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Publisher: Church of God, Bismarck, Darwin & Laura Lee, **Editor:** Laura Lee, **Assistant Editor:** Darwin Lee We do not necessarily agree with all contributors, or their works submitted and printed in this newsletter. It is up to you to get out your Bible and see whether these things are true. Iron sharpens Iron

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1Co 14:26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

“The Trinity – Examined”
(Copyright 2019) by Terry Bruns (Oregon, Wisconsin)

This article was written in response to questions sent in by you, our readers. Several of you have asked if there were any scriptures that prove the existence of the "trinity." The simple answer is "No" - chiefly because the Bible does not support such an idea. Even proponents of the trinity doctrine will admit that there is no scriptural evidence for this "doctrine." They say it is a matter of faith and call it a "mystery". But the Bible says we are to "prove all things", so that is what this article will attempt to do. To begin, we will present some information on Greek pronoun usage, then examine scriptures which speak about the nature of God and define the role of the Holy Spirit. We'll finish by answering some specific questions which have been asked.

Greek Gender Problems:

Much of the confusion among English-speaking peoples (and in English translations of the Bible) regarding the nature of the Holy Spirit centers on the Greek language's use of gender pronouns. Greek, like the Latin based Romance languages (Spanish, French, Italian, etc.), uses a specific gender for each noun. Every object, animate or inanimate, is referred to as being either masculine, feminine or neuter.

In these and other languages, a noun's gender is usually arbitrary and has nothing to do with whether it in reality refers to something masculine or feminine. For example, in French a book, livre, takes the masculine pronoun in speech and is referred to as a "he." Likewise in German a girl, mädchen, is referred to in the neuter sense as an "it" and the Latin farmer, agricola, would have been referred to as a "she" since it is a feminine noun. By contrast, English nouns use pronouns that are directly related to the meaning of the noun, whether masculine, feminine or neuter.

In the New Testament, the words used most often in reference to the Holy Spirit are a mixture of masculine and neuter. The Greek word *parakletos* is translated "Comforter" or "Helper." The comforter that Christ promised He would send to the disciples in the 14th, 15th and 16th chapters of John is a masculine word and thus would be referred to by the

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pronouns "he," "him," "his" and "himself" throughout those chapters. However, this is strictly a grammatical tool and not a statement on the nature of the Holy Spirit.

The other word used most often of the Holy Spirit is the Greek word *pneuma*. It is translated as "breath" or "spirit" and means breath, breeze, wind or spirit. It is the root of our modern word "pneumatic", meaning pertaining to or operated by air or wind. *Pneuma* is a grammatically neuter word and thus should be referred to in English by such neuter terms as "it," "its" or "itself."

The translators of the King James Version, influenced by their own belief in the Trinity doctrine, generally mistranslated pronouns referring to *pneuma* as masculine rather than neuter. There are a few exceptions in the KJV in which the translation was properly handled, such as **Romans 8:16**, "*The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.*"

Later English translations of the Bible, following the lead of the King James Version, translated references to the Holy Spirit as masculine, thus it is almost always referred to as "he" or "him" in modern versions. But now that we understand, let's get over this grammatical bump and really take a look at how the scriptures describe the Holy Spirit.

Unity with the Father:

A main point of trinitarianism is that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are one. While there are no scriptures stating such a thing, there are several verses which speak about the unity of the Father and the Son. These cannot mean that they are somehow "two-in-one" any more than the scriptures speaking about a man and a woman joining together and becoming "one flesh" means that a husband and wife are now some kind of "composite organism" or somehow equal in every way. This simply means one in purpose, united in goals, thoughts and aspirations.

Read **John 17:21-22**, "*That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which you gave me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one.*" First, notice Jesus talks of the glory He had with the Father. No mention of sharing any glory with the Holy Spirit. But more important, He is asking His Father to make them "one" again and to make the disciples "one" in the same way. The disciples did not become part of some "trinity" with other beings, but they did unite in mind, in purpose and in love - the same as Jesus and His Father.

Part of the trinity doctrine is that the three-in-one beings making up the godhead are co-equal. But notice this plain statement in **John 14:28**, "*Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is **greater** than I.*" Did you catch it? Jesus said His Father was greater than He was! This disagrees with a basic tenet of the trinity doctrine.

There is another well known passage of Scripture that indicates the Holy Spirit is not a co-equal member of a Trinity. Sometimes called the Unpardonable Sin, this verse is found in **Luke 12:10**, "*And whosoever shall speak a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but unto him that blasphemeth against the Holy Ghost [Spirit] it shall not be forgiven.*" If the Father, Son and Holy Spirit were all equal members of a Trinity, this would not make sense. We will see why Christ said this later on.

Ignored by Christ and Disciples:

Christ taught many things and had opportunities to include the Holy Spirit as being a part of "God" along with the Father. But He did not do this. Instead, He consistently left the Holy Spirit out of such lessons. Notice the following plain scriptures:

- **John 17:3**, "*And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*"
- **Matthew 11:27**, "*All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.*"
- **John 5:19**, "*Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.*"

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No mention of a co-equal relationship with the Holy Spirit in these passages.

The other New Testament writers did no better in acknowledging the Holy Spirit as a co-equal member of a trinity. The reason? It is not a co-equal member of a trinity. John wrote:

- **1 John 1:3**, "*That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.*"
- **1 John 2:22-23**, "*Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: but he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also. Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.*"
- **2 John 1:9**, "*Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.*"

In all of these fundamental scriptures on the nature of God, no mention is made of the Holy Spirit.

In almost all of Paul's epistles, he begins or ends with a doxology along the lines of "*Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.*" The same is true of the epistles of Peter, James, John, and the other minor letters. There is no mention of the Holy Spirit in these salutations. The only exception is in **2 Corinthians 13:14** where Paul closes with "*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost [Spirit], be with you all. Amen.*" Here he is hoping for the communion of fellowship of the Spirit to be with those to whom he is writing. This does not imply that the Spirit is a person, but rather, something all believers hold in common.

When these writers spoke of God, they always mention the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, but no mention is made of the Holy Spirit as being a part of that loving family relationship. The most telling of these omissions is from the words of our Lord Himself in **John 17** when He is praying to the Father about their soon to occur reunion. If there had ever been a "trinity" you would think that Jesus would desire to be reunited with the Father and the Holy Spirit. However, no mention of the Holy Spirit is made by Him. Read **John 17** in its entirety and see for yourself.

The Power of God

The Holy Spirit, rather than being a distinct person, is spoken of in the Bible as being God's divine power. The *Anchor Bible Dictionary*, in its article on the Holy Spirit, describes it as "the manifestation of divine presence and power perceptible especially in prophetic inspiration" (Vol. 3, Doubleday, New York, 1992, p. 260).

Did you ever consider why Jesus called The Father by that title if the Holy Spirit were a "person" of a trinity? After all, the scripture says He, Jesus, was conceived by the action of the Holy Spirit. But notice the wording in **Luke 1:34-35**, "*Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost [Spirit] shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.*" The Holy Spirit is here called the "power" of the Highest. If the Holy Spirit is the power and force that the Godhead (now the Father and the Son) uses to carry out their will, then this makes perfect sense. If it is a person in a trinity, then we have a contradiction.

In speaking of sending the Holy Spirit to the disciples, notice the words used by Jesus Himself in **Luke 24:49**, "*And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.*" Again, the Holy Spirit is referred to as "power". Paul told Timothy that it is the "*spirit of ... power and of love and of a sound mind*" (**2 Timothy 1:7**). In **Luke 4:14**, it is recorded that Jesus Christ began His ministry "*in the power of the Spirit.*" In speaking of the Holy Spirit, which would be given to His followers after His death, Jesus told them, "*You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you ...*" (**Acts 1:8**). Other scriptures that refer to the Holy Spirit as the power of God are **Zechariah 4:6** and **Micah 3:8**.

The Holy Spirit then is shown to be the very presence of God's power actively working in His servants. The apostle Paul's desire was that the members of the church in Rome would "*abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,*" in the same way that Jesus Christ had worked through him "*in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God*" (**Romans**

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15:13, 19). We see here that Jesus worked His miracles through the Holy Spirit. Notice these plain scriptures: "*And all the crowd sought to touch him, for power came forth from him and healed them all*" (**Luke 6:19**) and "*But Jesus said, 'Some one touched me; for I perceive that power has gone forth from me'*" (**Luke 8:46**).

Clearly, the Bible supports the concept that the Holy Spirit is the power by which God accomplishes His will. This is why Jesus said blasphemy against the Holy Spirit would not be forgiven. The Holy Spirit is the very power of God, given to bring us to repentance. If we deny that power of God, there is nothing else in the universe to bring us to salvation! We will examine the role of the Holy Spirit as it relates to the "Unpardonable Sin" a little later in this article.

Some Honest Questions Answered:

Matthew 28:19

Some of you have asked what it means to be baptized "*in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*" This is of course a well known quote from **Matthew 28:19**. It would seem at first glance that here we have a scripture which actually supports the trinitarian formula.

However, it is our firm belief that this text does **not** represent the *original* words of Christ, but instead was a gloss added by trinitarian copyists sometime in the late fourth century. Because all manuscripts now in existence contain this phrase, most scholars believe it to be original. However, there are several scholars who dispute whether or not this phrase is original - such as Hans Kosmala ("*The Conclusion of Matthew*", Annual of the Swedish Theological Institute, 4 (1965), pp. 132-147) and David Flusser ("*The Conclusion of Matthew in a New Jewish Christian Source*", *ibid.*, 5 (1966-7), pp. 110-119).

As I said, all extant NT manuscripts contain the traditional phrase. However, there are no manuscripts which date from earlier than the fourth century. Eusebius, the church historian of the early fourth century, does not include this phrase in his quote of this verse preceding the Council of Nicea in 325 AD. The writings of Justin Martyr, a second century author, also seem to indicate that the "trinitarian" formula was a later addition.

This article cannot possibly cover this topic in detail, however there are two other web sites (neither associated with the Great Commission Church of God), which contain an edited reprint of a publication which was originally written in 1961 and titled "A Collection of the Evidence For and Against the Traditional Wording of the Baptismal Phrase in Matthew 28:19," written by Pastor A. Ploughman of Birmingham, England. This fascinating study can be found at either the [Soul's Harvest Church](#) or the [Jesus Messiah Fellowship](#) web site.

But let's get back to our study and notice one obvious problem with **Matthew 28:19**. If it were meant to be a formula for baptizing, then somebody should have told the apostles and the New Testament church because there's no evidence in Scripture that they ever used it. Notice the following passages:

- **Acts 2:38**, "*Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost [Spirit]*"
- **Acts 8:16**, "*(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus)*"
- **Acts 10:48**, "*And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.*"
- **Acts 19:5**, "*When they heard [this], they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.*"

All of these scriptural examples show that baptism was done in the name of Jesus Christ - **not the questionable trinitarian formula found in Matthew 28:19**.

The Comforter (Parakletos)

Others have written concerning the "Comforter" or "Helper" that Jesus promised, wondering if the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct "person" of a trinity, why does Jesus say "*Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send him to you.*" (**John 16:7 NKJV**)?

