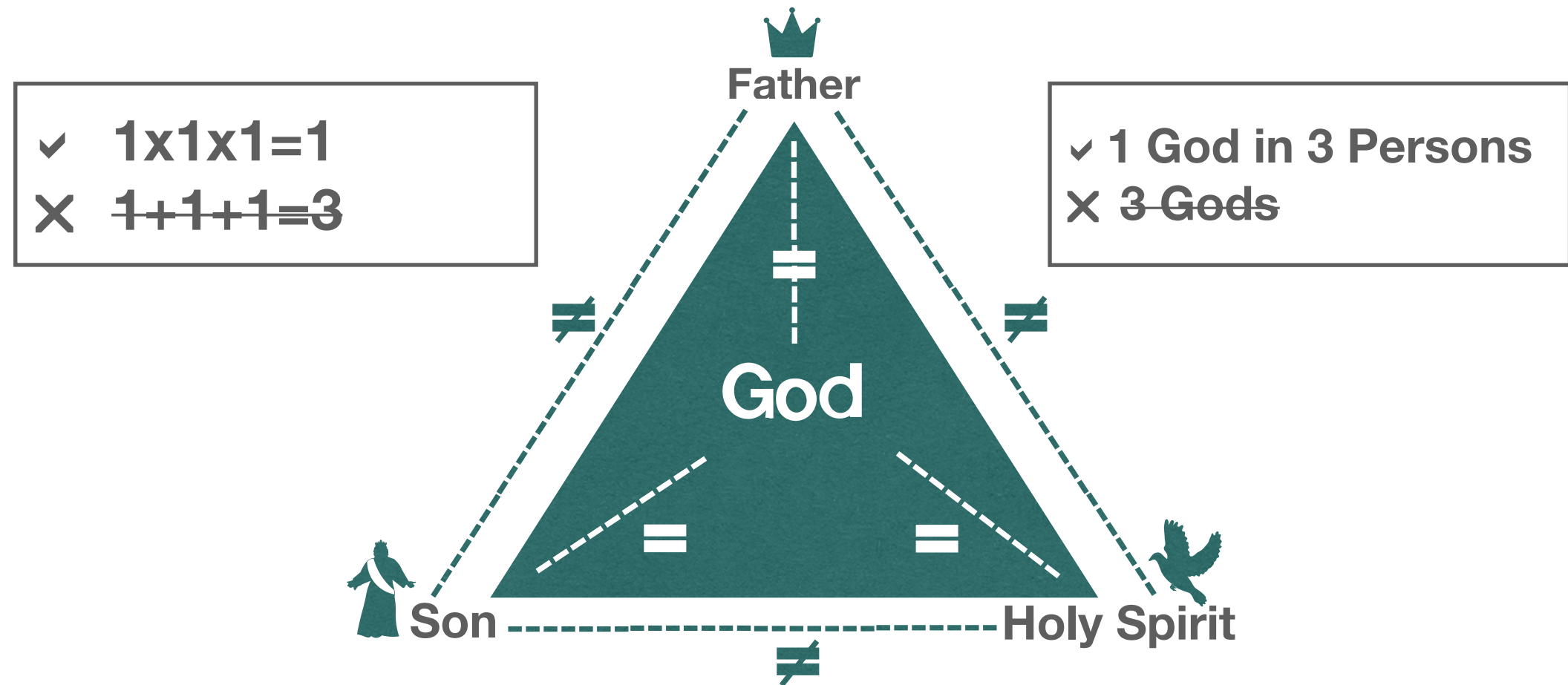


New Age, the New
Spirituality



Introduction

1 God in 3 Persons (The Trinity Triangle)



The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all equally God but the Father is not the Son, the Son is not the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is not the Father.

There are no divisions within God but God is mysteriously complex and reveals himself in three distinct persons at the same time. A mathematical example is that Trinity is $(1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1)$ and not $(1 + 1 + 1 = 3)$. Trinity is one God in three persons and not three gods. Christians believe that there is a certain amount of mystery to the Trinity that goes beyond human reason.

*“And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of **the Father** and of **the Son** and of **the Holy Spirit**, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.’” (Matthew 28:18-20)*

*“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to the foreknowledge of **God the Father**, in the sanctification of **the Spirit**, for obedience to **Jesus Christ** and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.” (1 Peter 1:1-2)*

*In this verse we see God the Father, the Spirit, and Jesus Christ (the Son).

Key Idea: The Bible presents God as one God who reveals himself in three persons with no divisions.

Limited Human Reason (And the Complexity of God)



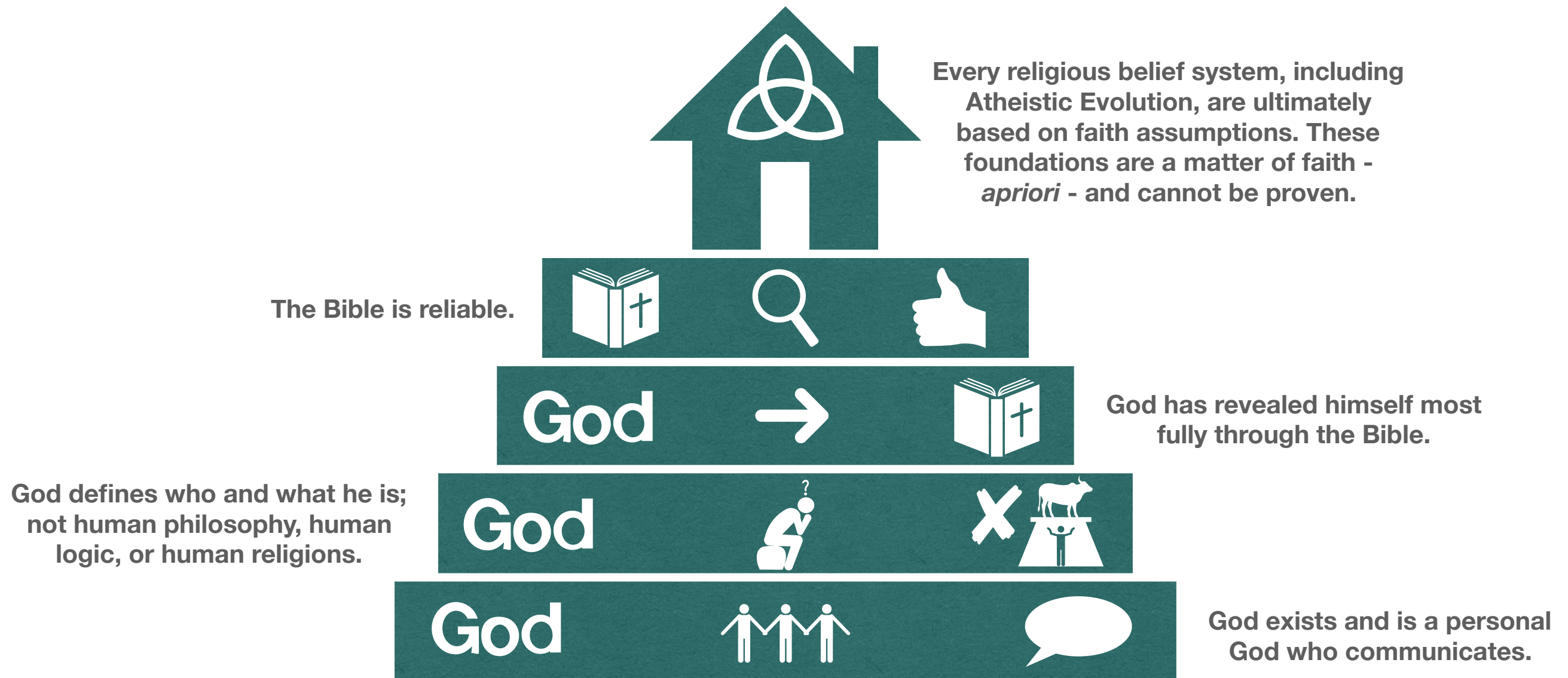
Science can describe how the universe functions and evaluate historical and archeological claims from the Bible but cannot test, describe, or prove the existence of the spiritual (non-material) world or address the issue of Trinity. Philosophy may help to examine logical truth claims in light of the principle of non-contradiction but ultimately cannot give us a definitive description of the complex nature of God. Ultimately, Trinity cannot be proven or disproven through scientific observation or philosophy but must be evaluated in light of an acceptance or rejection of the Bible as supernatural revelation.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8-9)

*“Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, **he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’** And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ **Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’** And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.’” (Matthew 16:23-27)*

Key Idea: Human reason, through science and philosophy, is unable to examine and evaluate the complex nature of God.

Foundations of Trinity (Faith Assumptions)



Key Idea: Trinity is built on the foundation of belief in a personal God who exists and has reliably revealed himself in the Bible. If a person rejects this foundation then it is impossible to embrace Trinity as truth.

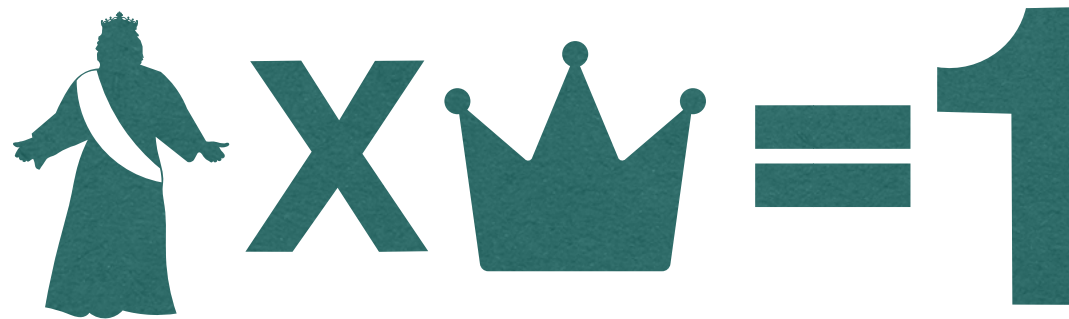
Different Tinted Glasses



We all have basic foundational beliefs and assumptions that effect how we perceive evidence when examining important issues. If a person comes to the discussion already believing or disbelieving that Trinity exists then this will effect the way they view the evidence. This document does not try to prove

Key Idea: We can see the same evidence but come to different conclusions based on our foundational beliefs.

Jesus Is One With the Father



“I and the Father are one.” (John 10:30)

*“Philip said to him, ‘Lord, **show us the Father**, and it is enough for us.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, “Show us the Father?”’” (John 14:8-9)*

*“No one has ever seen God; **the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.**” (John 1:18)*

Key Idea: The Father and the Son are one without losing their individual identities in the union.

The Son Is Not the Father (or the Holy Spirit)



*And when **Jesus was baptized**, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw **the Spirit of God descending like a dove** and coming to rest on him; and behold, **a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”** (Matthew 3:16-17)*

*In this verse we see Jesus being baptized, the Holy Spirit coming down on him like a dove, and the Father speaking - all at the same time.

*“And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and **knelt down and prayed, saying, ‘Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done.’”** (Luke 22:42)*

*Jesus prays to the Father so he cannot be the same person as the Father.

Key Idea: God is always Father, Son, and Holy Spirit at the same time and does not simply switch his appearance due to the circumstance.

The Son Is Not Limited to a Body (He Was Always Everywhere)



Key Idea: The Son did not somehow get sucked down into the physical body of Jesus like a genie into a bottle. The Son exists everywhere all the time but reveals himself to mankind in a special way through a physical human body.

Two Natures United in One Person (Human and Divine Nature)



How can one person have two natures? How can a person be both equally human and equally divine? The complexity of these questions and many more have been discussed and debated by Christians since the 1st Century. But a basic understanding of the incarnation of Jesus is key to understanding the basic message of salvation presented in the Bible.

*“For in him the whole fullness of **deity** dwells **bodily**,” (Colossians 2:9)*

Key Idea: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is one person with both fully human and fully divine natures that are fully united and indivisible.

Is Jesus More Than a Prophet?



Who does the Bible
say Jesus is?

(A Prophet) *“And he said to them, ‘What things?’ And they said to him, ‘Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people,’” (Luke 24:19)*

(Son of Man) *“‘But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins’—he said to the man who was paralyzed—‘I say to you, rise, pick up your bed and go home.’” (Luke 5:23-24)*

(Son of God, King of Israel) “Nathanael answered him, ‘Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!’ Jesus answered him, ‘Because I said to you, “I saw you under the fig tree,” do you believe? You will see greater things than these.’” (John 1:49-50)

(I AM - Yahweh, God’s personal name) “Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.’ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.” (John 8:58-59)

(The Alpha and Omega) “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” (Revelations 22:13)

(Christ the Lord) “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2:11)

(Immanuel, God with us) “All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us).” (Matthew 1:22-23)

(the Word, the Only Son) “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

(image of the invisible God, the firstborn of creation) “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.” (Colossians 1:15)

(the Last Adam) “Thus it is written, ‘The first man Adam became a living being’; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.” (1 Corinthians 15:45)

(God and Savior) “waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.” (Titus 2:13-14)

(the root and descendant of David, the bright morning star)
“I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you about these things for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.” (Revelation 22:16)

(the Lion of the tribe of Judah, Root of David) “And one of the elders said to me, ‘Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.’” (Titus 2:11-14)

(the cornerstone) “So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.” (Ephesians 2:19-21)

(the Cloud, the Rock) “For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.” (1 Corinthians 10:1-4)

(the Lamb of God) “The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, ‘Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!’” (Revelation 1:29)

(the Lamb who was slain) “saying with a loud voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!’” (Revelation 5:12)

(our Passover lamb) “Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.” (1 Corinthians 5:7)

(Great High Priest) “Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.” (Hebrews 4:14)

(the head of the body, the church; the firstborn from the dead) “And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.” (Revelation 22:16)

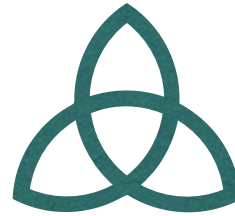
(Judge of the living and the dead) “And he commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be judge of the living and the dead. To him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.” (Acts 10:42-43)

(The Christ - Messiah, Son of the Living God) “Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter replied, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.’” (Matthew 16:13-17)

*Also Matthew 1:22-23, John 1:14 Colossians 1:15, Luke 2:11, 1 Corinthians 15:45, Titus 2:13-14, Revelation 22:16, Titus 2:11-14, Ephesians 2:19-21, 1 Corinthians 10:1-4, Revelation 1:29, 5:12; 1 Corinthians 5:7, Hebrews 4:14, Revelation 22:16, Acts 10:42-43, Matthew 16:13-17

Key Idea: The Bible definitely portrays Jesus as more than a prophet.

What Is the Point of Trinity?

