

# The Trinity

## Part 4 - Simply speaking ...

Why isn't the Trinity an easily observed doctrine?

Short presentations of the Trinity

# So far ...

Definition: One **Creator** as three Testifiers all equally and uniquely sharing the same nature of God-ness

Social Trinity (how three distinct persons can be related to as One)

Ontological Trinity (all share the same God-ness)

The Deity of the Son

The personhood of the Holy Spirit

# The Creator is honored

God is glorified as the one who “made the heavens and the earth”

17 verses ... and we will see more

2 Kings 19:15

Exodus 20:11; 31:17

2 Chronicles 2:12

Nehemiah 9:6

Psalms 115:15; 121:2; 124:8; 134:3; 146:6

Isaiah 37:16; 45:18

Jeremiah 10:12; 32:17; 51:15

Acts 14:15; 17:24

# The Three-ness in one Creator

- Genesis 1:1,2 (“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth ... the Spirit of God ... [plus other Old Testament support]”)
- John 1:1-3 (“In the beginning was the Word ... was God ... all things were made”)
- Hebrews 1:1-3 (“Long ago ... God spoke ... by his Son ... through whom also he created the world”)

# The Three-ness in one Creator

Genesis “<sup>1:1</sup> In the beginning, **God\*** created the **heavens and the earth.** <sup>2</sup> The earth was [without form and void] / [uninhabited and uninhabitable], and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God\*** was hovering over the face of the waters.” ... <sup>26</sup> Then **God\*** said, “Let **us make** man in **our image, after our likeness.** ...” ... <sup>2:4</sup> “These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that **Yahweh God\*** made the earth and the heavens.”

\*God = *Elohim* (plural)

Plurality of *Elohim* is grammatically tied to “us ... our”.  
Note reference to “image ... likeness”

# The Three-ness in one Creator

Deuteronomy 6:4

“Hear, O Israel:  
Yahweh our God (Elohim), Yahweh is one”

- Yahweh our God is one Yahweh
- Yahweh is our God, Yahweh alone

[Mark 12:29]

# The Three-ness in one Creator

Psalm 86: 8-10

<sup>8</sup> There is **none like you among the gods**, O Lord, **nor are there any works like yours.** <sup>9</sup> All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name. <sup>10</sup> For you are great and do wondrous things; **you alone are God.**

[The 'us' of Genesis 1:26 acted alone]

Psalm 89: 5,6

<sup>5</sup> Let the heavens praise your wonders, O Yahweh, your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones! <sup>6</sup> **For who in the skies can be compared to Yahweh? Who among the heavenly beings is like Yahweh**

# The Three-ness in one Creator

Psalm 104 “<sup>29</sup> ... when you take away their breath [*spirit*], they die and return to their dust. <sup>30</sup> When you send forth your **Spirit**, they are **created** ...”

# The Three-ness in one Creator

How many **Gods** made the universe?

Isaiah 44:24

‘Thus says Yahweh, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: “I am **Yahweh**, who **made all things**, who **alone** stretched out the **heavens**, who spread out the **earth by myself**” ’

The ‘us’ of Genesis 1:26 acted alone

# The Three-ness in one Creator

Did early Christians sneak the doctrine of the Trinity into the Old Testament?

# The Three-ness in one Creator

John “<sup>1:1</sup> **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> **All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ...** <sup>10</sup> **... and the world was made through him ...**”

# The Three-ness in one Creator

Hebrews — “<sup>1:1</sup> **Long ago**, at many times and in many ways, **God spoke** to our fathers by the prophets, <sup>2</sup> but in these last days he has spoken to us by his **Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, **through whom also he created the world.** <sup>3</sup> He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and **he upholds the universe by the word of his power. ...**”

# The Three-ness in one Creator

Colossians 1:15,16

“<sup>15</sup> He is the **image** of the invisible God, the firstborn\* of all creation. <sup>16</sup> For **by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth**, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things **were created through him and for him.**”

\* In the Bible ‘firstborn’ was the one who had all the rights of the Father, yet was not the Father. (May not have even been the first one born.)

# The Three-ness in one Creator

## Summary

### Old Testament

- Genesis 1:1,2,26 — Plurality of God making (includes Spirit)
- Deuteronomy 6:4 + Psalms — One God (including Spirit)
- Isaiah 44:24 — God was all alone

### New Testament

- John 1:1-3 — God + Word/Son made
- Hebrews 1:1-3 — God + Son made
- Colossians 1:15,16 — Made FOR the Son

# The Definition of the Trinity

Leading to this ...

Definition: One Creator as three Testifiers all equally and uniquely sharing the same nature [or image] of God-ness

# The Creator is Worshiped

Revelation 14:7

And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and **worship him who made heaven and earth**, the sea and the springs of water.”

# The Three-ness of God in a few verses

John — “<sup>14:16</sup> And I will ask the **Father**, and he will give you **another Helper**, to be with you forever, ...

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

<sup>15:26</sup> But when the **Helper** comes, whom **I will send** to you from the **Father**, the **Spirit** of truth, who proceeds from the Father, **he will bear witness** about me.

# The Three-ness of God in a few verses

Isaiah 6:1-10

- John 12:39-41
- Acts 28:25-27

Who did Isaiah see, whose glory did he see,  
whose voice did he hear?

# The Three-ness of God in a few verses

Isaiah 6:1-10

<sup>1</sup> In the year that King Uzziah died **I saw the Lord** sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ... <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is **Yahweh** of hosts; the whole earth is full of **his glory!**” ... <sup>5</sup> And I said: “... for **my eyes have seen the King, Yahweh** of hosts!” ... <sup>8</sup> And **I heard the voice of the Lord** saying, “Whom shall **I send**, and who will go **for us?**” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.” <sup>9</sup> And he said, “Go, and say to this people: “Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.’ <sup>10</sup> Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”

Whose glory did he see, whose voice did he hear?

# The Three-ness of God in a few verses

John 12:36,37,39-41

<sup>36</sup> ... When **Jesus** had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. <sup>37</sup> Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did **not believe in him**, ... <sup>39</sup> Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said, <sup>40</sup> “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.” <sup>41</sup> **Isaiah** said these things because **he saw his glory** and spoke of him.

Who did the people not believe in?  
Whose glory did Isaiah see?

# The Three-ness of God in a few verses

Acts 28:25-27

“<sup>25</sup> ... they departed after Paul had made one statement: “The **Holy Spirit** was right in saying to your fathers **through Isaiah** the prophet: <sup>26</sup> ““Go to this people, and say, “You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.” <sup>27</sup> For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.’ ”

Who spoke THROUGH Isaiah?

# Summary

There is a three-ness to the Creator.  
The Creator is only one God and did the creating  
all alone.