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The word Jesus used for this "Helper" is the Greek *parakletos* which can be translated as "comforter", "helper" and also "advocate". Its meaning is one who pleads another's cause before a judge, as a defense lawyer or a legal assistant - an intercessor or mediator.

Now if this "Comforter" is another separate person in a trinity, we have another conflict with these next two scriptures:

1 John 2:1, *"My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."*

1 Timothy 2:5, *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;"*

The word translated "advocate" in **1 John 2:1** is "parakletos", the same one used for "comforter" in **John 14, 15** and **16**. But here we see it is clearly speaking about Jesus Christ. The word in 1 Timothy 2:5 is "mesites" and can mean 1) "one who intervenes between two, either in order to make or restore peace and friendship, or form a compact, or for ratifying a covenant; 2) a medium of communication, arbitrator. Clearly, both of these words are talking about the same idea and that function of helper or advocate or mediator is fulfilled by Jesus Christ alone.

Now it is universally accepted that when Jesus promised the "Helper" or the "Comforter", He was speaking about the Holy Spirit. By putting together **Luke 24:49** and **Acts 1:8**, we see that Jesus told the disciples that they would receive **power** when He was referring to the soon coming Feast of Pentecost, when they would receive the Holy Spirit. But how can Jesus be the one and only mediator and advocate between God and man, when He promised to send the Holy Spirit to be that mediator and advocate? It is only by understanding the Holy Spirit to be the Power by which the Father and Son act that we can reconcile this problem. Jesus Christ is our mediator, our advocate, our parakletos by or through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Let's look at a different passage of scripture concerning this topic over in **Romans 8:9 NIV**, *"You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ."* We see the Spirit spoken of as being "of God" and also "of Christ". Both of these members of the God family accomplish their will by the power of the Holy Spirit. But if this Holy Spirit is a separate being or person, why does the very next verse begin *"And if Christ be in you,..."*? This indwelling of God and Christ is **by** the Holy Spirit.

Notice again the words of Jesus as He promises the "comforter" to His disciples" in **John 14:16-18 NKJV**. This time, I will correct for the Greek gender mistranslation: *"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that it may abide with you forever-- the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot receive, because it neither sees it nor knows it; but you know it, for it dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you."* It is Jesus, not another "person" of some trinity, that is living in us. How? By the power of His Holy Spirit!

Once again, who is going to live with us and in us? **John 14:23 NKJV**, "Jesus answered and said to him, *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We [the Father and the Son - no Holy Spirit is mentioned here or anywhere else] will come to him and make Our home with him."*

The Unpardonable Sin

Many have asked, "What exactly is the **"Unpardonable Sin"** and How does the Holy Spirit figure in?" Rather than prove the trinity, this scripture does the most damage to the concept of a "three-in-one" God. Again, a fundamental aspect of the trinity is the belief that the three persons comprising God are co-equal. If this passage were going to support the idea of the trinity, it would not treat blasphemy against the Holy Spirit any differently than that against the Father or Son. By making this a special case, Jesus is clearly indicating that there is something different about the Holy Spirit which prevents one who denies its power from receiving forgiveness.

The reason is simple, once one understands that the Holy Spirit is not a person in a trinity, but the power of God. There is only one way we can ever overcome our carnal nature and follow the lead of Jesus Christ - the captain of our salvation - and that is to allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit. Notice **Romans 8:14**, *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."* and also **verse 16**, *"The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."*

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Jesus told us that we are to strive for perfection (**Matthew 5:48**). Paul put it another way in **Ephesians 4:13**, "*Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:*" But how do we measure up to Jesus Christ? "*The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master*" (**Luke 6:40**). So, we are to be like our master, Jesus. Now some may say that Jesus did it all for us and there is nothing for us to do. But Jesus Himself said "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father*" (**John 14:12**).

Now Jesus said this right before He spoke about sending the Holy Spirit or Comforter. But we have just showed that this is really Jesus living in us by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit - the Power of God and of Christ. Again, we see it is Jesus living in us in **1 John 2:6**, "*He that says he abides in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.*" And we see again that we need to walk as Jesus walked. But remember **Romans 8:9** told us "*...Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*" and verse 14 says, "*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*"

So how can we walk as Jesus walked, how can we do as our master did, how can we become perfect as Jesus commanded if we deny the very power that enables us to do so? If we blaspheme (slander, ridicule, speak evil of) the Holy Spirit, how can we be led by it? If we don't allow ourselves to be led by the Spirit of God, we cannot become the sons of God. Jesus was telling us that our sins, even against the Father and the Son, can always be forgiven, if we repent and allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit. But since this is the very power which, dwelling in us, can bring us to "*the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ*", then by denying it, we are denying the only power in the universe which can bring us to salvation.

This is why blasphemy against the Holy Spirit is known as the "**Unpardonable Sin**."

CONCLUSION:

The Bible speaks about God bringing "*many sons unto glory*" (**Hebrews 2:10**) and that we will be "*heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ*" (**Romans 8:17**) and we are to be "*the children of God*" (**Gal. 3:26**) and that Jesus is not ashamed to call us "*brethren*" (**Hebrews. 2:11**). These are all terms used of a family - and that is what the Bible consistently addresses "God" to be - a Family. God is a family that we have been invited to become a part of.

The Bible teaches us that we are saved by Christ's life (**Romans 5:10**), if we walk as he walked (**1 John 2:6**), because He suffered as an example for us to follow in His steps (**1 Peter 2:21** and **Romans 8:17**). To do this, we must allow ourselves to be led by the power of the Holy Spirit, thereby becoming literal sons of God (**Romans 8:14-17**). This receiving of the Holy Spirit is only a begetting by God, not actually being yet born. Jesus said we must be born again (actually "born from above" - **John 3:3**), but we know this has not yet occurred (**1 John 3:1-2**) but will happen when Jesus returns (**1 Corinthians 15:49-53**).

This subject is very complex and can be difficult to understand. While I've tried to be clear and concise in this article, I realize that more questions may have been raised than answered. If you would like to explore this topic in greater detail, I encourage you to check out some of the fine articles which can be found on the [Bible Study Web Site](https://www.truecog.org/index.html) (You have questions - The Bible has answers). Visit this award-winning web site and do a search on the word "**trinity**".

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How Rich Were the Magi?
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How rich were the wise men, or Magi, who came to worship Jesus (Matthew 2:2)? Did they give enough money to support his ministry?

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The economic status of Jesus' family was anything but rich before his birth. This situation, however, would dramatically change with the appearance of the Magi (wise men).

Before the Magi's arrival, Mary and Joseph could not afford much beyond the necessities of life given Joseph's job as a skilled craftsman or carpenter (Matthew 13:55). The family was not rich by any means but rather lived (in our modern terminology) from paycheck to paycheck.

After the birth of our Savior, the family travels to Jerusalem's temple to present him before God and to give the required offering. Unable to afford the more costly offering of a one-year-old lamb and either a dove or pigeon (Leviticus 12:6) they give the far less expensive two pigeons or doves (Leviticus 12:8, Luke 2:24).



Adoration of the Magi
Sandro Botticelli (1465 - 67)

The Magi Arrive

The appearance of the Magi, shortly after the family arrives back in Bethlehem, completely changes the financial status of the family. These "wise men" were influential and rich members of one of Parthia's two ruling classes who were willing to travel over 1,000 miles to worship (not merely honor, see Matthew 2:2) the King of Kings.

The Magi brought far more treasure, including silver and gold, as an offering to Christ, than most people think.

Precious Gifts

In his book, "The Lost Ten Tribes of Israel . . . Found!" author Stephen Collins states the following regarding the gifts given by the Magi.

"This Parthian delegation was offering tribute money to a 'king,' and therefore would more likely have brought a whole train of pack animals loaded with gold, frankincense, and myrrh . . .

"The Parthians regarded Jesus as royalty, and it was the ancient custom to give a royal personage a truly worthy gift when coming into his presence.

"Since the Parthian Magi were directed to Jesus by an angel of God, their sense of awe likely resulted in unusually large gifts being given to Jesus" (first revised edition, chapter 9)

Affording to Flee

After the rich Magi leave Bethlehem, an angel tells Joseph to take his family and flee to Egypt (Matthew 2:13 - 15). Mary and Joseph, who only recently barely afforded a temple offering of two birds, now have the financial means to not only travel to Egypt (a fulfillment of prophecy, Matthew 2:13 - 15) but also to stay there at least five months!

The family, upon the death of Herod, then make the long trip back to Nazareth. God made sure, through the riches of the Magi, that his beloved Son had the resources available in order for his life to be protected.

The possible benefits received from the gifts left by the Magi do not end, however, with the above!

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Money to Support a Family

Joseph, Jesus' stepfather, dies sometime between Christ's twelfth birthday (Luke 2:43) and several years before his ministry starts at thirty. His death leaves at least six children (not including Jesus) without a father and breadwinner.

How did Mary, as a widow, afford to raise and feed seven children total? It appears highly likely that the riches given by the Magi helped sustain the family after Joseph's death. Stephen Collins writes the following in this regard.

"The Parthian Magi had lavished gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh upon Jesus when they had visited him shortly after his birth . . . Jesus (as the firstborn son and head of the household after Joseph's death) could have tapped that wealth to provide for his family's needs without having to work as a carpenter" (ibid. page 399).

Funding the Gospel

The riches freely given by the wise men may have also funded Jesus' ministry. Consider the following possibility. There is no hint in the gospels that Christ ever asked for donations, although some, out of generosity, did willingly support him (Luke 8:3). The ongoing expenses for twelve men traveling for at least three years would have been significant (remember, none of the disciples were rich and all had left everything to follow him).

Judas regularly stole from the disciple's collective money bag (John 12:6, 13:29), an act which would be easily noticeable had the group had little cash. The Bible also indicates that the group regularly gave money to the poor (John 12:5, 13:29). Where did all this support come from, for group expenses, aid to the poor and so on if not (at least partially) the Magi?

Jesus had enough finances not only to take care of his disciples but also to give to the less fortunate. It is entirely possible that the rich Magi gave a big enough offering to the Lord to fund his public preaching of the gospel!

See BibleStudy.org's other articles at:

[BibleStudy.org](https://www.biblestudy.org) – [Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](https://www.church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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Dating Violence

(Copyright 2017) by Brenda Branson (Hanson, Kentucky)

Dating violence is a real and serious danger. It is one of the major sources of violence in teen life. In 1991, studies indicated that dating violence affected at least one in ten teenage couples (Levy 1991). Today, that number has increased to one in every four! Although the majority of dating violence victims are female, there are some young men who are victims of abusive girlfriends who use emotional and verbal abuse to control and intimidate.

Many teenagers interpret their partner's possessiveness and violent behavior as a sign of love. They have either seen violence as a way of life at home, or they have not been taught about healthy relationships.

Meredith Blake, founder of Break the Cycle, (a non-profit, legal services organization in California) believes that "we as a society in general and the legal community in particular, will not make any significant, long-term impact on the prevalence and devastation of domestic violence unless and until we focus our attention on our children. "By teaching teens early on what constitutes a healthy vs. an abusive relationship, crimes and consequences, legal rights, and responsibilities, we are able to assist teens in making safe and healthy choices.