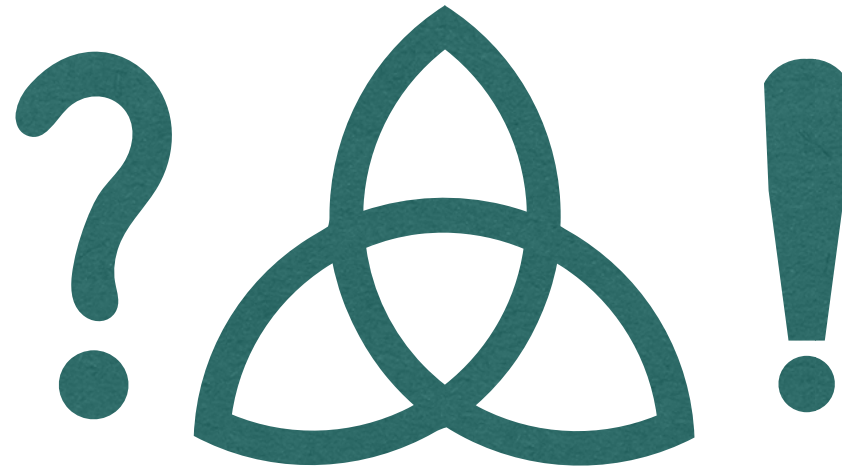


God:

- Is eternal and existed before creation but personally interacts within creation
- Is complex beyond human understanding and uses limited human concepts like “Father and Son” to give us some understanding of his complex nature
- Is relationally self-sufficient and creative and did not create humanity because he was lonely, needed worship, or anything else from humanity
- Is both loving and just and desires a personal relationship with humanity but also must punish sin through physical and spiritual death (our own good works are unable to save us, God must save us and restore the broken relationship)
- Did not send someone else to save humanity but came himself as the infinitely valuable human-divine savior to satisfy both his divine love and justice
- Became a man although a man could never become God
- Is now “one of us” (God with us) with both a divine spirit and a physical human body for the rest of eternity
- Revealed himself clearly as Trinity to explain the salvation he has provided through the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus and to demonstrate the intimate relationship that God already has within himself and desires to share with humanity

Key Idea: Trinity communicates God's eternal complexity, his personal and relational nature, and his plan to save humanity.

Why Is Trinity Important?



Biblical faith is believing, trusting, and obeying what God has clearly revealed to us in the Bible. In John chapter 3, Jesus equates belief in and trust of himself as God's only Son to trust of God and salvation. This does not mean we have to completely understand the Trinity to be saved but we cannot reject Jesus as the unique and only Son of God and be saved because this is a rejection of what God has clearly revealed through the Bible.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.” (John 3:16-18)

“Whoever receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for he gives the Spirit without measure. The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand. Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.” (John 3:33-36)

“Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son. And this is the testimony, that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. **Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.”** (1 John 5:10-12)

Key Idea: Belief, trust, and obedience to Jesus Christ as the one and unique Son of God is an essential part of salvation.

History of Trinity

Trinity From the Beginning



*“In the beginning, **God** created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters. And **God** said, ‘Let there be light,’ and there was light.” (Genesis 1:1-3)*

*God creates, the Spirit hovers, and God speaks (the Word).

*“Then God said, ‘Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’” (Genesis 1:26)*

*The royal “we”, as in a monarch speaking of himself in the plural, was not common in the ancient near-east at the time of the writing of Genesis. God does not use the royal we for himself anywhere else in scripture.

*“Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: ‘**I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself.**’” (Isaiah 44:24)*

*God did not have angels or other helpers in creation. This means the only person involved in the act of creating the world was God.

Key Idea: God reveals that he is complex from the very first verses of the Bible.

Ignatius of Antioch, 107 A.D. ("Jesus Christ, our God")



There are those that would claim that Trinity was not taught in the Bible or the early church and was a philosophy created at the Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. But Ignatius of Antioch (35 A.D. -107 A.D.) seems to have been a disciple of John the Apostle, was a bishop of Antioch, and was martyred for his faith around 107 A.D. Ignatius clearly believed and taught that Jesus was God.

*“Ignatius, who is also called Theophorus, to the Church which is at Ephesus, in Asia, deservedly most happy, being blessed in the greatness and fulness of God the Father, and predestinated before the beginning of time, that it should be always for an enduring and unchangeable glory, being united and elected through the true passion by the will of the Father, and **Jesus Christ, our God**: Abundant happiness through Jesus Christ, and His undefiled grace.” (Letter to the Ephesians, Opening Greeting, Ignatius, c. 107 A.D.)*

*“Being the followers of God, and stirring up yourselves **by the blood of God**, ye have perfectly accomplished the work which was beseeming to you.” Letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 1, Ignatius, (c. 107 A.D.)*

*“There is one Physician who is possessed both of flesh and spirit; both made and not made; **God existing in flesh**; true life in death; both of Mary and of God; first possible and then impossible, — even Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Letter to the Ephesians, Chapter 7, Ignatius, c. 107 A.D.)*

Click here for full article from [With All I Am](#)

Source: The Ante-Nicene Fathers, Volume I: The Apostolic Fathers with Justin Martyr and Irenaeus. 1885 (A. Roberts, J. Donaldson & A. C. Coxe, Ed.) (p. 49, 52, 57, 69-70, 73,74–75, 76, 86,87, 94 and 96). Buffalo, NY: Christian Literature Company. (The quotes are from the shorted version of Ignatius Letters, emphasis added)

Key Idea: Ignatius of Antioch speaks of Jesus as “our God” in a letter to the church in Ephesus sometime before 107 A.D.

Word “Trinity” First Used, 180 A.D. (By Theophilus)

The Word “Trinity” is not in the Bible but the concept is in the Bible.



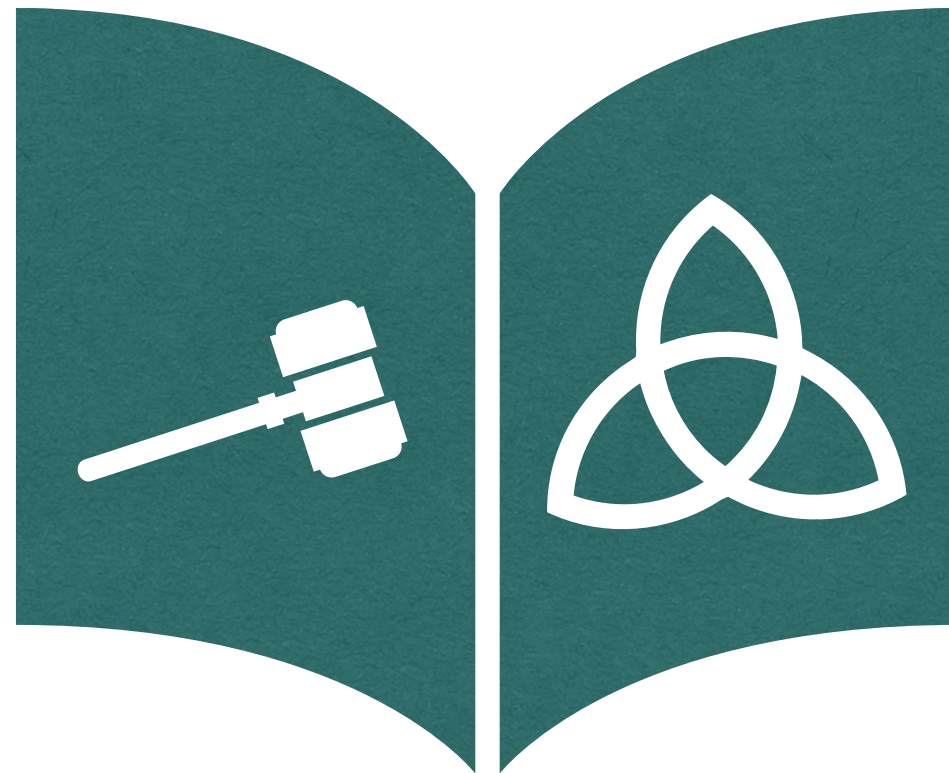
Theophilus uses the term:
God, His Word, and His
Wisdom to describe the
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*“In like manner also the three days which were before the luminaries, are types of the **Trinity [Τριάδος], of God, and His Word, and His wisdom.** And the fourth is the type of man, who needs light, that so there may be God, the Word, wisdom, man.” (Aboud, Ibrahim [Fall 2005]. Theandros an online Journal of Orthodox Christian Theology and Philosophy. 3, number 1.*

Archived from the original on 24 July 2008.)

Key Idea: Theophilus of Antioch first used the word “Trinity” in 180 A.D. to describe some idea of God in three persons.

Tertulian's Adversus Praxeas, 210 A.D. (First Defense of the Trinity)

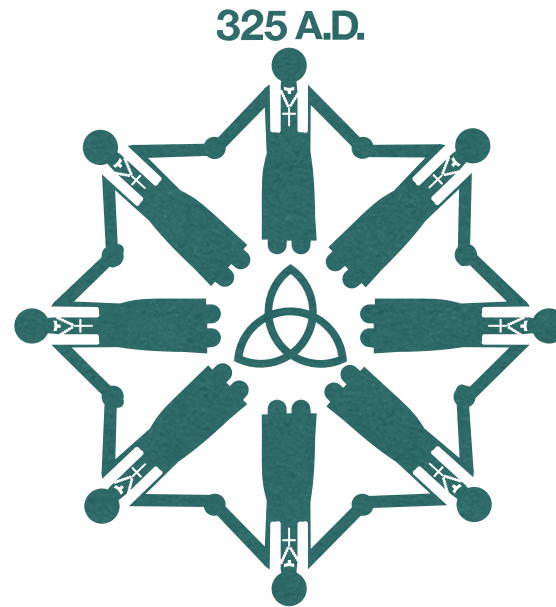


Tertulian wrote his defense of the Trinity against a man named Praxeas who was teaching a form of Monarchianism. Praxeas taught that there were no persons or any kind of divisions within God because God is a unified being.

*“Him we believe to have been sent by the Father into the Virgin, and to have been born of her — **being both Man and God, the Son of Man and the Son of God**, and to have been called by the name of Jesus Christ; we believe Him to have suffered, died, and been buried, according to the Scriptures, and, after He had been raised again by the Father and taken back to heaven, to be sitting at the right hand of the Father, and that He will come to judge the quick and the dead; who sent also from heaven from the Father, according to His own promise, the Holy Ghost, the Paraclete, the sanctifier of the faith of those who believe in **the Father, and in the Son, and in the Holy Ghost**. That this rule of faith has come down to us from the beginning of the gospel, even before any of the older heretics, much more before Praxeas, a pretender of yesterday, will be apparent both from the lateness of date which marks all heresies, and also from the absolutely novel character of our new-fangled Praxeas.”* *Adversus Praxeas*, Tertulian, 210 A.D.

Key Idea: Tertulian writes the first defense of the Trinity in 210 A.D. called *Adversus Praxeas*.

Nicene Creed, 325 A.D. (Official Recognition of “Trinity”)



The Council of Nicea, the first council of church leaders to meet after Christianity was legalized in the Roman Empire, was called to address the heretical views of Arius. Arius taught that the Son of God was a created being distinct from God the Father. Although the doctrine of the Trinity was officially recognized in 325 A.D. at the Council of Nicea, this doctrine was widely held in the church from the first century and is clearly represented in the biblical text. The Nicene Creed simply formalized what the majority of churches already believed.

*We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible. **And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father [the only-begotten; that is, of the essence of the Father, God of God,] Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father;** by whom all things were made [both in heaven and on earth]; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down and was incarnate and was made man; He suffered, and the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. And in the Holy Ghost. [But those who say: 'There was a time when he was not;' and 'He was not before he was made;' and 'He was made out of nothing,' or 'He is of another substance' or 'essence,' or 'The Son of God is created,' or 'changeable,' or 'alterable' — they are condemned by the holy catholic and apostolic Church.] - Nicene Creed, 325 A.D.*

Key Idea: Official recognition of the biblical and orthodox doctrine of the Trinity (Nicene Creed) came in 325 A.D. at the Council of Nicea.

Old Testament Theophanies: (God Revealing Himself in Human Form)

God “Walking” in the Garden



*“And they **heard the sound** of the LORD God **walking in the garden** in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.” (Genesis 3:8)*

*How can you hear someone walking unless they have a physical body?

Key Idea: God revealed himself to Adam and Eve in physical form as they “heard” God walking in the garden.

The Angel of the LORD and Hagar

“The Angel of the LORD” can also be translated, “the Messenger of Yahweh” - which is very similar to the phrase “Word of God.”



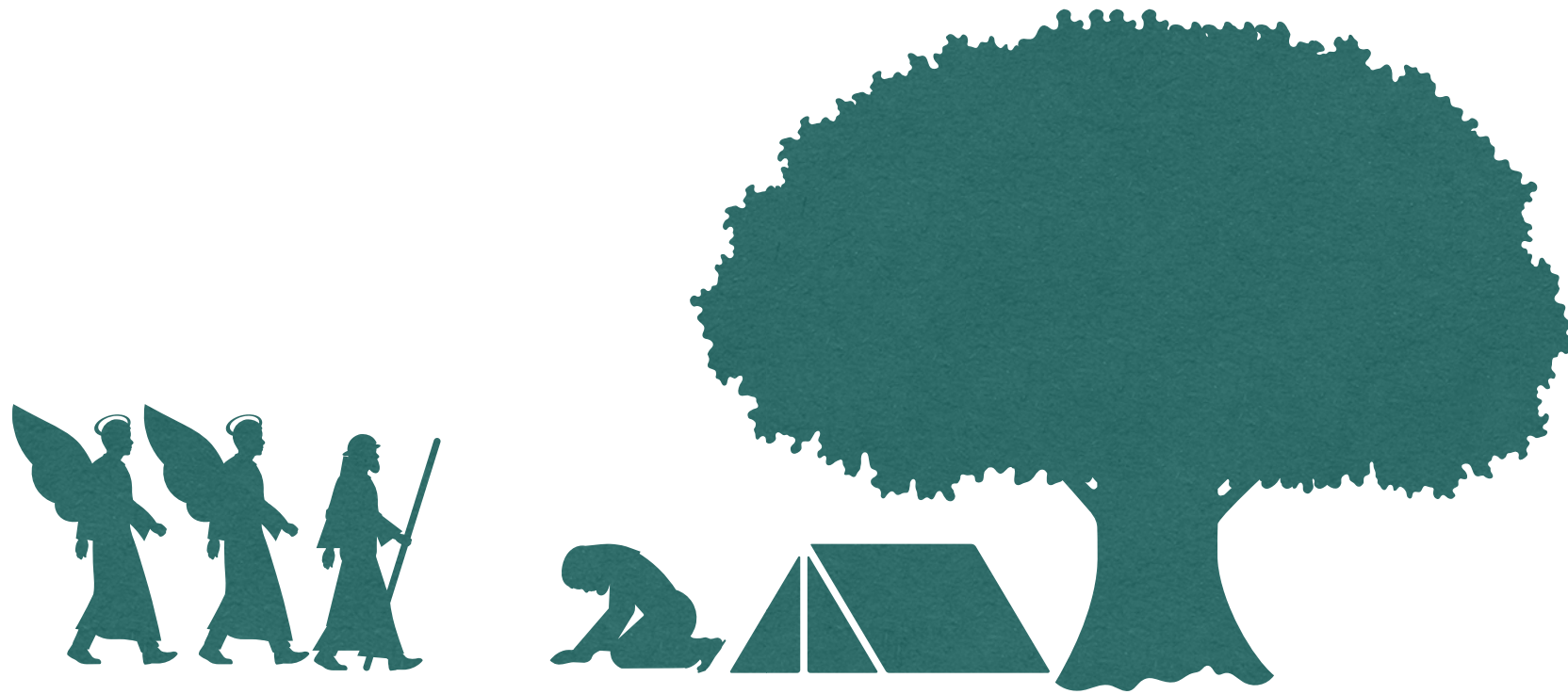
The Angel of the LORD often talks as if he is God himself and people understand his message as coming from God himself. Hagar seems to think the Angel of the Lord is God himself.

