

Class # 7
“Jesus: God’s Son, Man of History: Part 2”

So who is Jesus? He is demanding our all. For the next two weeks we will see that Jesus is God. How can that be when we thought God was God and Jesus was Jesus? It’s comes down to an understanding of what people have labeled “the Trinity.” God is “three in one.” How can that be? Let’s take a look....

THE ONE TRUE GOD

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

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

Abraham was a regular sort of guy, there was nothing "special" or different about him other than the fact that God decided to "reveal" Himself to him (Gen. 12:1). **Genesis 12:1 (NIV)**

¹ The LORD had said to Abram, "Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you." The fact of the matter is that God "chose" to "reveal" Himself to Abraham for no reason at all except that He decided to. The calling of Abraham was a total act of grace, yet Abraham did choose to follow. When God did choose to reveal Himself, He did so as the ONE TRUE GOD, a personal God with a name and personality, thereby making all other "gods" false and the product of the unaided imagination man. He was YHWH, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

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

(I) THE ONE TRUE GOD

- A. The Bible continually reinforces the idea of ONE TRUE GOD.
 - 1. "Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord."
(Deut. 6:4)
 - 2. "First...last...besides me there is no God."
(Isa. 44:6-8)

3. "There is none else, there is no God beside me."
(Isa. 45:5)
4. "There is one God."
(I Tim. 2:5)
5. There is no other God but one.
(I Cor. 8:4)

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

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

- A. "Let 'US' make man in 'OUR' image, after 'OUR' likeness."
(Gen. 1:27-28)
- B. Elohim = God in the plural.
- C. Father speaking, Servant and Spirit mentioned.
(Isa. 42:1; Mt. 12:18)

Isaiah 42:1 (NIV)

¹ "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations.

Matthew 12:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ "Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.

- D. All three members at the same time.
(Isa. 48:16-17)

Isaiah 48:16-17 (NIV)

¹⁶ "Come near me and listen to this: "From the first announcement I have not spoken in secret; at the time it happens, I am there." And now the Sovereign LORD has sent me, with his Spirit.

¹⁷ This is what the LORD says-- your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go.

- E. Baptismal formula.
(Matt. 28:19)

Matthew 28:19 (NIV)

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

(III) CHRIST IS REFERRED TO AS GOD

- A. "The Word of God...the Word was God."

(Jn. 1:1, 18)

John 1:1 (NIV)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:18 (NIV)

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known.

- B. God calls the Son God.
(Heb. 1:8)

Hebrews 1:8 (NIV)

⁸ But about the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever, and righteousness will be the scepter of your kingdom.

- C. YHWH attributed to the Son the New Testament.
(Ps. 24:7; I Cor. 2:8)

Psalm 24:7 (NIV)

⁷ Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.

1 Corinthians 2:8 (NIV)

⁸ None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

- D. "Unto us a child is born...mighty God, everlasting Father."
(Isa. 9:6)

(IV) SPIRIT IS REFERRED TO AS GOD

- A. Never grieve God's Spirit.
(Eph.4:30)

Ephesians 4:30 (NIV) ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

- B. Holy Spirit is called God.
(Acts 5:3-4)

Acts 5:3-4 (NIV)

³ Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? ⁴ Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied to men but to God."

- C. The Lord is that Spirit.
(II Cor. 3:17)

2 Corinthians 3:17 (NIV)

¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.

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

- A. If there isn't one true God than one god is as good as another.
B. Wherever this concept is misunderstood, another plan of salvation follows.
1. Jews, because of their misunderstanding of Deut. 6:4 crucified Jesus Christ.

Deuteronomy 6:4 (NIV) ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

2. Cults always deny this doctrine.
3. It answers theological questions; thereby, making the Bible a unity.
4. We can know we are right and this is important.
5. 1 X 1 X 1 = 1

(VI) JESUS AS GOD REVEALED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Read these and compare the Old Testament with the New Testament

CREATOR

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

FIRST AND LAST

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

SAVIOR

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

ROCK

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

I AM (EGO EIMI)

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

JUDGE

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

KING

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

SHEPHERD

Isa. 40:11---Jn. 10:11

Ps. 100-----Heb. 13:20

Ps. 23-----I Pet. 5:4

LIGHT

Isa. 60:20---Jn. 1:9, 8:12

Ps. 27:1-----Lu. 2:32

Gen. 1:2 - The Spirit in creation.

Ps. 139:7-10 - The Spirit is present everywhere.

Heb. 9:14 - The Spirit is eternal.

Acts 5:4 - The Spirit is called God.

Jn. 20:28 - Thomas says "My Lord and my God", Jesus doesn't argue.

I Jn. 5:20 - His Son, Jesus Christ, this is the true God.

Jn. 1:1 - The Word was God.

Jn. 1:3 - All things were made through Him.

Matt. 18:20 - For where two or more are gathered...Jesus is everywhere.