"This preventative education also enables teens that have grown up in violent homes to challenge that learned behavior and choose a different lifestyle. For those teens that may already be in an abusive relationship, this early education helps

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both abusers and victims to understand the consequences of their actions and the options available."

Dating violence is not just physical abuse—it also includes verbal and emotional abuse, described by psychotherapist Jill Kaplan as the "systematic degradation of a soul." The abuse also takes the form of obsession and possessiveness. Many girls are controlled by their boyfriends via cell phones so they can check in with them several times a day and night.

A 14-year-old girl in the ninth grade talked to her controlling boyfriend on the phone seven or eight times a night. Her mother overheard her hysterically begging for forgiveness and pledging her love to him over and over. The girl eventually tried to commit suicide after a fight with her boyfriend because she thought it would get his attention.



Here are a few of the warning signs to help parents and teens recognize abuse in a dating relationship:

Does your boyfriend . . .

monopolize your time and attention, and prevent you from hanging out with friends and family?

check up on you, make you check in with him, go through your purse?

act extremely jealous or possessive, want to know where you've been and who you've been with, accuse you of cheating on him?

use aggressive behavior in other areas of his life (punches holes in walls, gets into fights)?

hit, kick, push, shove, punch, slap, hold you down, treat you roughly?

blame you for bringing out the worst in him, convince you it's all your fault, blame you for how he feels or acts?

make you feel you can't do anything right, and no one else would want you?

tell you how to dress or how much makeup to wear, scold you for wearing your hair a certain way?

isolate you from family and friends?

embarrass or make fun of you in front of your friends?

have an explosive temper or dual personality?

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use drugs or alcohol excessively?

put down your accomplishments or goals?

use intimidation or threats to get his way?

threaten to hurt you or somebody you care about?

pressure you into having sex or going further than you want to?

break things or throw stuff at you?

make you feel there is no way out of the relationship?

threaten suicide if you break up?

try to keep you from leaving after a fight or leave you somewhere to teach you a lesson?

have a history of abuse in his family?

call you names and use verbal abuse to intimidate you?

bring you flowers and act romantic after each violent argument and promise never to hurt you again?

Many teenagers don't tell their parents about an abusive relationship because they are confused about what constitutes abuse, they don't want to lose their freedom, and fear they cannot get another boyfriend.

Dating violence affects the entire family and takes them on an emotional roller coaster ride which lasts long after the relationship has ended. The wise parent will actively seek to strengthen communication between themselves and their teenagers and learn to watch for danger signs.

See Brenda Bransons other articles at:

[Branson, Brenda – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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<https://www.brokenpeople.org/>

The Original Church Government **(Copyright) by Ray Daly (Lincoln, North Dakota)**

Most of the following information comes from a booklet titled "By What Authority", by John A. Difley. The copyright was 1996. What Difley presents in his study centers on the Synagogues and their governmental systems. The start of this system of government is noted as likely having "originated during or soon after the Babylonian captivity". Which system would have been practiced during the first century C.E.

Difley uses Hebrew words, but regularly bracketing modern usage explanations. Emphasis on some points likely will be my own.

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Difley states. "The Synagogue was organized under the leadership of between three and twelve [likely referring to the attendance] zagenian (elders). Each zagen (elder) was APPARENTLY ELECTED BY THE LOCAL SYNAGOGUE MEMBERS...during the first century B.C. There is no evidence of a RESIDENT PRIEST [think man ordained minister] or PRESIDING RABBI within THE SYNAGOGUES."

"Rather, the Knesset [the three to twelve elected by the members] appointed a common member as the RULER [overseer] of the synagogue." (Luke 8:41; Acts 18:8) It goes on to describe this "elected by the members" duties in the synagogue. "Governing the affairs of the synagogue and maintaining order...He may also have been the one to assign MEMBERS TO READ THE SCRIPTURES during Sabbath services."

"The [elected by the members] Rabbis (teachers) were appointed and promoted [by the members] based on their ability to teach. But there is NO INDICATION that these rabbis had any official capacity in the congregation."

The author goes on to point out other duties needing to be performed in the synagogues. All appointed by the "council of elders". Organization, cleanliness, repairs, and the like. These duties are often cared for by paid individuals.

It should be noted that the above system of the Synagogue government was the same as that of the "True Churches" established by the apostles. Also, it should be noted that, in the New Testament, there is no command or suggestion that the members had "to assemble on the Sabbath". While they were indeed encouraged to assemble, no specific time or day is referred to. This is also true of the OT synagogues.

The whole system of government given to Israel was that of a True democracy. With the "10-50-100-1000" format. The 10 assemblies (think precincts) would appoint one of their number to represent them at the 50 level (think county). The 50 would appoint one of their members to represent them at the 100 level (think state). The 100 would appoint one of their members to represent them at the 1000 level (think federal).

It was at this level that Moses would be consulted. Later it was the Judges, and then the king. At the same time, the precincts had the authority over whomever it was that went to the next level. If he did not perform correctly, they could remove him. At whatever level he was in. While it is not clearly shown in OT writings, the means of authority that the precinct level had in enforcing their authority was the election/appointment of a "sheriff". (As we would describe it today.)

Obviously, the above material is supported by Scripture. At the same time, by the end of the first century AD, the True Church ceased to be an organized entity. For by that time, those of the mentality of Diotrefes had changed the correct way into one that is of the "catholic" mindset. Or that which has Babylonian backing. Consider that in the OT, the "church" (Levitical priesthood) is represented by Zion. While the state is represented by Jerusalem. Zion is also represented as being of the Sabbath. Note what it says of "Zion/Sabbath" churches today. Zech. 2:7. "Deliver thyself, O Zion [think Sabbath churches] that dwells with the daughter of Babylon".

See Ray Daly's other articles at:
[Daly, Ray – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

'Inside American Education;' beware professional liars
(Copyright 2023) by Curtis Dahlgren (Stephenson, Michigan)

"Common sense is in spite of, not the result of, education." - Victor Hugo

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A book review: Thomas Sowell's "Inside American Education":

"For the first time in the history of our country, the educational skills of one generation will not surpass, will not equal, will not even approach, those of their parents." – John Copperman

"Inside American Education; the Decline, the Deception, the Dogma" was published the same year as Rush's "See, I told you so," 1993. We've been complaining for 30 years in vain. And the educrats and Academania couldn't care less what we think.

"Children do not belong to the state. They are gifts from God entrusted to their parents." – anon.

Thomas Sowell:

"Much has been said about how our kids don't meet the standards of their peers in other countries. While this is true, their academic deficiencies are only half of the story. The curriculum has been invaded by psychological conditioning programs that promote an emotionalized way of responding to challenges...

"Worst of all, it systematically undermines the parent-child relationship."

(Again, this was written 30 years ago)!

Sowell continued,

"I am frankly surprised that the results are not even worse. The fads, fashions, and dogmas have yet to take their FULL toll, but retirement of an older generation of teachers and professors will leave the new trends (and Newspeak) as the dominant influence for generations to come."

(30 years later, we are stuck with the younger but not wiser generation of teachers)!

Sowell on "higher education":

"They have presumed to be the conscience of society and to teach ethics to others, while shamelessly overcharging the government, organizing price-fixing cartels, and leaving the teaching of undergrads to graduate assistants..."

He continued: "Scholarly associations that had never taken a stand on political controversies before, throughout their history, have collectively become shrill partisans on many issues in recent times (and) ideological questions once considered taboo in employment interviews are now often used as litmus tests for academic appointments."

Birds of a feather flock together, so not many conservatives apply to teach at the old state university, but when they do, they are usually culled out of the process.

When it comes to sex, public schools suddenly want to "teach your children well," to coin a phrase. A parent visiting a 4th grade class was shocked at the sex "education." She asked the teacher about all the sex. The teacher said, "Well someday they're going to need that information."

Yes someday? Maybe.

P.S.

With New York City ravaged by violent crime and in the midst of a migrant crisis that is driving deep cuts to city budgets, one would think that Gotham's city council would have plenty on its plate instead of focusing on the culture war against great Americans of the past. But that's exactly what the Democrat-led body is doing with a crusade to cleanse city property of monuments and artwork honoring the likes of iconic former presidents George Washington and Thomas Jefferson along with Italian explorer Christopher Columbus who is credited with discovering America.

PPS: IT'S TIME TO GET MAD.

See Curtis Dahlgren's other articles at:

[Dahlgren, Curtis – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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<http://www.renewamerica.com/columns/dahlgren/220131>

Secret Chinese Hotel Exposed

(Copyright 2023) by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

Secret Chinese Hotel Exposed - MILITARY AGED US-BOUND CHINESE STAGING AT COLOMBIAN HOTEL, CHINESE POLICE IN AMERICA

<https://twitter.com/realmuckraker/status/1731861221794599123>

Short video.

This likely is *at least* a prelude to a prophecy (they *can* happen more than once) found in Deuteronomy 28:49-52:

⁴⁹ The LORD will bring a nation against you from afar, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flies, a nation whose language you will not understand, (nee-ha' hello) ⁵⁰ a nation of fierce countenance, which does not respect the elderly nor show favor to the young. ⁵¹ And they shall eat the increase of your livestock and the produce of your land, until you are destroyed; they shall not leave you grain or new wine or oil, or the increase of your cattle or the offspring of your flocks, until they have destroyed you. ⁵² "They shall besiege you at all your gates until your high and fortified walls, in which you trust, come down throughout all your land; and they shall besiege you at all your gates throughout all your land which the LORD your God has given you."

The prophecy goes on, but it gets quite bad. You can check it out for yourself if you want.

See James Steinle's other articles at:
[Steinle, James - Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://Steinle, James - Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org))

Prophecies Given to Steve Quayle

(Copyright 2023) by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

Prophecies given to Steve Quayle over the years re America and its people and it's sins.

As you read these short one-page reports of what he was given, think about *when* they were given to him, then understand and realize what *has happened* since those years. Everything is coming about as he has reported...and the worst is now on our very doorsteps and busting through the doors. Why? And what can *we* do? The answers lie within these reports if our hearts are so inclined.

Steve's website is one I check out several times a day for up to date news from around the world, which is where I also spotted the prophecies. <https://www.stevequayle.com/>

<https://www.stevequayle.com/index.php?s=591> 1987 Oct 20 6am

<https://www.stevequayle.com/index.php?s=592> 1992 Jun. 27

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<https://www.stevequayle.com/index.php?s=593> 1994 Apr. 15

<https://www.stevequayle.com/index.php?s=594> 1997 Apr. 13

<https://www.stevequayle.com/index.php?s=595> 1997 May 28

<https://www.stevequayle.com/index.php?s=596> 1998 Jan. 7

<https://www.stevequayle.com/index.php?s=597> 1998 Jan. 25

<https://www.stevequayle.com/index.php?s=600> 2010 Mar. 20

<https://www.stevequayle.com/index.php?s=601> 2013 Jun. 26 6:08 am

<https://www.stevequayle.com/index.php?s=608> 2014 May 17

See James Steinle’s other articles at:

[Steinle, James – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://Steinle, James – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org))

Tribulation Cut Short?