“The angel of the LORD found her by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And he said, ‘Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from and where are you going?’” (Genesis 16:7-8)

“So she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her, ‘You are a God of seeing,’ for she said, ‘Truly here I have seen him who looks after me.’” (Genesis 16:13)

Key Idea: God revealed himself to Hagar in a physical form as the Angel of the LORD.

Abraham and the Third Man



Three men come to Abraham. Two men are specifically called angels. The third man seems to be God himself (LORD=Yahweh). The third man does not go with the two angles but talks with Abraham as if He is God in verses 18:22-19:1.

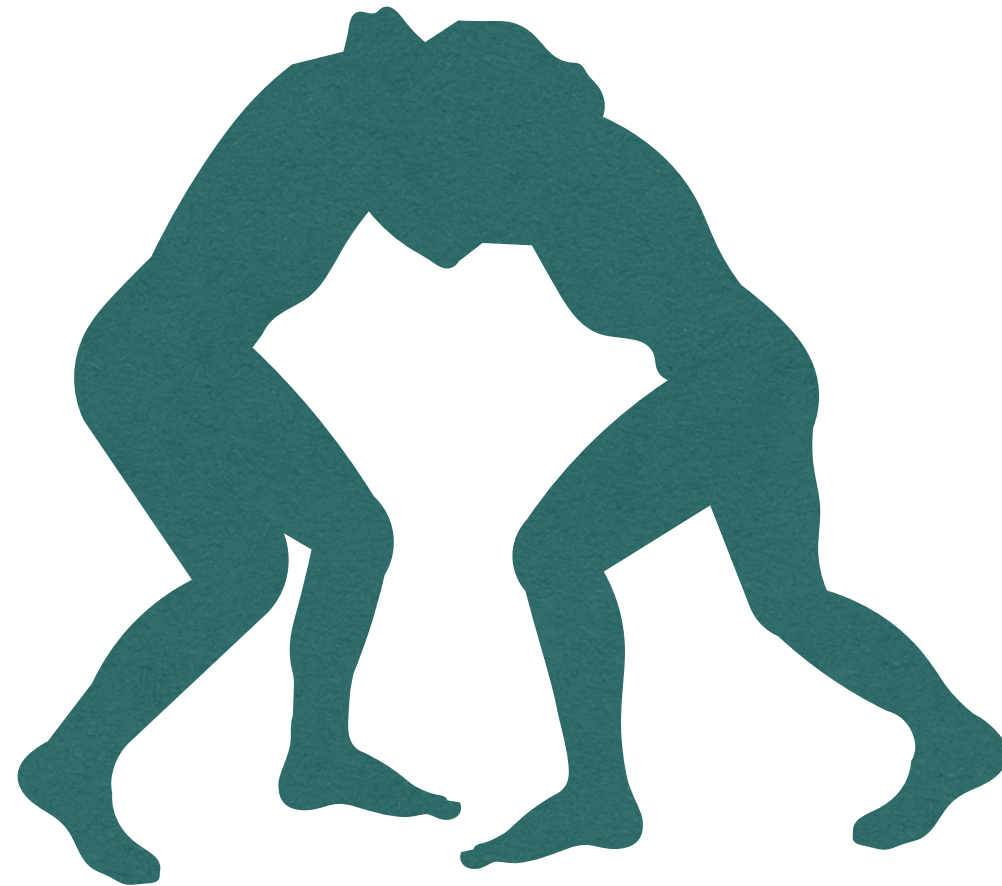
*And the **LORD** appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, **three men were standing in front of him.** (Genesis 18:1-2a)*

*So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, **but Abraham still stood before the LORD.** (Genesis 18:22)*

***The two angels came to Sodom in the evening, and Lot was sitting in the gate of Sodom.** (Genesis 19:1)*

Key Idea: God revealed himself to Abraham in the form of a man.

Man Who Wrestles With Jacob



This is where God gives Jacob the name “Israel” - meaning, “He strives with God” (also mentioned in Hosea 12:3-4). In this story the man cannot get away from Jacob. If this is God, why can’t he overcome Jacob? Possibly this is God’s way of teaching Jacob to seek God diligently - as Jacob holds on until he gets blessed.

“And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, ‘Let me go, for the day has broken.’ But Jacob said, ‘I will not let you go unless you bless me.’ And he said to him, ‘What is your name?’ And he said, ‘Jacob.’ Then he said, ‘Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed.’ Then Jacob asked him, ‘Please tell me your name.’ But he said, ‘Why is it that you ask my name?’ And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, “For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered.” (Genesis 32:24-30)

Key Idea: God reveals himself to Jacob in human form and wrestles with Jacob before changing his name to “Israel.”

Moses and the Burning Bush



The Angel of the LORD who speaks out of the burning bush speaks as if he is God himself. And the passage says that God himself spoke to Moses out of the bush. This indicates that the Angel of the LORD is God himself.

“And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush.” (Exodus 3:2)

“When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then he said, “**Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.**” And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And **Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.**”
(Exodus 3:4-6)

Key Idea: God revealed himself to Moses in a physical form out of the burning bush.

Joshua and the Commander (Of the Army of the LORD)



This is reminiscent of Mose's encounter with God at the burning bush in Exodus 3:2-6 as Joshua is instructed to take off his shoes because he is on holy ground. The question is not whether the man is on Joshua's side, but is Joshua on the side of the Commander of the Army of the LORD. This man then speaks as if he is God (Yahweh) in Joshua 6:1-7. Joshua worships him and the Israelites only worshipped God. Joshua definitely sees this figure as God himself.

*“When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. **And Joshua went to him and said to him, ‘Are you for us, or for our adversaries?’ And he said, ‘No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD. Now I have come.’ And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, ‘What does my lord say to his servant?’ And the commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, ‘**Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.**’ And Joshua did so.”***

(Joshua 5:13-15)

Key Idea: God reveals himself to Joshua in the physical form of the Commander of the Army of the LORD.

The Angel of the LORD at Bochim



God says in many verses that he himself brought the Israelites up out of Egypt. In this story, the Angel of the LORD claims to have brought the Israelites up from Egypt. He physically walks from Gilgal (the place where Israel had entered the Promised Land in Joshua 4:19) to Bochim (possibly a common assembly area near Bethel) before addressing the disobedience of Israel.

“I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.” (Exodus 20:2)

“Now the angel of the LORD came up from Gilgal to Bochim. And he said, ‘I brought you up out of Egypt and led you into the land which I have sworn to your fathers; and I said, “I will never break My covenant with you, and as for you, you shall make no covenant with the inhabitants of this land; you shall tear down their altars.” But you have not obeyed Me; what is this you have done?”’ (Judges 2:1-2)

Key Idea: God revealed himself to the Israelites in physical form as the Angel of the LORD in Bochim.

The Angel of the LORD and Gideon



The Israelites believed that to see God face-to-face would destroy them. When Gideon realizes that he had been talking to the Angel of the LORD he believes he has seen God face-to-face and is fearful that he will die.

And the angel of God said to him, “Take the meat and the unleavened cakes, and put them on this rock, and pour the broth over them.” And he did so. Then the angel of the LORD reached out the tip of the staff that was in his hand and touched the meat and the unleavened cakes. And fire sprang up from the rock and consumed the meat and the unleavened cakes. And the angel of the LORD vanished from his sight. Then Gideon perceived that he was the angel of the LORD. And Gideon said, “Alas, O Lord GOD! For now I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face.” But the LORD said to him, “Peace be to you. Do not fear; you shall not die.”
(Judges 6:20-23)

Key Idea: God reveals himself to Gideon in physical form.

The Angel of the LORD and Menoah (and his Wife)



When Manoah and his wife realize that they have been talking with the Angel of the LORD they seem to believe they have seen God face-to-face and Manoah is afraid that they will die.

“And Manoah said to the angel of the LORD, ‘What is your name, so that, when your words come true, we may honor you?’ And the angel of the LORD said to him, ‘Why do you ask my name, seeing it is wonderful?’ So Manoah took the young goat with the grain offering, and offered it on the rock to the LORD, to the one who works wonders, and Manoah and his wife were watching. **And when the flame went up toward heaven from the altar, the angel of the LORD went up in the flame of the altar. Now Manoah and his wife were watching, and they fell on their faces to the ground.**” (Judges 13:17-20)

*The angel of the LORD’s name is too wonderful to comprehend - so he does not tell his name to Manoah and his wife.

“The angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and to his wife. Then Manoah knew that he was the angel of the LORD. And Manoah said to his wife, ‘We shall surely die, for we have seen God.’” (Judges 13:21-22)

Key Idea: God reveals himself in physical form to Manoah and his wife (the parents of Samson).

Old and New Testament Parallels

God Is the First and the Last (Jesus Is the First and the Last, the Alpha and Omega)



The “Alpha” and the “Omega” are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. This is a reference to the eternal nature of God and Jesus.

(referring to God) “Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.’” (Isaiah 44:6)

(referring to God) “‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.’” (Revelations 1:8)

(referring to Jesus) “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” (Revelations 22:13)

Key Idea: God is the first and the last, the Alpha and Omega. Jesus is the first and the last, the Alpha and Omega. Therefore, Jesus is God.

God Is the Only Savior (Jesus Is Savior)



God didn't send someone else to suffer and die for mankind. God came himself and paid the price of our sin on the cross. What kind of God would send someone else to suffer and die for mankind? But the God of the Bible came himself as the savior.

*(referring to God) “I, I am the LORD, and **besides me there is no savior.**” (Isaiah 43:11)*

*“But **I am the LORD your God** from the land of Egypt; you know no God but me, and **besides me there is no savior.** (Hosea 13:4)*

*“This **Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders,** which has become the cornerstone. **And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**” (Acts 4:12)*

*“But grow in the grace and knowledge of **our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**” (2 Peter 3:18)*

Key Idea: God is the only savior. Jesus is the savior.
Therefore, Jesus is God.

Every Knee Will Bow to God (Every Knee Will Bow to Jesus)



*(referring to God) “By myself I have sworn; from my mouth has gone out in righteousness a word that shall not return: **‘To me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.’**” (Isaiah 45:23)*

*“...so that **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**”
(Philippians 2:10-11)*

Key Idea: Every knee will bow to God. Every knee will bow to Jesus. Therefore, Jesus is God.

They Will Look on Me, Whom They Have Pierced



God says of the Jewish people in Jerusalem that they will look on God, whom they have pierced, and will feel sorry. John, a Jew, quotes this verse about Jesus at his crucifixion. In Acts it also says that God himself purchased the Church with his own blood.

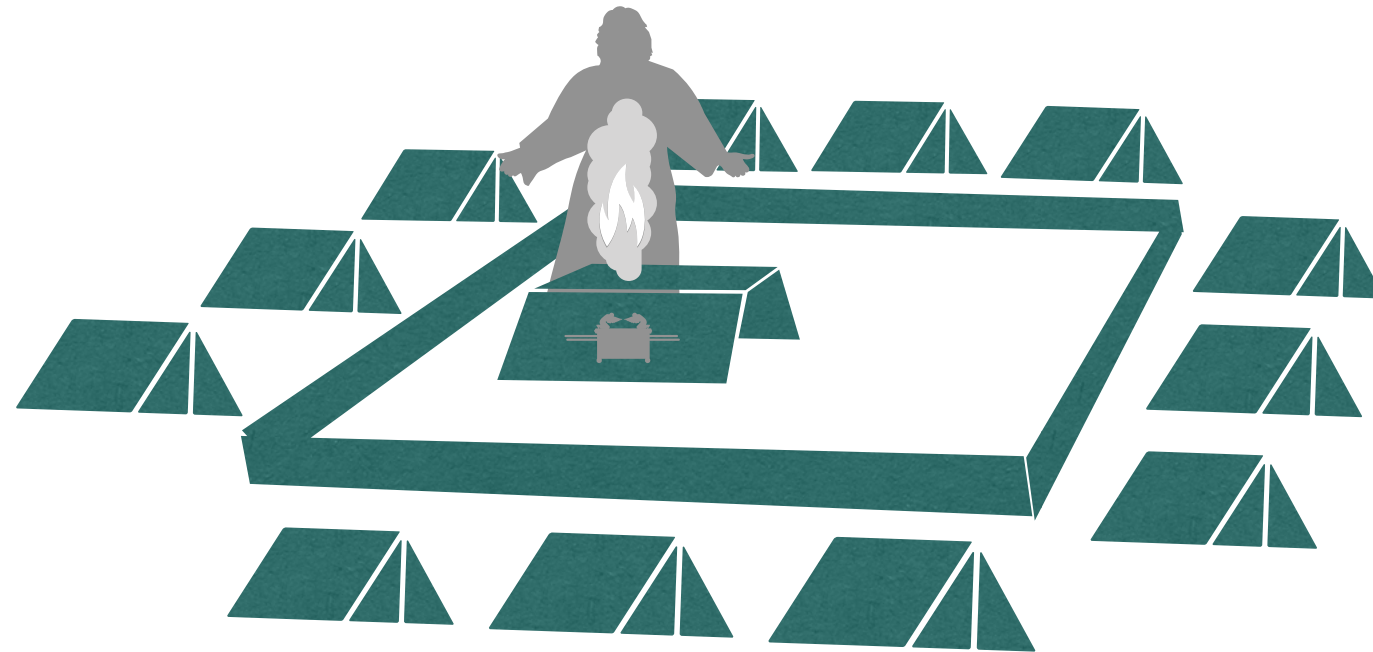
*(referring to God) “And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, **so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.**”*
(Zachariah 12:10)

*(referring to Jesus at his crucifixion) “And again another Scripture says, ‘**They will look on him whom they have pierced.**’”*
(John 19:37)

*Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, **to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.**” (Acts 20:28)*

Key Idea: God says of himself that “they will look on me, whom they have pierced.” John quotes this verse about Jesus at his crucifixion. Therefore, Jesus is God.

