

**WHAT the BIBLE TEACHES about GOD and JESUS CHRIST**

**Lesson 3 - Part 4**

**GOD THE FATHER**

**The nature of God - the trinity**

1. We learned about the trinity in the previous lesson. We will learn more about the trinity in this lesson and the next lesson.

Who is a trinity?

Who are the three persons of the Godhead?

- 
- 
- 

They are:

- the same in
- equal in
- equal in

\*\*\*\*\*

2. God is a trinity. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are the Godhead. They are the same in being, and equal in power and in glory.

In this lesson we want to learn that the Old Testament shows the trinity of God -

- in using the name Elohim
- in using plural pronouns
- in the revealing of the angel of the LORD
- in the work of the Holy Spirit

Do you remember what the name "Elohim" means?

\*\*\*\*\*

3. Elohim means more than one god, but is used as one god. Elohim is also the God of creation.

Genesis 1:1

*In the beginning God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth.*

Deuteronomy 6:4

*Hear, O Israel: the LORD (Yahweh) our God (Elohim), the LORD (Yahweh) is one.*

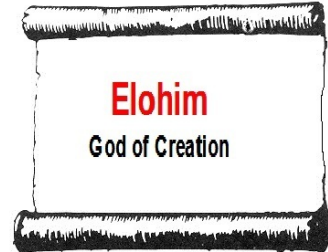
What name is used for God?

\*\*\*\*\*

4. The name Elohim is used. God worked in the creation of the world and all that is in it.

Deuteronomy 32:6

*Is this the way you repay the LORD (Yahweh), O foolish and unwise people? Is he not your Father, your Creator, who made you and formed you?*



Who worked in creation?

\*\*\*\*\*

5. God the Father worked in creation.

John 1:1-3

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*

These verses talk about the Word. "The Word" is a name used for Jesus.

Who also worked in the creation?

\*\*\*\*\*

6. Jesus also worked in the creation.

Genesis 1:2

*Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

Who else was there at the creation?

\*\*\*\*\*

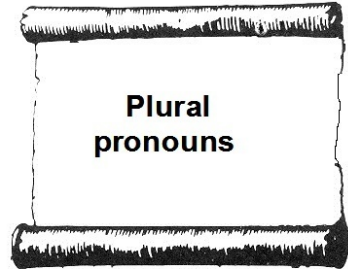
7. The Spirit of God was at the creation. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit took part in the creation. God is called Elohim - it means more than one God but is used as one God. We see the trinity of God when the world was created. We learned that Elohim is the name used for the God of creation.

What name shows us the trinity of God in creation?

\*\*\*\*\*

8. The name Elohim shows us the trinity of God in creation.

The Old Testament shows the trinity of God in the use of plural pronouns. We have talked about the word "plural" before. It means more than one. A pronoun is a word which is used instead of a name for a place, person, or thing. Look at these sentences. "John is sick. He has gone home." The word "he" is a pronoun because it was used instead of the word "John." The plural pronouns are: we, us, our, you (plural), yours, they, them, and theirs.



Genesis 1:26,27

*Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule" ... So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

What plural pronouns does God use for Himself in these verses?

\*\*\*\*\*

9. God uses for Himself the plural pronouns "us" and "our" in verse 26.

He speaks of Himself as more than one. However, in verse 27 He uses the singular pronoun for Himself "his." **Read** Genesis 3:22.

The Old Testament shows the trinity of God:

- in using
- in using
- in revealing the Angel of the Lord
- in the work of the Holy Spirit

\*\*\*\*\*

10. The Old Testament shows the trinity of God in using the name Elohim, in using plural pronouns, in revealing the angel of the LORD, and in the work of the Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 6:8

*Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"*

Does God speak of Himself as alone or as more than one?

\*\*\*\*\*

11. God speaks of Himself as more than one, but He is one God. He says, "Who will go for us?" but He also says, "Whom shall I send?"



We find the words, "angel of the LORD" used many times in the Old Testament. The angel of the Lord was often seen in the Old Testament times. It is understood that this was Jesus Christ before He was born as a man. The angel of the LORD came from the Father, He spoke for God, used God's power, forgave sin, and received worship.