(2023) Sent by James Steinle (Swanville, Minnesota)

<https://torahfamily.org/one-third/> 23 min. video by Steve of TorahFamily dot org. TRIBULATION 1/3 – UPDATED AND EXPANDED (If the Idol of Jealousy – the Ark of the Temple - is found early this next year by Passover 2024, then we will know he is on the right track. The Tribulation will not be 3 1/2 years but will finish by the end of Succoth or FOT 2024. He believes if not this year, then he believes the pattern would apply for any of the next years.

Here is the video that Steve says should be watched first before his video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FF0F8YjT1og> 12 1/2 min. HOW LONG WERE THE ISRAELITES IN EGYPT?

See James Steinle’s other articles at:

[Steinle, James – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://Steinle, James – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org))

Tocotrienols for Pain

(2024) Sent by Kenneth M. Hoeck (Woodstock, Illinois)

If it matters to some: The Swanson brand Tocotrienols is in a gelatin capsule – most likely porcine source.

Amazon has a couple alternatives – one with bovine gelatin and one that’s a vegetable capsule.

https://www.amazon.com/Annatto-DeltaGold-Tocotrienols-Vitamin-TocopherolFree/dp/B07PY8RF69/ref=sr_1_1_sspa?crid=2CS80UES439OT&keywords=Tocotrienols+delta+gold&qid=1704688842&sprefix=tocotrienols+delta+%2Caps%2C679&sr=8-1-spons&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFtZT1zcF9hdGY&psc=1&smid=A8FYQQNEAALLH

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https://www.amazon.com/Premium-Annatto-Tocotrienol-Supplement-Tocotrienols/dp/B0BYM487ZM/ref=sr_1_3_sspa?crid=2CS80UES439OT&keywords=Tocotrienols+delta+gold&qid=1704688842&sprefix=tocotrienols+delta+%2Caps%2C679&sr=8-3-spons&sp_csd=d2lkZ2V0TmFiZT1zcF9hdGY&psc=1

See Kenneth M. Hoeck’s other articles at:

[Hoeck, Kenneth M. – Church of God, Bismarck \(church-of-god-bismarck.org\)](http://church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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<https://www.totw.org/>

Iron Sharpening Iron
New American Standard Bible (Proverbs 27:17)
As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

In regard to: Is Yayshua God?
Article by James & Patt Steinle
Comments by Avram Yehoshua (Tulsa, Oklahoma)

A Response to Both James and Patt Steinle, and Laura Lee.

The Steinle’s speak about, and believe in, Arianism, which is a heresy, not because many Christians in the early Church came against it, but because of its inherently poor “Greek” understanding of the nature of Jesus of Nazareth and its contempt for Scripture that speaks of the Son being begotten, not created. The problem with understanding the Hebrew Scriptures from a Greek perspective, as the Steinle’s do, is illustrated in reading an essay about the Native American Indians known as the Apaches from a white man’s perspective versus a man who is an Apache. The Hebrew Bible, which includes all the New Testament, *1* was written from The Hebraic Perspective; the Greek words reflecting Hebrew concepts of reality. Athens is not Jerusalem. Zeus is not Yahveh. *2* The Jewish people (or Israel) in the time of Messiah Yeshua (Jesus), *3* were unlike any other people in the world because only they as a nation were in covenant with the God of the Universe. All the other nations had many false gods and goddesses, and so their understanding of reality was askew. Only Israel was delivered or saved from Pharaoh and Egyptian slavery, and only they saw the Red Sea split open and only they walked across it on dry ground, while they saw their enemy drown. Only they beheld their God descend as Fire upon Mt. Sinai, and only they heard Him speak, as a nation. Only they were given the words of God as to how to live out their covenant life with Him, which is called Torah (or the Law of Moses). Only they were given the prophecies of their coming Savior.

All that to say that the psyche of any people group or nation is made up of their collective experiences. There is no people group like the Jews, for all the other peoples had their demonic imitations of the God of Israel and His Days and His Ways of life (e.g. the nations of the world literally offered their babies in fire sacrifice to their gods. Israel was told to offer or set apart or consecrate their firstborn to God, but not in literal sacrifice). To read the Hebrew Scriptures with a Greek-Western mindset, which most of us do, begets false teachings like Arianism and Sabellianism. These concepts seek to make sense, in a very Greek way, of the Hebrew God, but fail miserably, just as a white man trying to explain the life and ways of a native American Apache. You might get some truth, but the essence is hidden from the white man, and so his explanation is lacking, even though it may sound credible, at least to another white man.

The God of Israel created Adam and then Eve, literally from Adam. In this we see how, in a simplistic way, the Holy Spirit “proceeding forth” from the Father, *4* with the same essence or “Godness” as the Father. In The Hebraic Perspective

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there is a simplicity and clearness to abstract problems like the nature of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Eve literally came forth from Adam. She was like him, but different, as two fives are equal to a ten-dollar bill, but very different. Yet, they both had the exact same nature.

Then Adam “knew” Eve and they had a son, Cain. The important point here for Eve and Cain is that they obviously both had the same exact nature as Adam, which is human nature. There is no “lesser human nature” for Eve or Cain. Transposing this to the Holy Spirit, which is first written of in Genesis 1:2 (as the Spirit of God), and also the Son, who is always spoken of as begotten (not created), in Genesis 1:3 the Father says, ‘Let there be Light!’ and we know that it wasn’t the light of the sun, moon and stars because they weren’t created until Day Four (Gen. 1:14-19). The Light of Day One was God’s spoken, living Word, whom we know as Yeshua—The Word of God and the Light of the world, which the Apostle John speaks of (John 1:1-9; 8:12; Rev. 19:13). The sun is (only) a natural, created reflection or picture of Yeshua as the Light.

It should be clear to see that the nature of deity that is the Father, is also the exact nature of both the Holy Spirit and the Son. The Three are One God Family, just as John Smith, Sue Smith and baby Tommy Smith all share the exact human nature of John Smith. “To beget” always means that the product of the union, in this case the child, has the exact nature as the begetter. The Holy Spirit must be a Person and must be feminine, and Jesus, like Cain, was begotten, not created.

The Holy Spirit is the feminine aspect of the God Family, yet Greek-Western Christianity teaches that the Holy Spirit “is a Gentleman.” What kind of nuclear family were you a part of as a child? Did you not have both a father and a mother who caused you to be begotten? All natural families have a father and a mother, and so this, or rather Adam and Eve, is a divine picture of the “US” who created them. *5* Where Adam and Eve were created, God the Father and God the Mother always existed (as well as God the Son).

It’s really simple. Within God the Father, from eternity past, was the Mother and the Son; similar to how within Adam were Eve and Cain. Neither the Holy Spirit nor the Son were created, but both “came forth” from the Father, with the Son “coming forth” from the Father and the Mother. Nature is a reflection of this.

Also, where in nature is a father ever his son? So much for modalism. The son is a totally different being, yet “one” with the father (and the mother). To say that the Father became the Son is the heresy of modalism. These heretics like to use the example of water becoming ice and steam. It’s also called Sabellianism, after Sabellius (about 215 AD), its main proponent. Note also that Sabellius wasn’t Jewish, not that all Jews have The Hebraic Perspective mindset. Not at all! Today most Jews think in a Greek-Western manner, even in Israel. The difference between the two perspectives is that the Greeks loved to dismantle everything and compartmentalize them, and hence, Systematic Theology, which I call Humpty Dumpty Theology. All the parts of the Bible “are on the floor,” and they can’t put them back together again as a unit or oneness as they were before. The Hebraic Perspective is a simple and comprehensive oneness, just as a rose is. Take the flower off the stem and it dies. Take the Greek New Testament away from its Hebraic roots and you have a Christianity that is not only open for heresies such as Arianism, but for heresies that many Christians think “are Gospel,” or they are “comfortable with,” yet are diametrically opposed to Jesus and His Ways. *6*

The Holy Spirit being the Mother in the Family of God (what family does not have a mother?), is also taught in the ancient Syrian or Eastern Orthodox Church which, from the time of the Apostles, has seen that the Holy Spirit is the Mother in the God Family. Also, Proverbs 8 is not speaking about wisdom as an abstract entity, nor is it speaking about Jesus. It presents the Holy Spirit, the God Mother, as divine Wisdom. It’s universally recognized that “wisdom” in Prov. 8 is a personification of a Person. That’s why most in the West see it as Jesus, but the word wisdom in Hebrew is a feminine noun, and as such, it speaks of the Holy Spirit or the Mother in this God Family. If you read Prov. 8 this way it’ll make a lot of sense. The Holy Spirit was with the Father “in the Beginning,” before time, before Creation.

Jesus is not God the Father nor is Jesus “a lesser God.” There is only one God Family: Father, Mother and Son, just as all families reflect this divine reality. The word for “one” in the famous Hebrew verse known as the Shema (literally Hear!) doesn’t mean something like one pencil, but one vine with many grapes, or one family with many members: “Hear, Israel! Yahveh is our God! Yahveh is one!” (Deuteronomy 6:4)

The name “Yahveh” is like Their last name. Just as the Smith family is one, made up of father, mother, and son, and they are all Smiths, so too is the Yahveh Family. All Three are Yahveh: Father Yahveh; Mother Yahveh, and Son Yahveh

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(Jesus). They all share the same, exact nature: deity. There are no other persons or spirits (e.g. demons) that have the nature of Yahveh, and because of Yeshua’s death; His divine blood sacrifice, Christians are created to be like Jesus (cf. 2nd Cor. 5:17), for the life of the flesh is in the blood (Lev. 17:11). Yeshua is the first of many like Him. *7* Yeshua is the God-Man glorified, and becoming like Him is the promise that the Father holds out to humanity: to be in eternity with Them, as the Bride of Christ. After all, what Bride can God the Son marry except one who is identical in nature to Him? (The Bride of Christ is symbolically seen coming forth from the side of Jesus. When He was pierced by the Roman spear, both blood and water fell to the ground or dirt [John 19:34]. Adam was created from the ground or dirt and Eve came from his side.)

Scripture reveals that there is God the Father and God the Son. This speaks of a family relationship. Since Man was created in the image of God, male and female, God the Holy Spirit must be the feminine counterpart to Eve. The Holy Spirit is the second Person of the God Family. Scripture reveals that similar to how Eve came forth from Adam, so too, the Holy Spirit came forth from the Father, and is a Person in Her own right, just as Eve was distinct from Adam, yet literally came from him and was one with him, in essence, not just “in purpose.” So too the Holy Spirit with God the Father (the Son coming forth or being begotten from their union; Gen. 1:2-3). Scripture never speaks of Jesus being created. It always speaks of Him being begotten, which means He must have the same nature or essence as both His Father and His Mother.

Arianism is a Greek-Western attempt to describe the Hebrew God and His Son. It fails because it not only doesn’t see the God Family as a union or oneness, but also because it tramples over Scripture, like Jesus being begotten, to obtain its position. So, it must come up with a “lesser God” known as Jesus, and reject the Holy Spirit as a Person, as they mistake the “one” in “one God” for being like one pencil.

Modalism does something similar, seeing the Father as becoming the Son and being the power of the Holy Spirit (a non-entity). Welcome to understanding of the Hebrew Bible from the dark tinted lens’ of the Greeks.