God Dwelt or “Tented” Among Us



The cloud and pillar of fire always settled onto the tabernacle (a tent) and onto the Ark in the Holy of Holies where the presence of God was supposed to reside - in the middle of the camp. This represented God's physical presence with the Israelites during their 40 years in the desert. The pillar led them into the promised land. The New Testament says that Jesus was the cloud and indicates this was a picture of the Son of God becoming flesh and “dwelling among us.”

“And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night.” (Exodus 13:21)

“And in the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and of cloud looked down on the Egyptian forces and threw the Egyptian forces into a panic” (Exodus 14:24)

“Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle. **And Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled on it, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.** Throughout all their journeys, whenever the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the people of Israel would set out. But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out till the day that it was taken up. **For the cloud of the LORD was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel throughout all their journeys.** (Exodus 40:34-38)

*“and the LORD said to Moses, ‘Tell Aaron your brother not to come at any time into the Holy Place inside the veil, before the mercy seat that is on the ark, so that he may not die. **For I will appear in the cloud over the mercy seat.**’” (Leviticus 16:2)*

*“...and the Word became flesh and **dwelt** among us”.
(John 1:14)*

*The word “dwelt among us” in John 1:14 can also be translated “tented among us.”

*“For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that **our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.”
(1 Corinthians 10:1-4)***

*This passage indicates that the “cloud” and the “Rock” are the same thing and that they are both Jesus Christ.

*“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, ‘**Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.** He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.’” (Revelation 21:1-4)*

Key Idea: God dwelt or “tented” among us in a physical form through Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

The Son Is 100% Divine

The Son Created the World



John says that the Word (Greek “Logos”) is God, the world was created through the Word, and that Jesus is the Word. John is emphasizing that the “logos” is not an impersonal force as believed by the Greeks. Paul says that all things were created by God and that all things were created by Jesus. Therefore, Jesus must be God.

*“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 was not any thing made that was made.**” (John 1:1-3)*

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

*(referring to God) - “**For from him and through him and to him are all things.**” (Romans 11:36a)*

*(referring to Jesus - see vs. 13-15) “**For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.** (Colossians 1:16)*

*‘Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that ‘an idol has no real existence,’ and that **‘there is no God but one.’** For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many ‘gods’ and many ‘lords’— yet for us **there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.’** (1 Corinthians 8:4-6)*

Key Idea: God created the world through the Word.

The Son Was Not Created



Paul and John make it very clear that everything that was created was created by Jesus. This means Jesus himself is not created as he could not create himself.

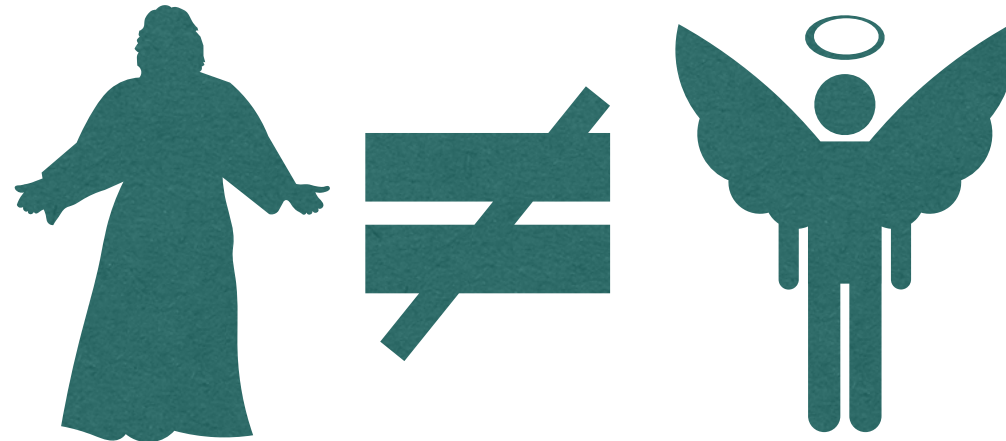
*“For **by him all things were created**, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—**all things were created through him and for him**. And **he is before all things**, and in him all things hold together.” (Colossians 1:16-17)*

*“All things were made through him, and **without him was not any thing made that was made**.” (John 1:3)*

*(Jesus speaking) “And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with **the glory that I had with you before the world existed**.” (John 17:5)*

Key Idea: Jesus was not created but is the creator of all created things.

The Son Is Not an Angel

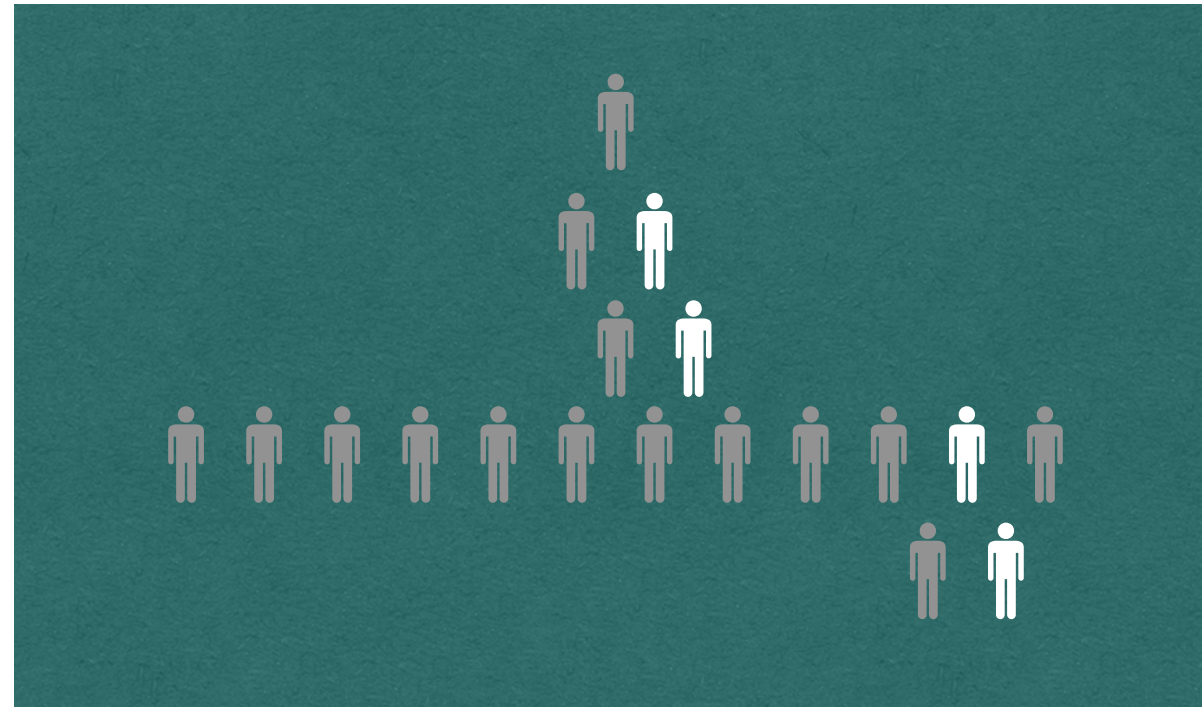


“For to which of the angels did God ever say, ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you’? Or again, ‘I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son’”? (Hebrews 1:5)

“But of the Son he says, ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.’” (Hebrews 1:8-9)

Key Idea: The Son is not an angel.

Firstborn = Legal Title (Not Always Physical Birth Order)



The Old Testament makes it clear through the Patriarchs that the “Firstborn” designation is a legal title and not necessarily an indication of physical birth order. This phrase in the New Testament is not stating that Jesus was the first created being but is an analogy conveying the idea that all created things come under the authority of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

*Firstborn is a Jewish legal inheritance title not necessarily tied to biological birth order. The firstborn legal title can even be given to an adopted son. (Genesis 15:3)

*“He is the image of the invisible God, **the firstborn of all creation.**” (Colossians 1:15)*

*“And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the **firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.**” (Colossians 1:18)*

*(**Isaac over Ishmael**) “But God said to Abraham, ‘Be not displeased because of the boy and because of your slave woman. Whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for through Isaac shall your offspring be named.’” (Genesis 21:12)*

*(**Jacob over Esau**) “And the LORD said to her, ‘Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger.’” (Genesis 25:23)*

**Isaac was given the firstborn’s rights over his older brother Ishmael.*

“Jacob said, ‘Swear to me now.’ So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob.” (Genesis 25:33)

**Jacob was given the firstborn’s rights over his older brother Esau.*

(Joseph over Reuben) *“The sons of Reuben the firstborn of Israel (for he was the firstborn, but because he defiled his father's couch, his birthright was given to the sons of Joseph the son of Israel, so that he could not be enrolled as the oldest son; though Judah became strong among his brothers and a chief came from him, yet the birthright belonged to Joseph)” (1 Chronicles 5:1-2)*

*Joseph was given the firstborn's rights over his older brother Reuben.

(Ephraim over Manasseh) *When Joseph saw that his father laid his right hand on the head of Ephraim, it displeased him, and he took his father's hand to move it from Ephraim's head to Manasseh's head. And Joseph said to his father, “Not this way, my father; since this one is the firstborn, put your right hand on his head.” But his father refused and said, “I know, my son, I know. He also shall become a people, and he also shall be great. Nevertheless, his younger brother shall be greater than he, and his offspring shall become a multitude of nations.” (Genesis 48:17-19)*

*Ephraim was given the firstborn's rights over his older brother Manasseh.

**Also 1 Chronicles 26:10

Key Idea: The “Firstborn” is a legal inheritance title and does not mean that Jesus was created but is emphasizes Jesus’ right as the Son to reign over creation.

I am = Yahweh
(Ego Eimi)

I AM = Yahweh (The Personal Name of God)

I AM



“I AM” in Hebrew is translated “YHWY” or “Yahweh.” This is the personal name of God in the Bible. In the Greek Septuagint translation of the Old Testament Yahweh is translated “Ego Eimi.” In the Greek New Testament Jesus often speaks of himself as “I Am.”

“God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ And he said, ‘Say this to the people of Israel: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” (Exodus 3:14)

Key Idea: God reveals his personal name to be “I AM” (Yahweh).

Jesus Claimed To Be “I AM” (and Equal to God)



The Jewish leaders on multiple occasions try to stone Jesus because they believe he is trying to make himself equal to God.

“Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death. All the congregation shall stone him.” (Leviticus 24:16)

*“Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I am.**’ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.” (John 8:58-59)*

*“‘My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. **I and the Father are one.**’ The Jews picked up stones again to stone him. Jesus answered them, ‘I have shown you many good works from the Father; for which of them are you going to stone me?’ **The Jews answered him, ‘It is not for a good work that we are going to stone you but for blasphemy, because you, being a man, make yourself God.’”***

(John 10:29-33)

Key Idea: Jesus claimed to be “I Am” and equal to God and the Jewish leaders wanted to stone him for blasphemy because they clearly understood that he is claiming to be God.

Jesus' 7 "I Am" Statements (Yahweh, Ego Eimi)



Jesus is claiming divinity in these statements. The prophets all said "God is...." Jesus says, "I Am"! Jesus is saying that he is Yahweh himself.

*“Jesus said to them, ‘**I am the bread of life**; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.’” (John 6:35)*



*“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, “**I am the light of the world**. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12)*



*“**I am the door**. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture.” (John 10:9)*



*“**I am the good shepherd**. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” (John 10:11)*





*“Jesus said to her, **I am the resurrection and the life.** Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26)*



*“Jesus said to him, **I am the way, and the truth, and the life.** No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6)*



*“**I am the vine;** you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)*

Key Idea: Jesus is claiming that he is divine in the seven “I am” statements.

Jesus Is Worshipped

The Shema - One God (Not Three Gods)



We worship one God, not three gods. This verse does not teach Trinity but it leaves open the possibility of Trinity. The main point is not God's internal unity but that there is only one real God. "Yachid," the Hebrew word for absolute one, is not used in this verse.

*“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our **God**, the **LORD** is **one**.” (Deuteronomy 6:4)*

“yackid” - one house



“echad” - one
housing complex

- God “Elohim” = plural form of God as “El” is the singular form and is the name of the Canaanite God and father of Baal.
- LORD = Yahweh - the personal name of God
- One “echad” = one unit (“yackid” is the Hebrew word for absolute one and is not used in this verse)

*“Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast  to his wife, and they shall become **one** flesh.” (Genesis 2:24)*

*Uses “echad” for “one” flesh, not “yackid” or absolute one.
This is the same word used in the Shema.

Key Idea: The Shema states that there is only one God but it uses plural language that allows for the concept of Trinity.

Worship Only God (Worship Jesus)



When people tried to worship Barnabas and Paul they quickly stopped the people from worshipping them. When John tried to worship an angel the angel stopped him and told him to worship only God. Jesus never stopped those who worshipped him and the New Testament said that even the angels should worship Jesus.

“You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or serve them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God...” (Deuteronomy 5:7-9a)

“Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.” (Acts 14:15)

“I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me, but he said to me, ‘You must not do that!’ I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers the prophets, and with those who keep the words of this book. Worship God.” (Revelations 22:8)

(The Wise men worshipped Jesus) “And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and **they fell down and worshipped him.**” (Matthew 2:11)

(The 12 Apostles worshipped Jesus) “And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’” (Matthew 14:33)

(The 12 Apostles worshipped Jesus) “And when they saw him **they worshipped him, but some doubted.**” (Matthew 28:17)

(Angels are told to worship Jesus) “And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, ‘**Let all God's angels worship him.**’” (Hebrews 1:6)

**Key Idea: The Bible says that we should worship only God.
The Bible says that people did and should worship Jesus.
Therefore, Jesus must be God.**

The Apostles Called Jesus God



*“Then he said to Thomas, ‘Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.’ Thomas answered him, ‘**My Lord and my God!**’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.’ (John 20:27-29)*

*“Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of **our God and Savior Jesus Christ:**” (2 Peter 1:1)*

*“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of **our great God and Savior Jesus Christ**, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.”*

(Titus 2:11-14)

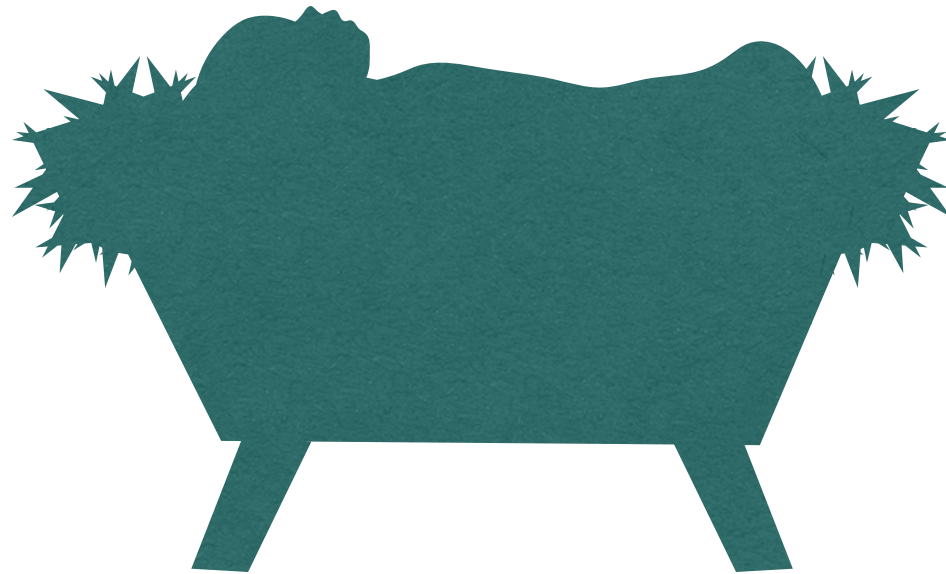
*“To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, **is the Christ, who is God over all**, blessed forever.*

Amen.” (Romans 9:5)

Key Idea: The Apostles called Jesus God.