**Read** Genesis 16:7-13

(verse 7) *The angel of the LORD found Hagar ...*

(verse 10) *The angel added, "I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count."...*

(verse 13) *She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me." ...*

Who spoke to Hagar?

Who did she say spoke to her?

\*\*\*\*\*

12. The angel of the LORD spoke to Hagar and she said God (the LORD) talked to her. The angel of the LORD had the same power as God the Father because He could give life. **Read** Genesis 22:1-19.

The angel of the LORD speaks the words of God to Abraham.

Genesis 22:11,15-17

*But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" . . . The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand of the seashore."*

Who spoke to Abraham?

\*\*\*\*\*

13. The angel of the LORD spoke to Abraham.

Later, when the people of Israel had come into the country of Canaan (Palestine), they had to conquer the land. Joshua was their leader.

Joshua 5:13-16

*Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?" "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" The commander of the LORD'S army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.*

Joshua looked over the land of Canaan to make plans for taking it. The angel of the Lord appeared to Joshua as the commander of the LORD'S army. He asked Joshua to take off his shoes because he stood in a holy place. Joshua fell down before this man in reverence as a person worships God. The angel of the Lord is God because He received worship only God could have.

Whom alone are we to worship?

\*\*\*\*\*

14. We are to worship only God. When we read the New Testament, we see that Jesus:

- was sent by the Father (John 16:28)
- spoke for God (John 3:34; 14:24)
- used God's power (Matthew 28:18)
- received worship (Matthew 14:33; John 9:38)

The angel of the LORD came from God, spoke for God, used God's power, forgave sins, and received worship. Jesus came from God, spoke for God, used God's power, forgave sins, and received worship.

The Old Testament shows the trinity of God in revealing the angel of the LORD. In what two other ways does the Old Testament show the trinity of God?

- in using
- in using
- in revealing
- in the work of the Holy Spirit

\*\*\*\*\*

15. The Old Testament shows the trinity of God in using the name Elohim, in using plural pronouns, in revealing the angel of the LORD, and in the work of the Holy Spirit.

The Old Testament shows the trinity in the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is not called a person in the Old Testament, but is spoken of in the same way as we would speak of a person.



Isaiah 40:13

*Who has understood the Spirit of the LORD, or instructed him as his counselor?*

Psalms 139:7

*Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?*

Isaiah speaks of the Holy Spirit as someone who is wise and can think.

Remember: A person thinks, has feelings, and has a will.

What is the fourth way in which the Old Testament shows the trinity of God?

\*\*\*\*\*

16. It shows the trinity of God in the work of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of the Lord is called the Holy Spirit in several verses.

Psalm 51:11

*Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.*

Isaiah 63:10

*Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit.*

**Read** Isaiah 63:10 and 11.

About whom do these verses speak?

\*\*\*\*\*

17. These verses speak about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit also guided the prophets of the Old Testament in their speaking and writing. We are told about this in the New Testament.

2 Peter 1:21

*For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

We see the Holy Spirit was treated as a person in the Old Testament. He is called the Holy Spirit. He guided the prophets in their speaking and in writing the Scriptures.

What was one work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament?

\*\*\*\*\*

18. One work of the Holy Spirit was to guide the prophets in the writing of the Scriptures.

Do you remember?

Who is a trinity?

Which persons are in the Godhead?

- 
- 
- 

\*\*\*\*\*

19. God is a trinity. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are the three persons in the Godhead. The Old Testament shows us the trinity in using the name Elohim, in using the plural pronouns for God, in revealing the angel of the LORD, and in the work of the Holy Spirit. The Old Testament also tells us strongly that God is one God and beside Him there is no other god.

\*\*\*\*\*

20. How does the Old Testament show us the trinity of God?

- in using
- in using
- in revealing
- in the work

\*\*\*\*\*

WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT GOD AND JESUS CHRIST by Helen Pope.  
Copyright, 1989 by Northern Canada Evangelical Mission, Inc., Box 3030, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada, S6V 7V4. Revised 2013. All scripture quotations in this publication are from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright (c) 1973, 1978, International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Bible Publishers.