On the other hand, as Tevye*8* would say, the problem with the Christian Trinity, aside from the heretical Catholic Trinity of God the Father, Mary the Mother and Jesus the Son, is that no one can explain it in a way that makes sense or is understandable. Go online and listen to these theologians and pastors explaining the Trinity. Even Einstein would be befuddled to try and make sense out of what they’re saying. This abstract “explanation” is what gave rise to Arianism and Sabellianism, which seems right to many Greeks and Westerners, until it hits the biblical facts. To beget always means that the one begotten has the exact same nature as the begetter.

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His Glory, the Glory as of the ONLY BEGOTTEN of the Father, full of Grace and Truth.” (John 1:14) *9*

“The Word” is not some abstract thing, but the very Word of God that came forth when the Father said, “Let there be Light!” and Jesus came forth, the literal Word of God and the Light of the World (Jn. 8:12). That’s why Jesus is known as the Word of God, and that’s why you can’t separate Jesus from Mosaic Law, which are the words of God.

All humanity are sons and daughters of God, and we all came from Adam and Eve, whom God created. Jesus was not created but begotten by God the Father (and God the Mother, as the mother is always part of, and recognized in any begetting process, even if not literally spoken of as such). Hence, the KJV for Matthew’s genealogy, an example of which is:

“Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren.” (Matthew 1:2 KJV)

We have been begotten by the Father and the Mother because of the Blood of their Son. That’s what Jesus being baptized in water reveals, but that’s another teaching.

Finally, the God of the Old Testament was Yahveh: Father, Mother and Holy Spirit. We see the Father speaking to Moses and saying that He would come with them to the Promised Land, where just before this He spoke of sending only His Messenger (poorly translated as Angel, but being Jesus; Ex. 33:2f.). The Mother or the Holy Spirit is seen as the Shekina Glory Cloud that was with Israel for 40 years, mostly over the Tabernacle (cf. Ex. 40:34-38).

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1 The only thing Greek about the New Testament are its word: the concepts and reality “in back of the words,” are Hebraic. Also, see Luke the Jew? on my website. Even though Luke was a Gentile and wrote his Gospel and Acts, he wrote from The Hebraic Perspective. This is what happens when you associate with the Jewish Apostles.

2 The name that the Steinles use, Yehovah, is a hybrid from Jehovah, a grammatically impossible Hebrew name, as most theologians agree on. The Hebrew name of the God of Israel is Yahveh (some say Yahweh, but there is no “w” in the ancient nor modern Hebrew). Just as “Wagner” in German is always pronounced “Vagner,” but in the USA it’s “Wagner,” so too with Yahweh, which came to England from Germany in the late 1800s as Yahweh. The English pronounce it with a hard “w” sound, but the Germans pronounce Yahweh as Yahveh.

3 God and others call the region of Judah and Galilee, Israel, in Mt. 2:20-21; 8:10; 10:6; Luke 2:34; 7:9; John 3:10; Acts 4:8.

4 For example, “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father, She shall testify of Me.” (John 15:26 from the Hebrew translation of the Greek New Testament). See also John 8:42; 16:27-28, 30; 17:8.

5 For more on why or how Jesus is God the Son, and the Holy Spirit is God the Mother, see my articles, Yeshua—God the Son and Three Persons—One God? on my website.

6 Illicit SEX is a good example. It’s an acronym for Sunday, Easter, and Xmas, and also includes the eating of unclean animals, any one of which would have made Jesus a sinner (see Illicit SEX and the Church and A Snapshot of Church History and Mosaic Law on my website). How can any of these things, like Sunday instead of Sabbath, have been sin for Jesus, but not for His Body? Please, spare me your justification for it, and think about this: Aren’t we supposed to follow Jesus in His lifestyle? (cf. 1st John 2:6; also 1st Cor. 4:16-17; 11:1)

7 See 1st Cor. 15:20, 23 and also my article, Salvation—The Promise! on my website, to understand that being made like Jesus is now, is the promise of the Gift of salvation.

8 Tevye is the main character in the Jewish classic, Fiddler on the Roof.

9 See also John 1:18; 3:16; 18; Acts 13:33; Heb. 1:5; 5:5; 1st John 4:9; also 1st Cor. 4:15; Philemon 1:10; Heb. 11:17; 1st Peter 1:3; 1st John 5:1.

In regard to: Is Yayshua God?
Article by James & Patt Steinle
Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Avram’s Iron Sharpening Iron:

A Response to Both James and Patt Steinle, and Laura Lee.

Laura writes:

Find my response to Avram Yehoshua within. Avram seems to have put some footnotes of a sort within his response and as each one of these comes up within, I will address it where it comes up, if it needs a response, rather than at the end where he has put them.

As a side note, we did not agree with Avram’s response. We have heard a lot of tall tales in our time but honestly, we have not heard this one before so I would caution everyone to study this before you fall for it. That is not to say that Avram has everything wrong because he does not. There are several things we have printed in the past, that he wrote and we felt were right on with scripture but this one falls short of many of his other articles and comments.

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Avram’s Iron Sharpening Iron:

The Steinle’s speak about, and believe in, Arianism, which is a heresy, not because many Christians in the early Church came against it, but because of its inherently poor “Greek” understanding of the nature of Jesus of Nazareth and its contempt for Scripture that speaks of the Son being begotten, not created. The problem with understanding the Hebrew Scriptures from a Greek perspective, as the Steinle’s do, is illustrated in reading an essay about the Native American Indians known as the Apaches from a white man’s perspective versus a man who is an Apache. The Hebrew Bible, which includes all the New Testament, *1* was written from The Hebraic Perspective; the Greek words reflecting Hebrew concepts of reality. Athens is not Jerusalem. Zeus is not Yahveh. *2* The Jewish people (or Israel) in the time of Messiah Yeshua (Jesus), *3* were unlike any other people in the world because only they as a nation were in covenant with the God of the Universe. All the other nations had many false gods and goddesses, and so their understanding of reality was askew. Only Israel was delivered or saved from Pharaoh and Egyptian slavery, and only they saw the Red Sea split open and only they walked across it on dry ground, while they saw their enemy drown. Only they beheld their God descend as Fire upon Mt. Sinai, and only they heard Him speak, as a nation. Only they were given the words of God as to how to live out their covenant life with Him, which is called Torah (or the Law of Moses). Only they were given the prophecies of their coming Savior.

1 The only thing Greek about the New Testament are its word: the concepts and reality “in back of the words,” are Hebraic. Also, see Luke the Jew? on my website. Even though Luke was a Gentile and wrote his Gospel and Acts, he wrote from The Hebraic Perspective. This is what happens when you associate with the Jewish Apostles.

2 The name that the Steinles use, Yehovah, is a hybrid from Jehovah, a grammatically impossible Hebrew name, as most theologians agree on. The Hebrew name of the God of Israel is Yahveh (some say Yahweh, but there is no “w” in the ancient nor modern Hebrew). Just as “Wagner” in German is always pronounced “Vagner,” but in the USA it’s “Wagner,” so too with Yahweh, which came to England from Germany in the late 1800s as Yahweh. The English pronounce it with a hard “w” sound, but the Germans pronounce Yahweh as Yahveh.

3 God and others call the region of Judah and Galilee, Israel, in Mt. 2:20-21; 8:10; 10:6; Luke 2:34; 7:9; John 3:10; Acts 4:8.

Laura writes:

Arianism: an influential [heresy](#) denying the divinity of Christ, originating with the Alexandrian priest Arius (c. 250– c. 336). Arianism maintained that the Son of God was created by the Father and was therefore neither [coeternal](#) with the Father, nor [consubstantial](#). (From the Online Dictionary)

Arianism is defined as an early branch of Christianity that held that Jesus Christ was not one with God the Father, but instead just created by God and a holy man. (From Study.com)

Avram’s Iron Sharpening Iron:

All that to say that the psyche of any people group or nation is made up of their collective experiences. There is no people group like the Jews, for all the other peoples had their demonic imitations of the God of Israel and His Days and His Ways of life (e.g. the nations of the world literally offered their babies in fire sacrifice to their gods. Israel was told to offer or set apart or consecrate their firstborn to God, but not in literal sacrifice). To read the Hebrew Scriptures with a Greek-Western mindset, which most of us do, begets false teachings like Arianism and Sabellianism. These concepts seek to make sense, in a very Greek way, of the Hebrew God, but fail miserably, just as a white man trying to explain the life and ways of a native American Apache. You might get some truth, but the essence is hidden from the white man, and so his explanation is lacking, even though it may sound credible, at least to another white man.

Laura writes:

Sabellianism: In Christian theology, God is believed to exist as three "persons" known as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Sabellianism is the belief that instead of being three persons, these are actually three "modes" or "aspects" of the same god. (From Study.com)

Avram’s Iron Sharpening Iron:

The God of Israel created Adam and then Eve, literally from Adam. In this we see how, in a simplistic way, the Holy Spirit “proceeding forth” from the Father, *4* with the same essence or “Godness” as the Father. In The Hebraic Perspective

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there is a simplicity and clearness to abstract problems like the nature of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Eve literally came forth from Adam. She was like him, but different, as two fives are equal to a ten-dollar bill, but very different. Yet, they both had the exact same nature.

4 For example, “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father, She shall testify of Me.” (John 15:26 from the Hebrew translation of the Greek New Testament). See also John 8:42; 16:27-28, 30; 17:8.

Laura writes:

Joh 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

In other words when Christ returns to the Father he will send the “Comforter” which is the “Holy Spirit”. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father because it is the essence of God and it the “Comforter”, “Holy Spirit” will lead you into all truth and testify of Christ.

Joh 8:42 Jesus said unto them, **If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.**

In other words, God the Father sent Christ the son, to the Earth. The words of this verse are pretty clear if you read it in context and without believing there is some strange mystery going on here.

Joh 16:27 For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.
Joh 16:28 I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.

No mystery here either, the Father sent Christ to earth on a mission to save mankind and then when the mission was complete Christ returned to heaven to be with the Father.

Joh 16:30 Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.

The disciples based on certain information believed that Christ was sent from heaven to earth. These verses are very easy to understand if you don’t add your words or ideas to them.

Joh 17:18 As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

Just as the Father sent Christ to earth (the world), Christ also sent people (apostles, disciples) into the world of gentiles and lost tribes of Israel to preach the gospel just like Christ came to earth to preach the gospel.

Avram’s Iron Sharpening Iron:

Then Adam “knew” Eve and they had a son, Cain. The important point here for Eve and Cain is that they obviously both had the same exact nature as Adam, which is human nature. There is no “lesser human nature” for Eve or Cain. Transposing this to the Holy Spirit, which is first written of in Genesis 1:2 (as the Spirit of God), and also the Son, who is always spoken of as begotten (not created), in Genesis 1:3 the Father says, ‘Let there be Light!’, and we know that it wasn’t the light of the sun, moon and stars because they weren’t created until Day Four (Gen. 1:14-19). The Light of Day One was God’s spoken, living Word, whom we know as Yeshua—The Word of God and the Light of the world, which the Apostle John speaks of (John 1:1-9; 8:12; Rev. 19:13). The sun is (only) a natural, created reflection or picture of Yeshua as the Light.