Immanuel: God With Us

(Old Testament Messianic Title)



Immanuel in Hebrew means, “God with us” or “God is with us.” This was a prophecy given by Isaiah in around 760-700 B.C. This passage has been interpreted as being applied to various people 1) the Messiah, 2) King Hezekiah, 3) and Isaiah’s own son. In the Old Testament, many people had names that referred to characteristics of God. So this name does not necessarily indicated divinity. But Matthew attributes this title to Jesus and points out that it means “God with us.”

*(referring to the Messiah) “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, **the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**” (Isaiah 7:14)*

*(referring to Jesus) “All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, **the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel**’ (which means, **God with us**).” (Matthew 1:22-23)*

Key Idea: Jesus is Immanuel, God with us.

Jesus, the Eternal Word



“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 was not any thing made that was made.” (John 1:1-3)

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)

Key Idea: God’s Word is eternal and divine. Jesus is God’s Word. Therefore, Jesus is eternal and divine.

The Messiah = Mighty God



Isaiah 9:6 is a prophecy given by Isaiah in around 760-700 B.C. and believed to be a prophecy about the Messiah. This passage has been interpreted differently by many scholars. Jewish scholars obviously reject the idea that this implies any kind of divine title to the Messiah. Christians read the possibility of divine titles into this prophecy, especially the phrase “Mighty God.” The title, “Everlasting Father” is probably a reference to the royal bloodline of David (the king as father to the nation) and implies that Jesus is an eternal and divine king. This is not intended to confuse God the Son with God the Father.

*“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**” (Isaiah 9:6)*

Key Idea: This passage prophesied that the Messiah would be “Mighty God.”

Possible Early Christian Hymn



Many scholars believe that in Colossians 1:15-20 Paul is quoting an early Christian hymn about Jesus. This hymn clearly portrays Jesus as God himself.

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.” (Colossians 1:15-20)

Key Idea: Scholars believe this passage might have been an early Trinitarian Hymn used in church services.

Jesus Is 100% Human

The Family Tree of Jesus



Jesus came from a real family and his genealogy is complicated by many ancient Jewish genealogy practices such as: levirate marriage practices, adoptions, firstborn rights given to other children, women not being named as the heir in genealogies, etc.

Luke's Genealogy:

Adam

Seth

Enos

Cainan

Maleleel

Jared

Enoch

Mathusala

Lamech

Noah

Shem

Arphaxad

Cainan

Sala

Heber

Phalec

Ragau

Saruch

Nachor

Thara

***Matthew does not repeat
this part of the
genealogy and only
starts with Abraham.***

Abraham to David

Differences in this part of the genealogy could be due to different spellings of names, the common ancient practice of skipping generations for the sake of memorization, or the practice of Levirate marriage (marrying your childless brother's widow and having a child that is the legal heir for the dead brother).

Luke (15):

Abraham

Isaac

Jacob

Judah

Perez

Hezron

Arni

Admin

Aminadab

Nahshon

Sala

Boaz

Obed

Jesse

David

Matthew (14):

Abraham

Isaac

Jacob

Judah

Perez

Hezron

Ram

Amminadab

Nahshon

Salmon

Boaz (by Rahab)

Obed (by Ruth)

Jesse

David the king

The Kings of Judah to the Exile

Some scholars believe Nathan is the ancestor of Mary while Solomon is the ancestor of Joseph. Both were likely relatives and from the tribe of Judah - possibly even cousins. Luke is likely tracing Jesus' actual blood line from David through Mary.

Luke (20) Mary?:

*Nathan
Mattatha
Mennan
Melea
Eliakim
Jonam
Joseph
Judah
Simeon
Levi
Matthat
Jorim
Eliezer
Joshua
Er
Elmadam
Cosam
Addi
Melchi
Neri*

Matthew (14) Jospeh?:

*Solomon (by Bathsheba)
Rehoboam
Abijah
Asaph
Jehoshaphat
Joram
Uzziah
Jotham
Ahaz
Hezekiah
Manasseh
Amos
Josiah
Jechoniah*

Matthew's Gospel emphasizes Jesus as the true king and messiah of Israel and so his genealogy of Jesus may be emphasizing Jesus' legal right to the throne of King David through Joseph rather than actual blood line through Mary.

After the Exile

It does not seem common in ancient times to trace a woman's lineage and so Luke may be giving Mary's lineage but may only be giving her husband's name. It is also possible that Mary had no brothers and that Joseph was adopted as the legal heir by her father or grandfather.

Luke (21) Mary?:

Shealtiel
Zerubbabel
Rhesa
Joanan
Joda
Joseph
Semein
Mattathias
Maath
Maggai
Esli
Nahum
Amos
Mattathias
Joseph
Jannai
Melchi
Levi
Heli
Joseph
Jesus

Matthew (13) Jospeh?:

Shealtiel
Zerubbabel
Abiud

Eliakim

Azor

Zadok

Achim

Eliud,

Eleazar

Matthan

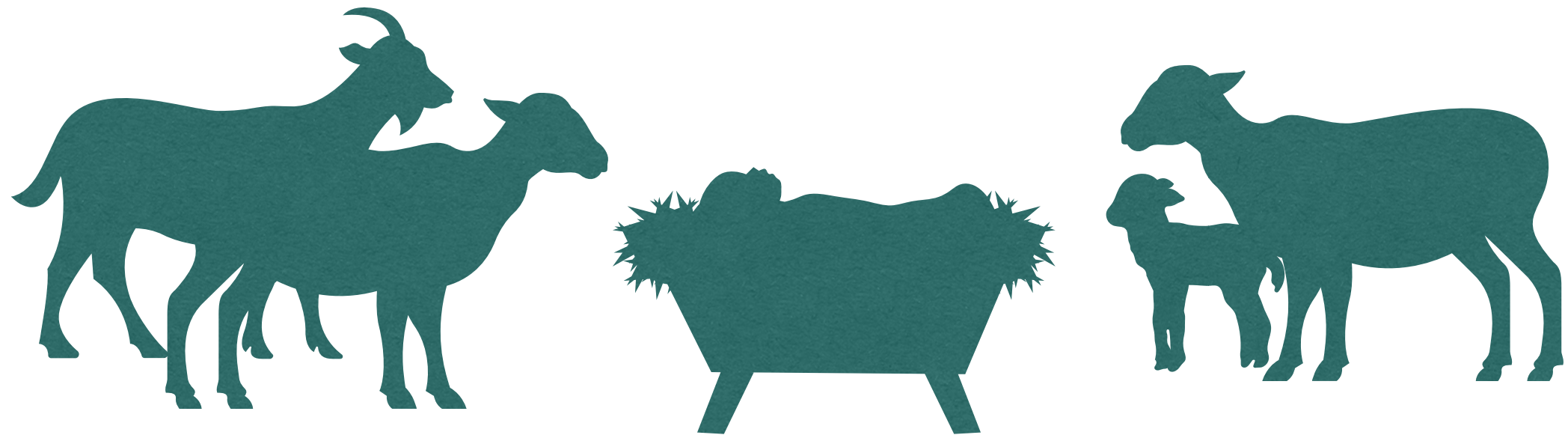
Jacob
Joseph (husband of Mary)
Jesus

Matthew actually repeats Jeconiah again at the beginning of this section to get 14 because he is using the number 14 as a memory device.

The bloodlines come back together at Shealtiel but diverge again at Rhesa and come back together at Jospeh. Again, this is probably due to actual bloodlines on Mary's side versus royal legal bloodlines on Joseph's side or levirate marriage practices.

Key Idea: Ancient genealogies could be very complicated and the differences between Jesus' genealogy in Luke and Matthew may reflect some of these complications.

Humble but Miraculous Birth



Matthew specifically says Mary was a virgin and had not had sex with Joseph and that this is a miraculous birth.

Luke is not suggesting any kind of sexual interaction between Mary and the Holy Spirit. Jesus' birth in a stable in Bethlehem indicates that he was the "Lamb of God" prepared as a sacrifice (lambs for sacrifice at the Temple came from Bethlehem), that he came from a humble working class family (he can relate to the common man), and that he is also from the royal blood-line of David (making him the legal heir as King of Israel).

*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **to a virgin** betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And **the virgin's name was Mary.** (Luke 1:26-27)*

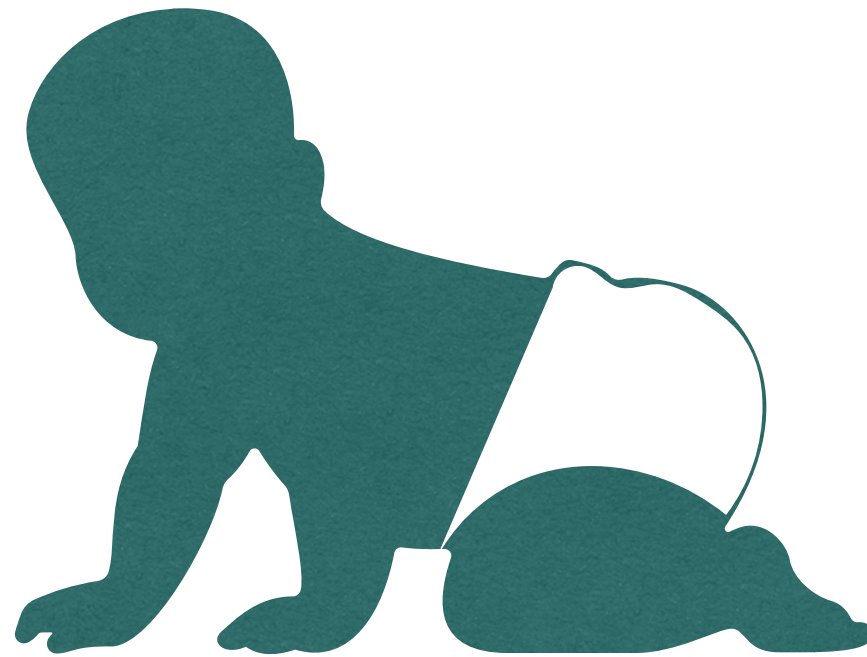
*“Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, **before they came together** she was found to be with child **from the Holy Spirit.** (Matthew 1:18)*

*“And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. **And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.**” (Luke 2:6-7)*

*(referring to Jesus) “All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘**Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel**’ (which means, **God with us**).” (Matthew 1:22-23)*

Key Idea: Jesus, the Son of God, had a humble but miraculous birth.

Jesus Grew Like a Normal Human



How can Jesus learn like any other human being if he is God? This mystery suggests that the Son limited himself in some way in Jesus' physical body and did not let his divine nature overwhelm his human nature nor his human nature overwhelm his divine nature.

*“And Jesus **increased in wisdom and in stature** and in favor with God and man.” (Luke 2:52)*

*“Although he was a son, **he learned obedience** through what he suffered.” (Hebrews 5:8)*

Key Idea: Jesus grew and learned like any other human being.

Jesus Humbled Himself as a Servant (and Washed Feet)



The Son humbled himself and limited his divine nature in the physical human form of Jesus without in any way giving up his divine nature.

“Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going back to God, rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was wrapped around him.” (John 13:3-5)

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Philippians 2:5-8)

Key Idea: Jesus humbled himself as a servant.

Jesus Was Tempted but Did Not Sin



*“And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and **was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil.** And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, **he was hungry. The devil said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.’** And Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone.”’” (Luke 4:1-4)*

“And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time, and said to him, ‘To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.’ And Jesus answered him, ‘It is written, “You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.””” (Luke 4:5-8)

“And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, ‘If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, “He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,” and “On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”’ And Jesus answered him, ‘It is said, “You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.”’ And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.” (Luke 4:9-13)

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:15)

Key Idea: Jesus was tempted just like us but did not sin. He did this so that he could relate to our struggles and we could relate to him.

Jesus Experienced Human Feelings



Jesus seems to have felt the entire range of human emotions. Was he simply wearing a mask like an actor or was he truly experiencing human emotions? Hebrews seems to indicate that he really experienced human emotions just like we do so that he could sympathize with us.

(Weariness) “Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.” (John 4:6)

(Love) “Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.” (John 11:5)

(Sorrow) “And he said, ‘Where have you laid him?’ They said to him, ‘Lord, come and see.’ Jesus wept.” (John 11:34-35)

(Thirst) “After this, Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfill the Scripture), ‘I thirst.’” (John 19:28)

(Joy) “looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Hebrews 12:2)

(Hunger) “And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.” (Matthew 4:2)

(Compassion) “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.” (Matthew 9:36)

(Humiliation and rejection) “Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.” (Matthew 27:27-31)

(Anger) “And they watched Jesus, to see whether he would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man with the withered hand, ‘Come here.’ And he said to them, ‘Is it lawful on the Sabbath to do good or to do harm, to save life or to kill?’ But they were silent. And he looked around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, and said to the man, ‘Stretch out your hand.’ He stretched it out, and his hand was restored.” (Mark 3:2-5)

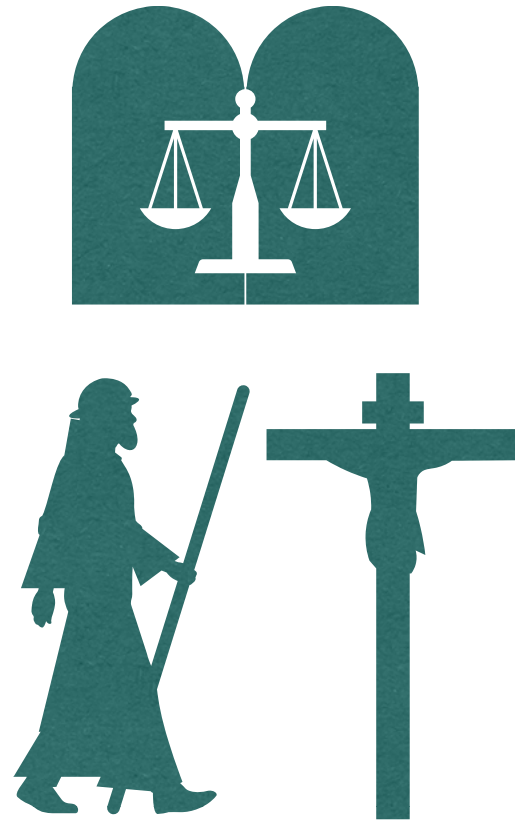
(Pain) “And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.
(Mark 15:33)

(Death) “And Jesus uttered a loud cry and breathed his last.” (Mark 15:37)

(Weakness) *“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*
(Hebrews 4:15)

Key Idea: Jesus experienced human feelings just like us.

Jesus Lived and Died Under the Law (as a Man)



The Law tells us the the price of sin (falling short of the standard) is death. We don't meet God's standard of righteousness (the Law) but Jesus did. Jesus lived a perfect life under the Law so that he could die in our place according to the Law. If he were not a real human being then he could not die for us under the Law. If he had sinned then he could not die for us as our replacement.

*“You know that he appeared in order to take away sins, and **in him there is no sin.** ” (1 John 3:5)*

*“There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. **By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.**”*

(Romans 8:1-4)

Key Idea: Jesus lived sinlessly under the Law so that he could die in our place under the Law.

Only a Human and Divine Sacrifice Was Valuable Enough



*“And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. **But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”** (Hebrews 10:11-14)*

“For God so loved the world, that **he gave his only Son**, that **whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**” (John 3:16)

Key Idea: Because Jesus is both 100% human and %100 percent divine his sacrifice has infinite value under the Law to take away the sins of mankind from past, present, and future (Old and New Testament Saints).

Jesus Did Things Only
God Can Do

Jesus Has Power To Heal the Sick



*“Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had had a disabling spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. **When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said to her, ‘Woman, you are freed from your disability.’ And he laid his hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and she glorified God.**” (Luke 13:10-13)*

*“And when Peter saw it he addressed the people: **“Men of Israel, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we have made him walk?”** (Acts 3:12)*

*“Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers of the people and elders, if we are being examined today concerning a good deed done to a crippled man, by what means this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel that **by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing before you well.**”*
(Acts 4:8-10)

Key Idea: Jesus has power to heal the sick, something only God can do or give people power to do.

Jesus Has Power Over Demons



*“And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, ‘Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.’ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, ‘**Be silent and come out of him!**’ And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, **he came out of him, having done him no harm.**” (Luke 4:33-35)*

“The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, **even the demons are subject to us in your name!**’” (Luke 10:17)

Key Idea: Jesus has power over demons and can give others authority over demons.

Jesus Has Power Over Nature



Jesus seems to simply command nature by his own power and will. Others in the Bible do miracles concerning nature by the command of God - such as Moses lifting his staff and God parting the red sea.

*“And leaving the crowd, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. And other boats were with him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion. And they woke him and said to him, ‘Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?’ **And he awoke and rebuked the wind and said to the sea, ‘Peace! Be still!’** And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, ‘Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?’ And they were filled with great fear and said to one another, ‘**Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?’**” (Mark 4:36-41)*

*“**Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and the LORD drove the sea back** by a strong east wind all night and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided.” (Exodus 14:21)*

Key Idea: Jesus had power over nature as if he is God.

Jesus Has Authority To Forgive Sins (Something Only God Can Do)



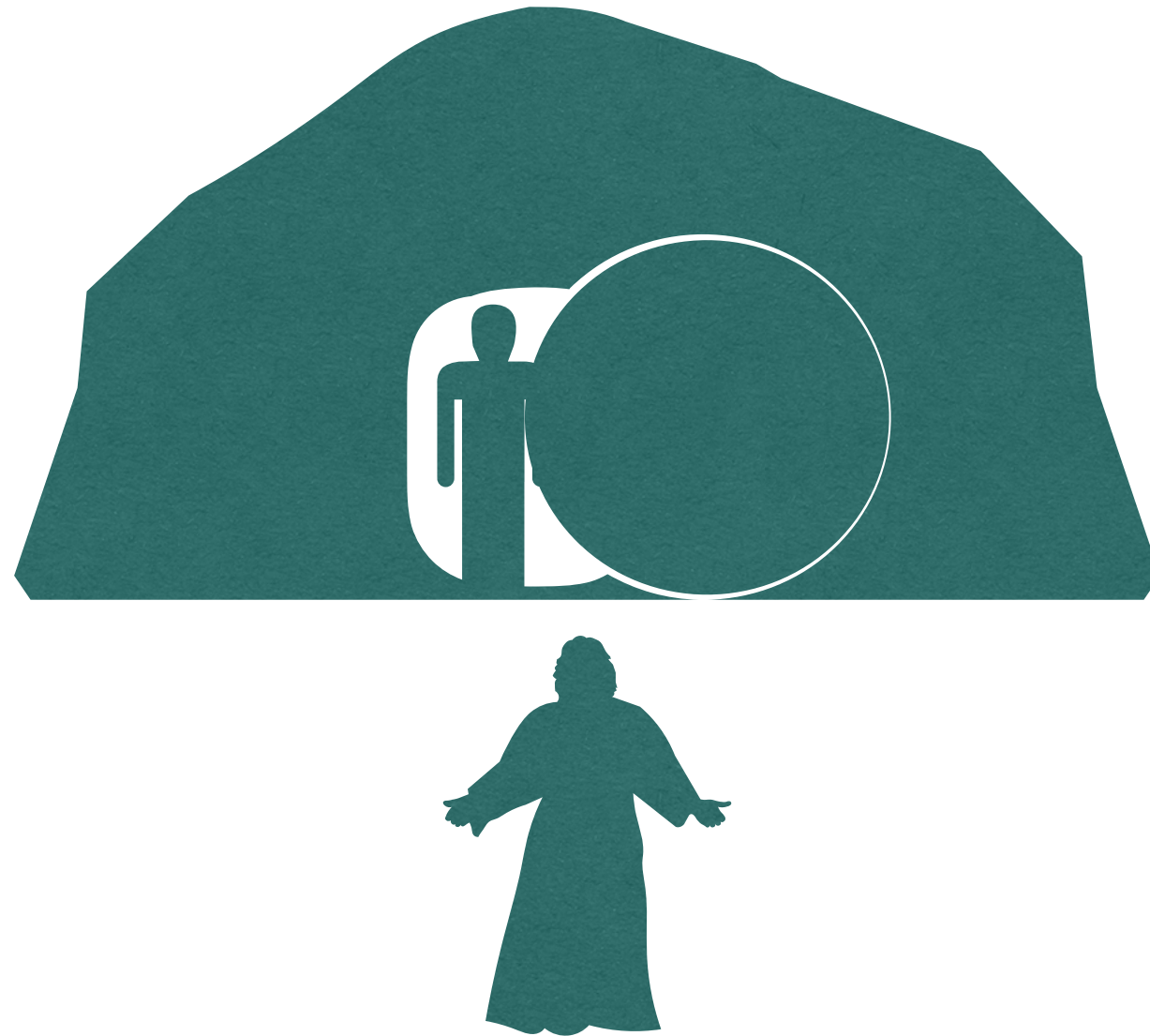
“And behold, a woman of the city, who was a sinner, when she learned that he was reclining at table in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster flask of ointment, and standing behind him at his feet, weeping, she began to wet his feet with her tears and wiped them with the hair of her head and kissed his feet and anointed them with the ointment.” (Luke 7:37-38)

“And he said to her, ‘Your sins are forgiven.’ Then those who were at table with him began to say among themselves, ‘Who is this, who even forgives sins?’” (Luke 7:48-49)

““Why does this man speak like that? He is blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?”” (Mark 2:7)

Key Idea: Jesus has power to forgive sins, something only God has the power to do.

Jesus Has Power Over Death



Although others raised the dead in the Bible, they seemed to have done so through the power of God. That is why many people believed in Jesus after Peter raises Dorcas from the dead because they realize that she was raised through the power of Jesus.

Also Mark 5:35-43, Luke 7:11-17

*“Jesus said to her, **‘I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,’** (John 11:25)*

*“When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, **‘Lazarus, come out.’** The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, **‘Unbind him, and let him go.’**” (John 11:43-44)*

*“But Peter put them all outside, and **knelt down and prayed; and turning to the body he said, ‘Tabitha, arise.’** And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. And he gave her his hand and raised her up. Then, calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. And it became known throughout all Joppa, and **many believed in the Lord.** ” (Acts 9:40-42)*

*When Peter raises Tabitha from the dead people believed in Jesus.

Key Idea: Jesus had power to raise the dead, something only God can do.

**The Holy Spirit Is 100%
Divine**

The Holy Spirit Is God



*“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters.” (Genesis 1:2)*

*“But Peter said, “Ananias, **why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit** and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? **You have not lied to man but to God.**” (Acts 5:3-4)*

*“But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. Now **the Lord is the Spirit**, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. **For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.**” (2 Corinthians 3:17-18)*

Key Idea: The Holy Spirit is God.

The Holy Spirit Is Eternal



*“how much more will the blood of Christ, who **through the eternal Spirit** offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.”*
(Hebrews 9:14)

Key Idea: The Holy Spirit is eternal.

The Holy Spirit Is all Knowing and Ever Present



*“For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also **no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.**” (1 Corinthians 2:11)*

“Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me” (Psalms 139:7-10)

Key Idea: The Holy Spirit is all knowing and ever present.

The Holy Spirit Is Personal



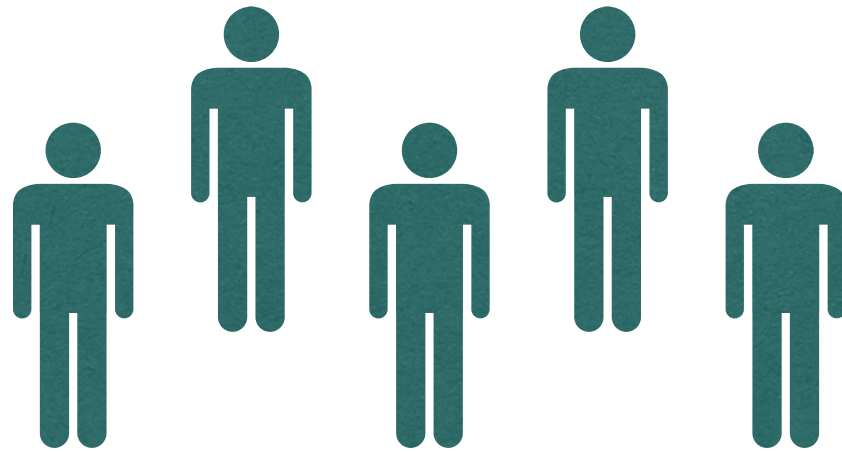
The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force, a “thing”, or an “it”. The Holy Spirit is a relational person of the Trinity just like the Father and the Son and relates personally to humanity.

*“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and **the fellowship of the Holy Spirit** be with you all.” (2 Corinthians 13:14)*

Key Idea: The Holy Spirit is personal.

Difficult Questions

“Sons” of God?



*“When man began to multiply on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, **the sons of God** saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. Then the LORD said, ‘My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.’ The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown.” (Genesis 6:1-4)*

*This verse could be using the term “the sons of God” to either refer to angels or humans. The interpretation is unclear.

*“Now there was a day when **the sons of God** came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.” (Job 1:6)*

*This verse is clearly using the term “the sons of God” to refer to angels.

*“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called **sons of God.**” (Matthew 5:9)*

*This verse is clearly using the term “sons of God” to refer to humans.

*“Jesus answered them, ‘Is it not written in your Law, “I said, **you are gods**”? If he called them gods to whom the word of God came—and Scripture cannot be broken— do you say of him whom the Father consecrated and sent into the world, “You are blaspheming,” because I said, “**I am the Son of God**”?’” (John 10:34-35) - referencing Psalm 82 on the next page.*

*“God has taken his place in the divine council;
**in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: ‘How long will you judge unjustly and show partiality to the wicked? Selah.
Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.’ They have neither knowledge nor understanding, they walk about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. I said, “You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince.” Arise, O God, judge the earth; for you shall inherit all the nations!” (Psalms 82:1-8)***

***This Psalm is likely using poetic and sarcastic language to refer to corrupt leaders as “gods” and “the sons of the Most High”.**

*“When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. **I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.** When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men, but my steadfast love will not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. ” (2 Samuel 7:12-14)*

*This verse refers to Solomon as God’s “son” but also is taken as a messianic reference to Jesus as the descendant of David and the true eternal king.

“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.” (Romans 8:14)

*This verse clearly says that believers are “sons of God.”

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave **his only Son**, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”*
(John 3:16)

*“In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent **his only Son** into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”*
(1 John 4:9)

*These verses clearly refer to Jesus as God’s “only Son” in a special way that is never attributed to anyone other than Jesus. The Son of God comes to save the world through sacrificing himself for the world out of love and a sense that a price must be paid for our sins.

Key Idea: The Bible uses the term “sons of God” to refer both to angels and followers of God but makes it clear that Jesus is God’s “only Son” in a special, divine sense.

Is God the God of Jesus?



John 20:17 makes a clear distinction between the Father and the Son. As there are no other gods, Jesus the Son of God and God himself still calls the triune God “my God.” Who else would be his God? God is complex and

“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest.” (Psalms 22:1-2)

*“And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, ‘Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?’ which means, ‘**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**’” (Mark 15:34)*

*Jesus is likely quoting an Aramaic translation (Aramaic was likely Jesus’ mother tongue) of Psalms 22:1-2. This psalm was thought of as “a lament of sufferers” and Jesus is the ultimate “suffering servant.” This also describes in some sense the fact that Jesus is becoming “sin” for mankind and the Father is in some sense turning his face away from sin. Jesus is crying out over the anguish felt in the temporary loss of fellowship between his human nature and the Father.