It should be clear to see that the nature of deity that is the Father, is also the exact nature of both the Holy Spirit and the Son. The Three are One God Family, just as John Smith, Sue Smith and baby Tommy Smith all share the exact human nature of John Smith. “To beget” always means that the product of the union, in this case the child, has the exact nature as the begetter. The Holy Spirit must be a Person and must be feminine, and Jesus, like Cain, was begotten, not created.

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Laura writes:

The Church of God for the most part does not believe in a trinity doctrine, and we do not teach a trinity doctrine because it is not in scripture. Just like people have human nature God the Father and Christ His Son have spiritual nature called the “Holy Spirit”. In other words, just like human nature is not a separate person, the Holy Spirit is not a separate person. The Holy Spirit is the nature of God, just like human nature is the nature of humans.

The reason scripture says that Christ was begotten is because he was begotten through Mary His human mother. Since Mary was impregnated by the Holy Spirit your doctrine proposes that Christ’s birth was an abomination, because it is an abomination for two women to lie together and it would be totally impossible for two women to have a baby together. So therefore, the Holy Spirit if it were a woman as you propose here, could not have impregnated Mary.

God the Father through His essence the Holy Spirit impregnated Mary. It was a miracle and not an abomination as you are proposing here.

As far as people not understanding the oneness of God and Christ, that is not true. If one understands that in a marriage between a man and a woman, they are still and always will be two separate people, but they are one in purpose. God the Father and Christ His Son are one in purpose but two separate beings.

When you teach this doctrine, it is just a new version of the Trinity Doctrine. In the most popular version of the Trinity Doctrine, it is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Three separate entities. In your version of the Trinity Doctrine, it is Father, Son and Holy Mother, all separate entities.

[Joh 1:1](#) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. [Joh 1:2](#) The same was in the beginning with God. [Joh 1:3](#) All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. [Joh 1:4](#) In him was life; and the life was the light of men. [Joh 1:5](#) And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

I will continue to believe what scripture says and it says Christ has been with the Father from the beginning. They became Father and Son when the Holy Spirit essence of God impregnated Mary. Before that happened they both existed forever together therefore Christ was not created. (Read John 1)

If you look at how God is creating a family from humans, apparently the seed of God is the Holy Spirit. God through the Holy Spirit impregnated Mary and with the Holy Spirit he is replacing the nature in man. In other words, God gives a piece of the Holy Spirit to those He is calling. If you let the Holy Spirit guide you into all truth then the piece of the Holy Spirit given to any one person grows over time. If you do not let the Holy Spirit guide you into all truth then over time you will not gain anymore of the Holy Spirit, but you will slowly loose the part of the Holy Spirit that you started with. If you are being called, then you have a piece of God’s Holy Spirit in you but having God’s Holy Spirit in you does not make you into two people.

Instead of looking for Hebraic roots perhaps people should read their bible without adding their own words and ideas into it.

Avram’s Iron Sharpening Iron:

The Holy Spirit is the feminine aspect of the God Family, yet Greek-Western Christianity teaches that the Holy Spirit “is a Gentleman.” What kind of nuclear family were you a part of as a child? Did you not have both a father and a mother who caused you to be begotten? All natural families have a father and a mother, and so this, or rather Adam and Eve, is a divine picture of the “US” who created them. *5* Where Adam and Eve were created, God the Father and God the Mother always existed (as well as God the Son).

5 For more on why or how Jesus is God the Son, and the Holy Spirit is God the Mother, see my articles, Yeshua—God the Son and Three Persons—One God? on my website.

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Laura writes:

This whole thing is just another version of the Trinity Doctrine that you claim no one can explain but yet your version of it is even worse than the original version of the Trinity Doctrine which is no place in scripture. The Holy Spirit is the essence of God and not a separate person.

Avram’s Iron Sharpening Iron:

It’s really simple. Within God the Father, from eternity past, was the Mother and the Son; similar to how within Adam were Eve and Cain. Neither the Holy Spirit nor the Son were created, but both “came forth” from the Father, with the Son “coming forth” from the Father and the Mother. Nature is a reflection of this.

Also, where in nature is a father ever his son? So much for modalism. The son is a totally different being, yet “one” with the father (and the mother). To say that the Father became the Son is the heresy of modalism. These heretics like to use the example of water becoming ice and steam. It’s also called Sabellianism, after Sabellius (about 215 AD), its main proponent. Note also that Sabellius wasn’t Jewish, not that all Jews have The Hebraic Perspective mindset. Not at all! Today most Jews think in a Greek-Western manner, even in Israel. The difference between the two perspectives is that the Greeks loved to dismantle everything and compartmentalize them, and hence, Systematic Theology, which I call Humpty Dumpty Theology. All the parts of the Bible “are on the floor,” and they can’t put them back together again as a unit or oneness as they were before. The Hebraic Perspective is a simple and comprehensive oneness, just as a rose is. Take the flower off the stem and it dies. Take the Greek New Testament away from its Hebraic roots and you have a Christianity that is not only open for heresies such as Arianism, but for heresies that many Christians think “are Gospel,” or they are “comfortable with,” yet are diametrically opposed to Jesus and His Ways. *6*

6 Illicit SEX is a good example. It’s an acronym for Sunday, Easter, and Xmas, and also includes the eating of unclean animals, any one of which would have made Jesus a sinner (see Illicit SEX and the Church and A Snapshot of Church History and Mosaic Law on my website). How can any of these things, like Sunday instead of Sabbath, have been sin for Jesus, but not for His Body? Please, spare me your justification for it, and think about this: Aren’t we supposed to follow Jesus in His lifestyle? (cf. 1st John 2:6; also 1st Cor. 4:16-17; 11:1)

Laura writes:

Modalism: the [doctrine](#) that the persons of the Trinity represent only three modes or aspects of the divine [revelation](#), not distinct and [coexisting](#) persons in the divine nature. (From the Online Dictionary)

Sabellianism: Sabellius evidently taught that the Godhead is a monad, expressing itself in three operations: as Father, in creation; as Son, in redemption; and as Holy Spirit, in sanctification. Pope Calixtus was at first inclined to be sympathetic to Sabellius’ teaching but later condemned it and excommunicated Sabellius. (From Britannica)

What you are teaching here is the Trinity Doctrine just in a different form. The Trinity Doctrine is a false doctrine and is not found in the Bible. If you can find it in the Bible, I would like to see it.

Avram’s Iron Sharpening Iron:

The Holy Spirit being the Mother in the Family of God (what family does not have a mother?), is also taught in the ancient Syrian or Eastern Orthodox Church which, from the time of the Apostles, has seen that the Holy Spirit is the Mother in the God Family. Also, Proverbs 8 is not speaking about wisdom as an abstract entity, nor is it speaking about Jesus. It presents the Holy Spirit, the God Mother, as divine Wisdom. It’s universally recognized that “wisdom” in Prov. 8 is a personification of a Person. That’s why most in the West see it as Jesus, but the word wisdom in Hebrew is a feminine noun, and as such, it speaks of the Holy Spirit or the Mother in this God Family. If you read Prov. 8 this way it’ll make a lot of sense. The Holy Spirit was with the Father “in the Beginning,” before time, before Creation.

Laura writes:

In Proverbs 8, wisdom is presented as a woman but is not a person. When we read the entire chapter in context it is telling us that wisdom existed from the beginning. Why would that be? Look around you and take note of how much wisdom it takes to create all that Christ created. The chapter is also encouraging all people to get wisdom. Why would that be? Solomon had wisdom and as long as he used it he was with God, but when he went after all those strange women his wisdom was failing and he was unwisely going after other gods. You cannot get anything more from this

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chapter except it is talking about wisdom, just like the love chapter is talking about love. If people would stop putting their own words and ideas into what scripture really says we would not have all these false doctrines.

Avram’s Iron Sharpening Iron:

Jesus is not God the Father nor is Jesus “a lesser God.” There is only one God Family: Father, Mother and Son, just as all families reflect this divine reality. The word for “one” in the famous Hebrew verse known as the Shema (literally Hear!) doesn’t mean something like one pencil, but one vine with many grapes, or one family with many members: “Hear, Israel! Yahveh is our God! Yahveh is one!” (Deuteronomy 6:4)

Laura writes:

Deu 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD:

Joh 10:30 I *and my* Father are one.

We need to hear God with intelligence. God the Father and Christ are both Gods.

Joh 14:28 *Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.*

Scripture seems to indicate that the Father is greater than Christ because Christ says He is.

Avram’s Iron Sharpening Iron:

The name “Yahveh” is like Their last name. Just as the Smith family is one, made up of father, mother, and son, and they are all Smiths, so too is the Yahveh Family. All Three are Yahveh: Father Yahveh; Mother Yahveh, and Son Yahveh (Jesus). They all share the same, exact nature: deity. There are no other persons or spirits (e.g. demons) that have the nature of Yahveh, and because of Yeshua’s death; His divine blood sacrifice, Christians are created to be like Jesus (cf. 2nd Cor. 5:17), for the life of the flesh is in the blood (Lev. 17:11). Yeshua is the first of many like Him. *7* Yeshua is the God-Man glorified, and becoming like Him is the promise that the Father holds out to humanity: to be in eternity with Them, as the Bride of Christ. After all, what Bride can God the Son marry except one who is identical in nature to Him? (The Bride of Christ is symbolically seen coming forth from the side of Jesus. When He was pierced by the Roman spear, both blood and water fell to the ground or dirt [John 19:34]. Adam was created from the ground or dirt and Eve came from his side.)

Scripture reveals that there is God the Father and God the Son. This speaks of a family relationship. Since Man was created in the image of God, male and female, God the Holy Spirit must be the feminine counterpart to Eve. The Holy Spirit is the second Person of the God Family. Scripture reveals that similar to how Eve came forth from Adam, so too, the Holy Spirit came forth from the Father, and is a Person in Her own right, just as Eve was distinct from Adam, yet literally came from him and was one with him, in essence, not just “in purpose.” So too the Holy Spirit with God the Father (the Son coming forth or being begotten from their union; Gen. 1:2-3). Scripture never speaks of Jesus being created. It always speaks of Him being begotten, which means He must have the same nature or essence as both His Father and His Mother.

7 See 1st Cor. 15:20, 23 and also my article, Salvation—The Promise! on my website, to understand that being made like Jesus is now, is the promise of the Gift of salvation.

Laura writes:

There is nothing in scripture about the Holy Spirit being God the Father’s wife or being Christ’s Mother. I sincerely hope that no one falls for this nonsense.

Avram’s Iron Sharpening Iron:

Arianism is a Greek-Western attempt to describe the Hebrew God and His Son. It fails because it not only doesn’t see the God Family as a union or oneness, but also because it tramples over Scripture, like Jesus being begotten, to obtain its position. So, it must come up with a “lesser God” known as Jesus, and reject the Holy Spirit as a Person, as they mistake the “one” in “one God” for being like one pencil.

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Laura writes:

As I said before we in the Church of God for the most part do not believe in the Trinity Doctrine, nor do we teach it. On the other hand the trinity doctrine is exactly what you are teaching here and it can't be found in scripture.

Avram's Iron Sharpening Iron:

Modalism does something similar, seeing the Father as becoming the Son and being the power of the Holy Spirit (a non-entity). Welcome to understanding of the Hebrew Bible from the dark tinted lens' of the Greeks.

On the other hand, as Tevye*8* would say, the problem with the Christian Trinity, aside from the heretical Catholic Trinity of God the Father, Mary the Mother and Jesus the Son, is that no one can explain it in a way that makes sense or is understandable. Go online and listen to these theologians and pastors explaining the Trinity. Even Einstein would be befuddled to try and make sense out of what they're saying. This abstract "explanation" is what gave rise to Arianism and Sabellianism, which seems right to many Greeks and Westerners, until it hits the biblical facts. To beget always means that the one begotten has the exact same nature as the begetter.

8 Tevye is the main character in the Jewish classic, Fiddler on the Roof.

Laura writes:

Do you honestly believe that your version of the Trinity Doctrine is any better than other peoples Trinity Doctrine and that you are able to explain your version so much better, because I don't.

Avram's Iron Sharpening Iron:

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His Glory, the Glory as of the ONLY BEGOTTEN of the Father, full of Grace and Truth." (John 1:14) *9*

"The Word" is not some abstract thing, but the very Word of God that came forth when the Father said, "Let there be Light!" and Jesus came forth, the literal Word of God and the Light of the World (Jn. 8:12). That's why Jesus is known as the Word of God, and that's why you can't separate Jesus from Mosaic Law, which are the words of God.

9 See also John 1:18; 3:16; 18; Acts 13:33; Heb. 1:5; 5:5; 1st John 4:9; also 1st Cor. 4:15; Philemon 1:10; Heb. 11:17; 1st Peter 1:3; 1st John 5:1.

Laura writes:

So, you believe that Christ was begotten in Genesis 1:2-3, because I don't.

Avram's Iron Sharpening Iron:

All humanity are sons and daughters of God, and we all came from Adam and Eve, whom God created. Jesus was not created but begotten by God the Father (and God the Mother, as the mother is always part of, and recognized in any begetting process, even if not literally spoken of as such). Hence, the KJV for Matthew's genealogy, an example of which is:

"Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren." (Matthew 1:2 KJV)

We have been begotten by the Father and the Mother because of the Blood of their Son. That's what Jesus being baptized in water reveals, but that's another teaching.

Finally, the God of the Old Testament was Yahveh: Father, Mother and Holy Spirit. We see the Father speaking to Moses and saying that He would come with them to the Promised Land, where just before this He spoke of sending only His Messenger (poorly translated as Angel, but being Jesus; Ex. 33:2f.). The Mother or the Holy Spirit is seen as the Shekina Glory Cloud that was with Israel for 40 years, mostly over the Tabernacle (cf. Ex. 40:34-38).

Laura writes:

As I understand it, the Shekina Glory Cloud was the pillar of a cloud and the fire at night that led them. Avram is clearly saying that Christ's Mother the Holy Spirit was that cloud and pillar and fire that led them. But scripture clearly says that Christ went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud and by night in a pillar of fire. It says nothing about His Mother the

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Holy Spirit because Christ's Mother is not the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the essence (nature) of both God the Father and Christ the Son.

Exo 13:21 And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

In conclusion this form of trinity doctrine you are teaching here is a false doctrine and hopefully in the future you will study your bible for what it says and not put your own words or ideas into it.

In regard to: The Original Church Government

Article by Ray Daly

Comments by Laura Lee (Bismarck, North Dakota)

Some of this article may be true at the beginning where he is talking about the book, but when he gets started on his own opinion and misunderstanding of the bible it veers off into many branches that may or may not be true. This is not an article to be regarded as all truth.

One point he made in regard to the later church government being of a catholic mindset, he is correct on that. Many years ago, Richard Pinelli gave a sermon in United Church of God and told everyone listening that the Catholic Church had the church government correct.

We have been over it with Ray many times in the past that the Sabbath command can be found in Leviticus 23, but he still claims it is not in the Bible.

So, please don't use this article for all your truth as it has only some truth in it.

Prayer Requests

Prayer Request from William P. Goff (January 6, 2024)

Greetings Brethren, and Happy Sabbath

I have posted two letters recently, one dated December 30, 2023, to our current donors, and the other dated January 6, 2024 addressed to the "Church of God Sabbatarian News, Views and History" and other members of the church of God.

We are trying to bring awareness to the cry of our E. African Brethren of whom many have been literally starving to death.

The links are below. Hope you will pray for others to join hands with us in helping our impoverished brethren.

<https://khofh.com/letter-to-donors-december-30-2023/>

<https://khofh.com/9013-2/>

Thank You,

Bill Goff

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Prayer Request from M. Srikanth (January 7, 2024)

Shalom My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Yeshua Messiah. Shabbat greetings to all.

I already sent some mails, but you didn't respond. I think you may be busy.

Let us pray for the many people who lives have been lost apart from conflict in Israel and Gaza. We pray for the peace and prosperity of all who live within Jerusalem the residents, protectors, workers, visitors, supporters and all who love the Holy Land. We pray for the protection of those who have been taken hostage by Hamas. The militant group was appeared in the Bible.

Genesis 6:11-13. The other verses are related to Israel and Palestine conflict. Ezekiel 38&39, Zechariah 9:12, Zephaniah 2:4-7, Jeremiah 31:12, Isaiah 11:9.

Please pray for us as we pray for you.

Prayerfully expecting your kind mail.

May Yeshua Messiah keep protecting all.

Yours in Him
Elder.M.Srikanth INDIA

Announcements

Announcement from William P. Goff (January 5, 2024)

Greetings,

December donor Letter now posted at: <https://khofh.com/letter-to-donors-december-30-2023/>

Thank You
Bill Goff

Ads

Ad from Alan Ruth (January 10, 2024)

Dear Friends:

I thought you might be interested in a brief review of the fruit God produced through Biblestudy.org last year.

The Numbers

In early 2023 the site celebrated its 27th year of preaching the gospel on the Internet.

Last year the site attracted 9,173,309 visitors, a 5.3% increase over 2022. Those who visited generated 17.5 million page views, a 2% increase compared to the previous year.

Biblestudy.org also added 131 new articles, bringing its total offered to the public at 1,802. The site additionally makes available 816 images such as maps, charts, lineages, pictures related to Biblical themes, etc.

Eighteen issues of the site's newsletter, now in its seventh year, were also sent out in 2023.

Questions from the Public

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The site's personalized answers to Bible questions service marked its 21st year in 2023. The number of emails with Biblical questions the service has received and processed now totals 24,137. Many thanks to the site's volunteer Email Evangelists who continue to tirelessly answer an amazing diversity of inquiries from the general public!

Looking for Advertisers

The site is looking for new direct advertisers by offering guaranteed low rates on quality ad space. Those interested in site ads can either visit <https://www.biblestudy.org/ads/ad-rates.html> or contact me at webmaster@biblestudy.org.

In Closing

THANK YOU to those who, from time to time, send us a few dollars!

All credit goes to our great God who makes all our fruit possible (1Corinthians 3:6 - 7).
May God richly bless you in 2024.

* Alan Ruth
January 10, 2024

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Recently Added Study Materials

The Unknown Churches of Apostle Paul

<https://www.biblestudy.org/apostlepaul/unknown-churches-of-paul.html>

The Seven Churches of Apostle Paul

<https://www.biblestudy.org/apostlepaul/seven-churches-of-paul.html>

The Numbers of Abraham

<https://www.biblestudy.org/bibleref/meaning-of-numbers-in-bible/numbers-of-abraham.html>

What Churches Did Paul Start?

<https://www.biblestudy.org/apostlepaul/apostle-paul-churches.html>

New Wine in Old Wineskins Parable

<https://www.biblestudy.org/question/new-wine-old-wineskins-parable.html>

What Does the Devil Want?

<https://www.biblestudy.org/prophecy/what-does-the-devil-want.html>

The Millennial Worship System (Part 9B)
(Copyright) by Rich Traver (Clifton, Colorado)

New Covenant or Old?

If it were up to mankind to determine how to worship God, we would have all the various forms of worship we have today. About every form of worship and expression imaginable exists. Are these all acceptable to God? And can an unconverted person worship God acceptably? At that time, when the opportunity for salvation will be extended to all who are willing to serve and obey God, what place will there be for false religion? Most religion, as we know it today, is FALSE! The TRUE religion of God is not the broad diversity we have today. It has no need to be!

From the description of the world religious scene found in the later chapters of the Book of Ezekiel, it's apparent that there will be a whole new world order. One that bears little resemblance to what exists today. But will conversion, as we've known it, still be attainable at that time?

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Beginning With the Unconverted,

As the Millennial Kingdom begins, all the Saints of God who have ever lived will have been changed from a physical to a Spirit existence in the first resurrection. ¹ The administration of the Kingdom will be given to the Immortal Saints under Christ. ² All others left alive, in other words, the physical survivors, will all be unconverted. These will be the people of the Kingdom. Mortals, ruled over by Christ and His Immortal Saints! The angelic call will go out, to “...*Worship Him that made heaven and Earth*”³ Under what format will they begin doing that? Will the nations be brought to Mount Sinai or drawn straight to the Cross? It likely will depend on their previous religious preconditioning.

Here we will have a vast number of people, both religious and non-religious. The religious having been exposed previously to every form of religious expression imaginable! What will it take to bring all these people to a state where they can have their mental palates cleansed of false concepts, to where they can begin to worship God acceptably and become ready for true conversion?

Notice, the initial instruction is to worship Him that made heaven and earth. That Creator is Christ! ⁴ What more appropriate way is there to worship the true Creator than to honor and observe the day He set apart to commemorate Creation: the seventh day Sabbath? (This institution predated Mt. Sinai.)

The Temple is Opened,

Another dramatic development relative to the question is found in the final verse of Revelation, chapter 11. (This is the passage that outlines the Day of Trumpets, verses 15 – 19.) “*And the Temple of God was opened in Heaven, and there was seen in His Temple the Ark of His Covenant;*” If these things are passé, why are they showcased here? The point is, both these, the Temple AND the Ark of the Covenant, (something missing from the Jerusalem Temple in Christ’s day), are essential focus elements in the restored religion of God. Why else, just after His world takeover, would Christ set forth the opened Temple (what does that represent?) and the Ark of the Covenant, (which covenant? Does the New Covenant have the Ark, which, by the way, among other things, contains the Ten Commandments tablets?! ⁵)

Not Previously So Opened

The opened Temple represents an open opportunity for salvation, and we’ve seen earlier, ⁶ that either physical or cordial ⁷ circumcision is prerequisite to being allowed admittance into God’s Sanctuary. Here is the opportunity for salvation for all others who never were called to salvation. In the first day of salvation, being called was limited to just those who God specifically called. “*No man can come to me, except the Father which has sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the Last Day.*”⁸ This is clearly referring to the first calling, culminating with the resurrection at the Last (7th) Trump.