*“Jesus said to her, ‘Do not cling to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brothers and say to them, “I am ascending to **my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.**”’” (John 20:17)*

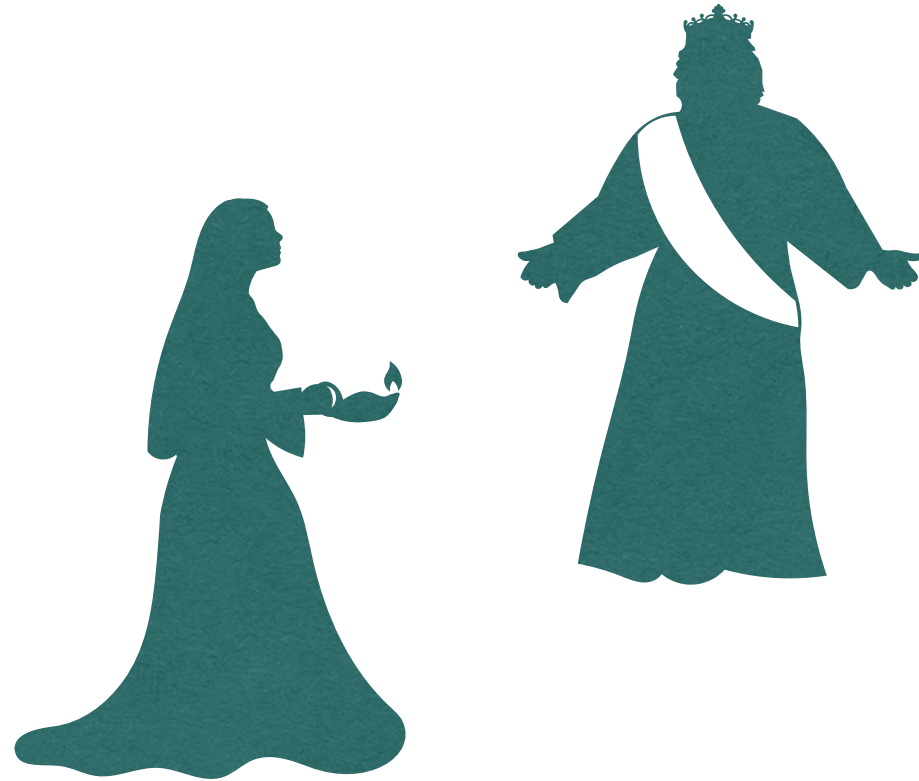
*“Wake up, and strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your works complete in the sight of **my God.**” (Revelations 3:2)*

*“No one has ever seen God; **the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.**” (John 1:18)*

Key Idea: God is the “God” of Jesus as God is God for everyone and everything including God himself.
There are no other gods even for God.

Why Did Jesus Never Marry?

(Because He Was Preparing a Bride)



“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, **so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.” (Ephesians 5:25-27)**

*“Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for **the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready**; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure” — for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.” (Revelation 19:7-8)*

*“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. **And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**” (Revelation 21:1-2)*

Key Idea: Jesus did not marry while on earth because his task on earth was to prepare an eternal bride.

Why Doesn't Jesus Know the End Times?



Jesus often uses language that emphasizes his willing subjection to the authority and decisions of the Father but also indicates that he is fully God and not inferior to the Father or the Holy Spirit in any way. This submission is best explained by emphasizing the perfect relational unity within the Trinity and the lack of human-like disharmony, pride, or jealousy displayed within the Trinity over “roles” and “authority.”



“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:4)

*In ancient Jewish wedding customs the Father chose the bride for the son.



*“for you were slain, and by **your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation...**” (Revelation 5:9)*

*“**for you were bought with a price.** So glorify God in your body.” (1 Corinthians 6:20)*

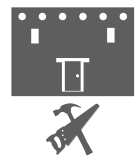


*“**This is a new covenant in my blood.**” (Matthew 26:28)*

*The father then takes the son to meet the bride’s family in an engagement ceremony. They sign a contract, a bride price is paid, a ring is exchanged, and a glass of wine is shared between the bride and bridegroom. At this point the engagement is legally binding and the y must get a divorce in order to break the engagement.



“In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.” (Ephesians 1:13-14)



“In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” (John 14:2-3)

*The bridegroom would then build a house for his bride. He had around one year to finish the house. This house was usually built on to his father's house. The bride and bridegroom would not see each other during this year.



“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. (John 14:26)

“‘Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for **the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure’— for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.**”
(Revelation 19:7-8)

*The bride was also supposed to be preparing for the wedding during this time by sowing her wedding dress and learning from others the skills she would need to run a household of her own.



“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but **only the Father.**” (Mark 13:32)

*In ancient Jewish custom, only the father could announce the date of the wedding. If anyone asked the son he was culturally supposed to reply, “Only my father knows.” Even if the son did know the date he did not have the authority to share that information. But everyone involved in the wedding was supposed to be watching and waiting for that day. It could be that Jesus is answering the disciples about the end times using this cultural practice.



“Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.” (Mark 13:33)

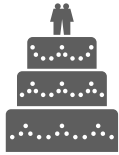


“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. **So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates.**” (Matthew 24:32-33)

*Although no one knew the exact date, everyone could see that preparations were being made and that the time was close for the wedding. The father would be buying up wine, bread, meat, vegetables, and other things needed for the wedding party. Likewise, Jesus gave many details to the disciples about what would happen just before he returns and told them to watch for these signs.

“For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and **with the sound of the trumpet of God.** And the dead in Christ will rise first.” (1 Thessalonians 4:16)

*The bride and the bridal party were supposed to be ready for the groom. When they heard a loud trumpet and saw torches in the distance they would go out to meet the bridegroom and then go back to the house he had prepared for his bride.



*“Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for **the marriage of the Lamb has come**, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure’ — for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel said to me, ‘Write this: **Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.**’ (Revelations 19:7-9)*

*At the house there would be a wedding party that would last 7 days. The wedding guests would all enter the courtyard and the doors would be shut.

*Also: John 14:2-3, 14:26; Revelation 19:7-8, Mark 13:32-33, Matthew 24:32-33, 1 Thessalonians 4:16, Revelations 19:7-9

Key Idea: Jesus may or may not know the time of his return, but this depends on whether he is simply limiting himself in his human nature or he is giving a cultural Jewish answer based on wedding traditions.

Did Jesus Descend Into Hell?

(The Apostles Creed)



The Apostles Creed was a statement of faith used by the early church to help Christians learn the most basic doctrines of the faith. Although it is called the “Apostles” Creed, it may not actually have been developed by the Apostles themselves but does seem to have been used very early in the history of the Church. The original Greek word used in this statement for “Hell” was “Hades” which encompassed the ancient idea of the place of the dead (including both the place of punishment and paradise) and not the modern concept of only the place of punishment. It is unlikely that the authors of the Apostles Creed were trying to convey the idea of Jesus going into Hell (the place of punishment). Instead, they were likely trying to convey that Jesus actually physically died.

*“I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; **he descended to hell**. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.” (The Apostles Creed)*

*“Therefore it says, ‘When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.’ (In saying, ‘**He ascended,**’ **what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth**? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)” (Ephesians 4:8-10 - a quote from Psalms 68:18)*

“You ascended on high, leading a host of captives in your train and receiving gifts among men, even among the rebellious, that the LORD God may dwell there.” (Psalms 68:18)

*Ephesians 4:8-10 is not teaching that Jesus went into Hell or Hades but is teaching that Jesus came from Heaven to Earth. The “captives” most likely refer to Jesus’ victory over the demons at his death, burial and resurrection. The “gifts” seem to be church leaders described in verse 11.

“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water.” (1 Peter 3:18-20)

*The Greek word “spirit” here can be used both of live humans or demonic spirits. This verse can be interpreted 2 ways. 1. Jesus went into Hell and preached to the spirits who were put in Hell during the time of Noah, or 2. Jesus was being proclaimed through Noah to sinful humanity (the “spirits in prison” referring to humanity under the curse of sin and death). Either way, these verses are notoriously difficult to interpret.

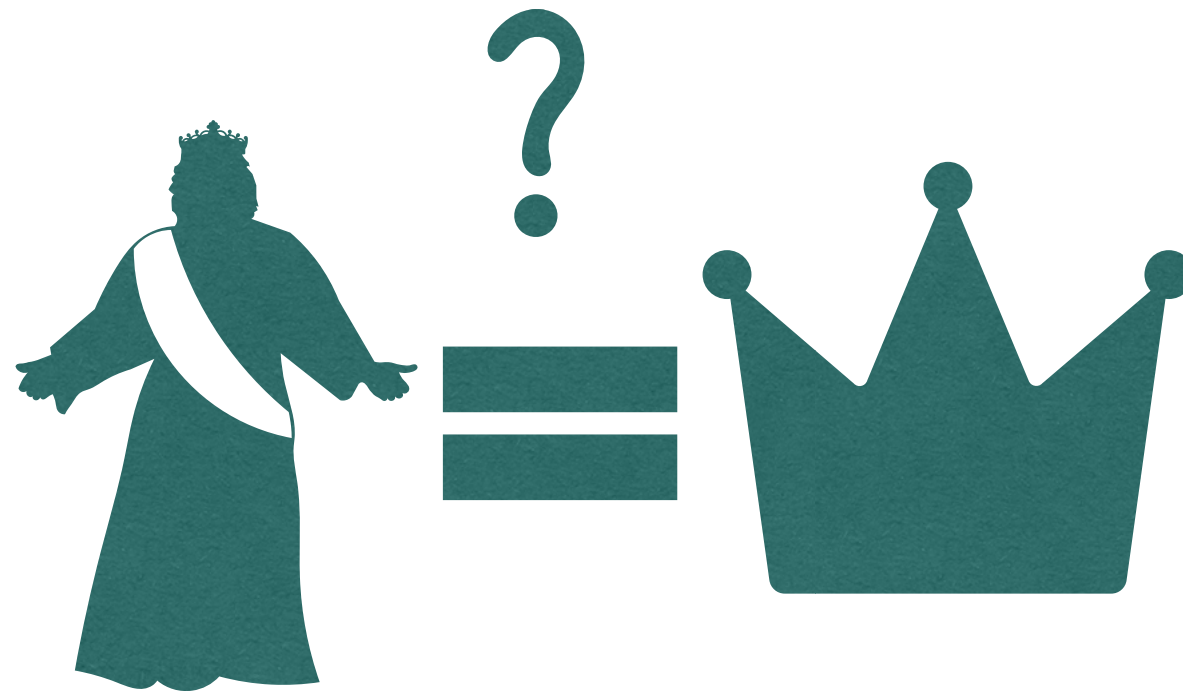
“With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you; but they will give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead. For this is why the gospel was preached even to those who are dead, that though judged in the flesh the way people are, they might live in the spirit the way God does.”
(1 Peter 4:4-6)

*This verse is likely metaphorically speaking of people who are “spiritually dead” but still “physically alive”. It is not likely talking about spirits in Hell having a second chance to repent through the preaching of Christ after his crucifixion. This would contradict Hebrews 9:27 that says we live once and then face judgement.

Key Idea: The idea that Jesus descended into Hell comes from “the Apostles Creed”, not the Bible, and is a modern misunderstanding of the ancient idea of “Hades”.

Is Jesus Equal to the Father?

(Equal in Value, Not Equal in Function)



Jesus often uses language that emphasizes that he willingly subjects himself to the authority and decisions of the Father but also indicates that he is fully God and not inferior to the Father or the Holy Spirit in any way. This submission is best explained by emphasizing the perfect relational unity within the Trinity and the lack of human-like disharmony, pride, or jealousy displayed within the Trinity over “roles” and “authority.”

*“You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for **the Father is greater than I.**” (John 14:28)*

*“Although he was a son, **he learned obedience** through what he suffered.” (Hebrews 5:8)*

*“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but **only the Father.** Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come.” (Mark 13:32-33)*

*“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, **did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped**, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.” (Philippians 2:5-7)*

*“This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, **making himself equal with God.** So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing.** For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. **For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom he will.** For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son, **that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father.** Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.”*

(John 5:18-23)

Key Idea: Jesus is equal to the Father in value but not in function as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each seem to have different functions.

Heretical Views of Trinity

The Son Was Created (The Arian Heresy)



The beliefs of Arius (250-336 A.D.) were condemned in 325 A.D. at the Council of Nicea although the Arian Controversy continued for many years and became both a political and religious issue in the Roman Empire. This view is clearly refuted in many verses in the Bible.

“If the Father begat the Son, he that was begotten had a beginning of existence: and from this it is evident, that there was a time when the Son was not. It therefore necessarily follows, that he had his substance from nothing.”
(Arius, As quoted in Church History, by Socrates of Constantinople, Book I, Ch. 5)

“We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father [the only-begotten; that is, of the essence of the Father, God of God,] Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made [both in heaven and on earth]; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down and was incarnate and was made man; He suffered, and the third day he rose again, ascended into heaven; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. And in the Holy Ghost. [But those who say: 'There was a time when he was not;' and 'He was not before he was made;' and 'He was made out of nothing,' or 'He is of another substance' or 'essence,' or 'The Son of God is created,' or 'changeable,' or 'alterable' — they are condemned by the holy catholic and apostolic Church.]” - Nicene Creed, 325 A.D.

“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 was not any thing made that was made.” (John 1:1-3)

*(**Jesus speaking**) “And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with ***the glory that I had with you before the world existed.***” (John 17:5)*

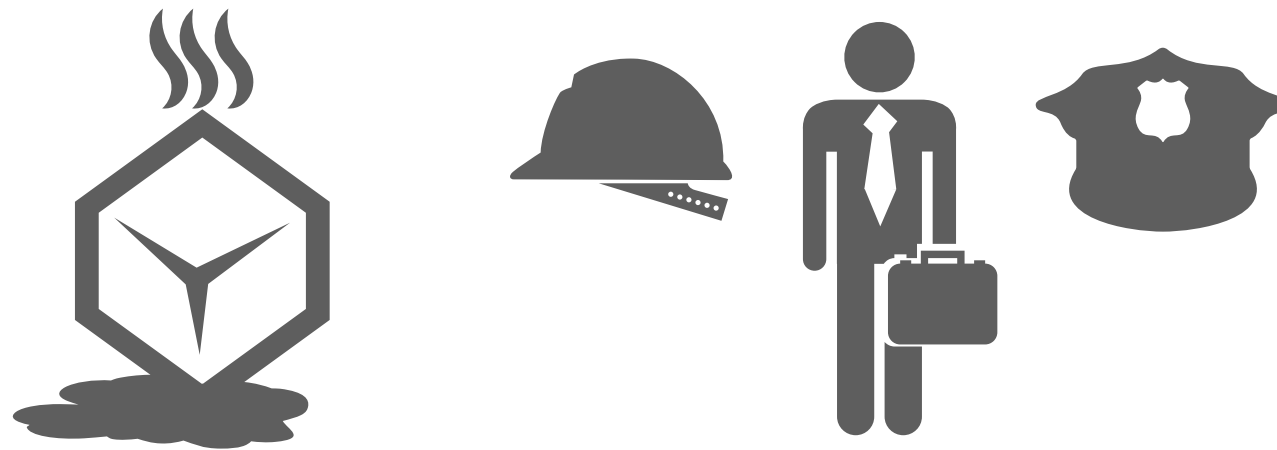
Key Idea: Arius and his followers denied the deity of Christ and believed that Jesus was a created being and not equal to God the Father.