God only called a relative few in this first day of salvation. This should be obvious by the relatively small number of truly converted people we find in this society at any given time. The overwhelming majority are destined to be afforded their opportunity for true conversion in the Millennial Age, and in the case of those deceased before it, in the general resurrection period known as the “Great White Throne” judgement just after the ‘thousand years’! ⁹ All who have ever lived will be afforded an opportunity for salvation. (Except, those who did have opportunity, but who rejected it They will not be given a second chance. ¹⁰)

¹ 1Thess. 4:15-17, Rev. 20:4-6

² Daniel 7:18, 22 & 27 “*But the Saints of the Most High shall take the Kingdom, and possess the Kingdom forever, ...Until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given to the Saints of the Most High; and the time came that the Saints possessed the Kingdom. And the Kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the Kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the Saints of the Most High, whose Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.*” Daniel 2:44 “*...the Kingdom shall not be left to other people...*”

³ Revelation 14:6-7

⁴ John 1:3 1 Corinthians 10:4

⁵ Hebrews 9:4

⁶ Ezekiel 44:9

⁷ Romans 2:29, Philippians 3:3

⁸ John 6:44

⁹ Revelation 20:5 & 11-12

¹⁰ Hebrews 6:4

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God has an Inclusion Plan for those He never called. That plan is further illustrated in the Biblical Holy Days, which this world's religions are also averse to. (the Spring Holy Days teach the essentials relative to **personal salvation**, and the Fall Holy Days illustrate the **overall Plan** of God, relating how His plan of salvation will be extended to all who have ever lived!) Understanding God's Holy Day Plan is essential to being able to correctly understand end-time Biblical Prophecy.

Another gem from the book of Revelation is found in chapters 14 and 15. It reinforces what we saw earlier about the open Temple and the Ark of the Covenant. It involves a certain song. In 14:3-4, we see the 144,000 singing a song which they alone could sing. These are the 'firstfruits' of God that the Lamb redeemed from among mankind.

The Song of Moses?

In chapter 15, we see more definition of this scene.

These same 'Spirit Born Saints', particularly those who lived under the Beast's Dominion, and who are victorious over it, are heard singing the "Song of Moses, the servant of God, and the Song of the Lamb". (The true Lawgiver!) The timeframe of this is just after Christ's return, and His final correction on those who would resist His administration. This is the major theme of chapters 15 & 16. The imminent prophecy is then given in verse 4 of all nations worshipping before the True God.

Along with the reference to the Temple and the Ark of the Covenant, we are also presented with another significant component, the Song of Moses! It's apparent that these new 'worshippers' will first be brought into the most fundamental institution: as revealed in the Books of the Law. Sinai is the first apparent destination. The Cross comes later!

Beast Worshippers Confronted

The seven vials introduced in chapter 15, are seen poured-out individually in chapter 16. Each of these vial-plagues deal with those who gave them-selves over to the worship of the Satan-empowered Beast. This element, including all the fallen spirit-forces behind it, is to be removed from society before God's Kingdom can be fully established.

That accomplished, the call can then go out for all nations to begin worship of the true Creator God. ¹¹ It's the format of that worship that we need to better understand. We can't know much about education in the World to Come, unless we understand what the final thirteen chapters in Ezekiel reveal to us. God has spoken to us on the matter, and He has done so very clearly!

The Clarion Call.

As the vials are about to be poured out, the clear call goes out, voiced by God's angel: (Rev.14:6) *"And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to Him; for the hour of His judgment is come: **and worship Him that made heaven, and earth,¹² and the sea, and the fountains of waters.**"*

"Babylon is fallen, is fallen!" ¹³

Just after the call for all peoples to worship God is the announcement of the second fall of Babylon, not the ancient Babylon, but its modern spiritual counterpart, the religious system that has infested, and to this day contaminates, modern religions.

With negative spiritual forces and all Babylonian contamination removed from society and religion, God will then open His Temple to 'whosoever wills'. ¹⁴ It will then be the individual's choice to 'come', no longer requiring a specific call of

¹¹ Revelation 14:6-7

¹² As a point of interest, here notice **the double contrast**: Heaven and Earth, but then also another contrast: The Sea and the Fountains of Waters! Physical creation and Spiritual Creation. The sea being representative of the masses of humanity (Rev.17:15) while the Fountains represent those who receive God's Spirit! (Jn.7:38). Here also, we see an allusion to the two different kinds of worshippers together: the unregenerate and the regenerate, those who have not yet received God's Spirit, and those who have.

¹³ Rev.14:8, cited from Isa.21:9

¹⁴ Rev. 22:17 In the concluding comments of this Book, we are reminded (as in the concluding passage of the Old Testament, (Mal.4:4)) that they are blessed who keep God's Commandments (v.14) Whosoever will may come. This reflects the open Temple condition all during the Millennial Age!

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the Father!¹⁵ This will be a very different world!

Government will dramatically change, and religion will drastically change.

At Christ's coming, He will restore all things!¹⁶

He will take over the governments of the world,¹⁷ using force where necessary, issuing directives from Jerusalem consistent with His Law,

He will restore and set-up His Model Nation,¹⁸

The resurrected King David will govern Israel under Christ,¹⁹

The twelve Apostles will rule under David,²⁰

The Changed Religious Scene.

The world will begin keeping God's Sabbaths,²¹

All nations will be called to send representatives to Jerusalem to keep God's Feast of Tabernacles,²²

The Levitical Order will be purified and restored to acceptable service,²³

Every man will sit under his vine and his fig tree,²⁴

Unfaithful ministers will perform bloody physical sacrificial duties, faithful ministers will administer Holy Service, serving God in His Sanctuary.²⁵

The world then will actively seek to learn of God and of His ways.²⁶ (Clearly a new attitude!)

But, Why a Restored 'Legal System'?

What will be is rather clear, but it still leaves the question unanswered as to why? What is the real purpose of a restored Ceremonial and Sacrificial System? What good could it possibly do?

¹⁵ John 6:44 & 45

¹⁶ Mark 9:12, Matthew 17:11, Micah 4:1-2,

¹⁷ Isa. 66:15-16,

¹⁸ Isaiah 2:2-4, Zechariah 8:20-23, Ezek.36:29-38

¹⁹ Jeremiah 30:9, Ezek. 37:24

²⁰ Matthew 19:28

²¹ Isaiah 66:23

²² Zech. 14:16-21

²³ Malachi 3:3-4, Isaiah 66:21

²⁴ Micah 4:4 Where this passage occurs is suggestive of a worship situation as much as a pastoral scene. It occurs just after the passage which relates, *“And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up unto the mountain of the LORD, ...and He will teach us of His ways, ... For the law shall go forth of Zion...(verse 2) and “For all people will walk, every one, in the name of his god, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God...”(verse 5).* This suggests the two worship situations, with the unconverted worshipper coming under the “Fig Tree”, representative of the Old Covenant, and the “Vine”, representing the New Covenant form. Note Christ's affirmation in Jn.15:1 & 5. *“I am the true vine”* ... Also check into why Christ cursed the fig tree, in Matthew 21:19-20. These are also symbolic worship forms!

²⁵ Ezekiel 44:10-14 & 44:15-31. (So much for abrogation!)

²⁶ Isa.9:2, Micah 4:2, Zech. 8:20-23

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We need to keep in mind that at the beginning months of the Millennial Kingdom, all those living will be the physical survivors of the Great Tribulation. Any converted people there might have been would have already been changed into Spirit Beings by now, judging and ruling the earth with Christ in His Throne.²⁷ Among these survivors, there will be those receptive to conversion and the receipt of God’s Spirit. Others will not be, at first. In any case, it will take time and some re-education to bring each one to a state of readiness.

With many, there will be a serious need for some remedial orientation. There is the criminal mind-set to deal with, or those of perverted character, the helplessly addicted, the rebellious against God and the things of God, the religious zealot dedicated to forms of worship unacceptable to God (as Cain was), and many with pre-set religious concepts or biases that obscure God’s Truth, as has been the case throughout history. Where these don’t apply, then at least just a general disinterest. How do all these people re-orient themselves to where they can become truly converted? We should also consider that all thru the Millennial Age, physical children will be born, with none of them born converted!

And, in the meantime, how do these worship God in an acceptable manner before they actually do become converted? What format will they use?

This is where the neo-Levitical Ministrations become the answer. Like with ancient Israel, the sincere but unconverted are allowed to **access** God’s presence, thru circumcision, and by being re-taught under a structured Ceremonial format, which will train and re-orient those worshippers toward the time when they are ready to leave that system and come under an elevated relationship, that of Grace thru Faith!

The Old Testament ritual format contains massive illustrations of essential Spiritual Truths. One only needs to investigate and reflect upon them to appreciate their educational purpose. Those unconverted in the Millennial Age will need also to come under a system that practices them, to re-orient their thinking and to develop toward the day when they can repent and become truly converted, and to receive God’s Spirit. There can be no false conversion in **this** Day of Salvation! False conversion at this point in time is a spiritual death sentence!

When a person becomes truly converted, that individual will then come under a **new** ministrations, not unlike the New Covenant system as we know it today, except not that version of it put forth by modern religion, but as it’s presented in the pages of the Bible!

Even what we know as ‘New Covenant Christianity’ will be transformed by the clear Word of Biblical Truth! What passes for New Covenant Christianity incorporates all kinds of unbiblical misinformation. God has no use for man’s error. Neither should we.

So, we will have in the World to Come,²⁸ a renewed Ceremonial System preparing individuals for **true** conversion. And as a follow-up to that, a ‘graduate’ Spiritual System, to direct each person’s growth toward full Spiritual maturity, ... **“unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”**, as Ephesians 4:13 words it. Prior to conversion, the worshipper will practice a system not unlike that of the Old Testament era. As before, this will NOT EARN anyone their salvation! After becoming converted, that worshipper will then come under a different system, one generally like that known today as New Covenant Christianity.

Overseeing both these two concurrent worship systems, the Spirit Born Saints of God will be in ultimate authority,²⁹ serving directly under Christ.

We need also to keep in mind that after the one thousand years are ended,³⁰ there will be a general resurrection raising up all those who died prior to Christ’s second coming, prior to the thousand years, not having ever been called to salvation.

²⁷ Revelation 3:12 & 21, 2:26, 5:10

²⁸ Hebrews 2:5-18

²⁹ Revelation 20:4

³⁰ Revelation 20:5

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With this, we can begin to understand the need for and the effectiveness of the Millennial Sacrificial System. God created an extraordinary 'school-master system'³¹ to re-orient a person's thinking to where he or she can ultimately accept Christ. This was the original purpose for which God gave mankind that added Ceremonial Law, to remediate for any infraction of His Moral Law, which remains and will remain applicable³² thru all time to all who ever have and who ever will live. Then, as before, the restored Ceremonial System will provide pre-repentant people a worship format, preparing them for True Conversion.

Yet, religion as we know it, prefers to reject this fundamental Biblical Truth! It was the two faiths that came to be with the divided kingdom that was the precursor for the two-tiered worship format that will be found in the Millennial Kingdom.

See Rich Traver's other articles at:

Traver, Rich – Church of God, Bismarck (church-of-god-bismarck.org)

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<https://www.goldensheaves.org/>

Holy Days 2024

Passover – April 23, 2024 (Observed at Sunset the Evening Before)

Passover/Unleavened Bread – April 23-29, 2024

Pentecost – June 12, 2024

Trumpets - October 3, 2024

Atonement – October 12, 2024

Tabernacles –October 17, 2024, to October 23, 2024

Last Great Day – October 24, 2024

Notes

³¹ Galatians 3:23-24

³² Matthew 5:17 “Think not I am come to destroy the law, ... I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil!”