God Is One Person in Three Modes (Modalism/Sabellianism Heresy)



Notes: Modalism was most famously championed by a priest named Sabellian in the 3rd century A.D. In this view, God is never simultaneously Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Although this view affirms the deity of Christ, it also denies the eternal nature of the Son. Modern day versions of Modalism are taught by the United Pentecostal Church (also called “Oneness Pentecostals”).

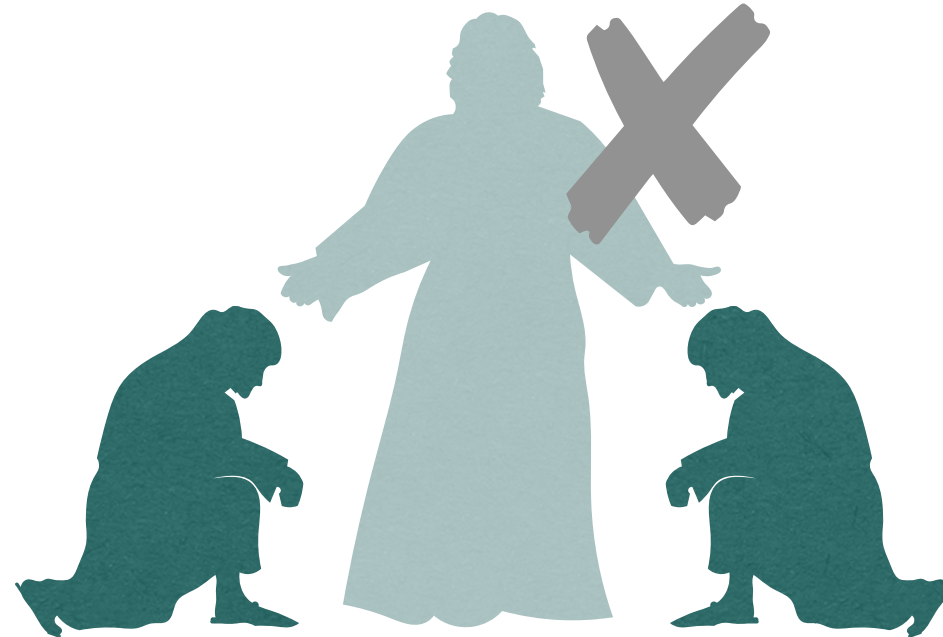
*And when **Jesus was baptized**, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw **the Spirit of God descending like a dove** and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, “**This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.**” (Matthew 3:16-17)*



Analogies of Modalism are Water molecules (can exist as water, ice, or steam but never all three at the same time) and a man having three different jobs (sometimes he is a businessman, sometimes a cop, sometimes a police man - but never all at the same time). Sometimes we might use these analogies to try to explain Trinity but always remember to also explain the limitations and flaws of these analogies.

Key Idea: Modalism is the belief that God shifts between three different modes (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) but never exists as more than one mode at a time. Modalists deny the eternal existence of the Son and believe he did not exist before the incarnation of Jesus.

Jesus Only Seemed To Be Human (Docetism)



Docetism comes from the Greek word “dokein” which means “to seem.” Docetism is the belief that Jesus only seemed to be human but was really God’s Spirit. This view comes out of the Greek idea that the material world is essentially bad and spirit is essentially good. This heresy seems to have arisen during the time of the Apostles and is probably the background for John’s complicated wording of John 1:1-3 and 1:14.

*“As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, ‘Peace to you!’ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, ‘Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? **See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.**’ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. **And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, ‘Have you anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.**”*

(Luke 24:36-43)

Key Idea: Docetism denies Jesus’ humanity and is the view that Jesus only seemed to be human but was really only God’s Spirit appearing as a human body.

The Trinity Is Split Into 3/3rds (Partialism Heresy)



Partialism can be defined in many ways and there is debate whether all forms of partialism necessarily are heretical. At the Council of Nicea a well known figure named Athanasius spoke out against some of the ideas of partialism but did not give a name to these heretical ideas. This is not a very serious or common heresy but it can be used to help us more clearly define the Trinity by saying that we do not believe God can be divided up into thirds and that all three persons of the Trinity are fully God but distinct from each other without any actual division within God.

Key Idea: Partialism is the belief that each person of the Trinity is in some sense 100% God but only 1/3 of God. God is only complete when all three parts of the Trinity are unified.

Jesus Was Adopted and Became Divine (The Adoptionism Heresy)



In the 2nd century, Theodotus of Byzantium taught that Jesus was adopted by God because of his great spirituality and denied the earlier divinity of the Son. Various forms of “Adoptionism” have taught that Jesus became divine at his baptism, resurrection, and ascension. This view was condemned in 268 A.D. at the Synod of Antioch and later at the Council of Nicea.

*And when **Jesus was baptized**, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw **the Spirit of God descending like a dove** and coming to rest on him; and behold, **a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”** (Matthew 3:16-17)*

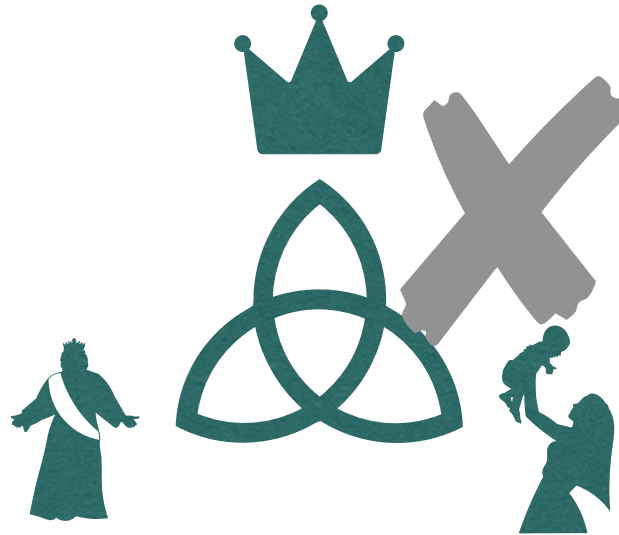
*“So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, **but was appointed** by him who said to him, ‘**You are my Son, today I have begotten you**’” (Hebrews 5:5)*

*This is a quote from Psalms 2:7.

*(**Jesus speaking**) “And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with **the glory that I had with you before the world existed.**” (John 17:5)*

Key Idea: Adoptionism is the belief that the human Jesus only became divine after he was adopted by God at either his baptism, resurrection, or ascension.

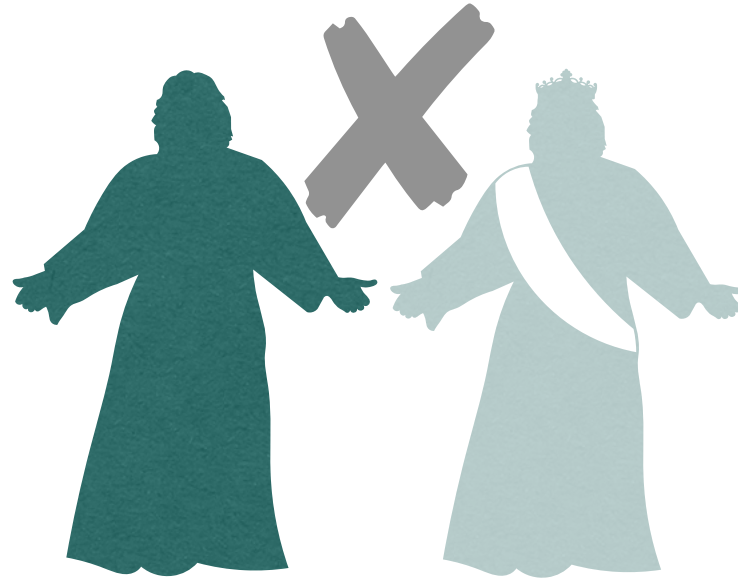
Worship of Mary (The Collyridian Heresy)



The Collyridian heretical sect, about which very little is known, was a group mentioned by Epiphanius of Salamis in a book called *Panarion* (376 A.D.). This sect apparently lived in Arabia, had female priestesses, and worshipped the Virgin Mary by giving bread-rolls called “collyris” as offerings to Mary. This group may be the source of the Islamic belief that Christians worship the Father, Son, and Mary.

Key Idea: The Collyridian sect worshipped the Virgin Mary as a goddess and may be the source of the Islamic idea that Christians worshipped the Father, Son, and Mary.

Jesus and the Son Are Separate Beings (Nestorian Heresy)



Notes: Nestorius (386-450 A.D.) was a theologian and Patriarch of Constantinople and it was claimed that he taught that the Son and Jesus are two distinct persons rather than one person with both a divine and human nature. It is unclear exactly what Nestorius actually believed but his supposed beliefs were condemned in 431 A.D. at the Council of Ephesus. Today, “Nestorian” beliefs are held by some in the “Persian Church” or “Assyrian Church.”

Key Idea: The Nestorians believed that the Son and Jesus are two distinct persons rather than one person with both a divine and human nature.

View on Trinity From Other Religions

Judaism:

(Reject the Divinity of Jesus and
View Trinity as Idolatry)



*“Judaism has never accepted any of the claimed fulfillments of prophecy that Christianity attributes to Jesus. **Judaism also forbids the worship of a person as a form of idolatry, since the central belief of Judaism is the absolute unity and singularity of God.** Jewish eschatology holds that the coming of the Messiah will be associated with a specific series of events that have not yet occurred, including the return of Jews to their homeland and the rebuilding of The Temple, a Messianic Age of peace and understanding during which ‘the knowledge of God fills the earth.’ And since Jews believe that none of these events occurred during the lifetime of Jesus (nor have they occurred afterwards), he was not the Messiah. (Wikipedia, “Judaism’s view of Jesus”, click [here](#) for the full article.)*

Key Idea: Judaism rejects both the divinity and messianic claims of Jesus and see the worship of Jesus as idolatry.

Islam:

(Jesus Was a Prophet but Not Divine)



*“O People of the Book! Commit no excesses in your religion: Nor say of Allah aught but the truth. **Christ Jesus the son of Mary was (no more than) a messenger of Allah, and His Word, which He bestowed on Mary, and a spirit proceeding from Him: so believe in Allah and His messengers. Say not "Trinity": desist: it will be better for you: for Allah is one Allah: Glory be to Him: (far exalted is He) above having a son. To Him belong all things in the heavens and on earth. And enough is Allah as a Disposer of affairs.**” (4:171, Yusuf)*

*“And behold! Allah will say: ‘**O Jesus the son of Mary! Didst thou say unto men, worship me and my mother as gods in derogation of Allah?**’ He will say: ‘**Glory to Thee! never could I say what I had no right (to say).** Had I said such a thing, thou wouldst indeed have known it. Thou knowest what is in my heart, Thou I know not what is in Thine. For Thou knowest in full all that is hidden.” (5:116, Yusuf)*

*“Such (was) Jesus the son of Mary: (it is) a statement of truth, about which they (vainly) dispute. **It is not befitting to (the majesty of) Allah that He should beget a son.** Glory be to Him! when He determines a matter, He only says to it, ‘Be,’ and it is.” (19:34-35, Yusuf)*

Key Idea: Islam describes the Christian concept of Trinity as Father, Son, and Mary and rejects the divinity of Jesus while accepting him as a prophet.

Hinduism:

(Jesus Was a God but Not Uniquely Divine)



Many Hindus will readily embrace Jesus without denying any of their other gods. Hinduism is a very inclusive religion and Hindus find it difficult to understand the exclusivity of the truth claims made by Jesus in the Bible such as Jesus' statement in John 14:6 that he alone is the way, the truth, and the life.

Key Idea: Hinduism sees Jesus as a holy man, a wise man, and as one of many divine figures who may or may not have been historical figures but represent divine ideals.

Buddhism:

(Jesus Was a Wise Teacher and Example)



Key Idea: Buddhism generally accepts Jesus as an enlightened man, a holy man, and a wise teacher whose example should be followed but generally reject the existence of anything but the material universe and so do not view Jesus as divine or accept the existence of a creator God.

Atheism and Agnostics

(Jesus Is an Example of a Wise Teacher but Probably Did Not Actually Exist)



Key Idea: Atheists and Agnostics, like Buddhists, deny the existence of anything but matter and so believe that Jesus, if he existed, was a wise teacher but not divine.

Jehovah's Witness

(Jesus Is the Created Archangel Michael)



“So Michael the archangel is Jesus in his prehuman existence. After his resurrection and return to heaven, Jesus resumed his service as Michael, the chief angel, ‘to the glory of God the Father.’ (Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, click [here](#) for full article).

“For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.”
(1 Thessalonians 4:16)

“Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back” (Revelations 12:7)

*Jehovah's Witness' believe that these verses refer to Jesus as Michael the Archangel.

“He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, ‘You are my Son, today I have begotten you’? Or again, ‘I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son’? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, ‘Let all God's angels worship him.’ Of the angels he says, ‘He makes his angels winds, and his ministers a flame of fire.’ But of the Son he says, ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.’ (Hebrews 1:3-8)

***This verse clearly states that Jesus is not an angel.**

Key Idea: Jesus was the first created being, God’s only begotten son, and the Archangel Michael.

Mormons

(The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
Are Separate and Distinct Beings
With a Unified Purpose)



*“Latter-day Saints believe that the simplest reading of the New Testament text produces the simplest conclusion — **that the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are separate and distinct personages, that They are one in purpose**. We feel that the sheer preponderance of references in the Bible would lead an uninformed reader to the understanding that **God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost are separate beings**. That is, one must look to the third- and fourth-century Christian church, not to the New Testament itself, to make a strong case for the Trinity. (Mormon News Room, click [here](#) for the full article.)*

“Mormons also believe that there are other gods and goddesses outside the Godhead, such as a Heavenly Mother who is the wife of God the Father, and that faithful Mormons may attain godhood in the afterlife. Joseph Smith taught that God was once a man on another planet before being exalted to Godhood.” (Wikipedia, “God in Mormonism,” click [here](#) for the full article.)

“We lived in heaven with Heavenly Father before we came to earth. We are His spirit children and had spirit bodies. We loved Him, and He loved us.” (Teachings of the Prophet Jospheh Smith, 354 click [here](#) for the full article.)

Key Idea: Mormon's believe that the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit are three separate and distinct divine beings with a unified purpose.

New Age, the New Spirituality: (Jesus Was an Enlightened Master and Moral Teacher)



Those involved in the New Age Movement or New Spirituality tend to reject the idea of a personal God in favor of an impersonal Pantheistic and dualistic divine force. They see Jesus as an enlightened individual whose teachings have been misrepresented by Christians. They also believe that everyone can be a “Son of God” just like Jesus because we are all divine.

Key Idea: Jesus was an enlightened master and moral teacher whose teachings were distorted by Christians and who was divine only in the same Pantheistic sense that all of creation is divine.

