

Who is God? What is His name? Can the godhead be defined or is it a mystery?
We will answer these questions in this lesson.

It is important to understand that our knowledge of the Godhead is not inconsequential, it is of paramount importance.

JESUS SAID THAT THIS IS THE “GREATEST COMMANDMENT”!

Mark 12:28-31

28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?

29 And Jesus answered him, THE FIRST OF ALL THE COMMANDMENTS IS, HEAR, O ISRAEL; THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD:

30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

OUR REVELATION (understanding) OF THE GODHEAD DIRECTLY AFFECTS OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

The Bible EXPLICITLY teaches that God is one. It is relentlessly a monotheistic book.

GENESIS 1:1, which reads that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, ONLY ADDRESSES “FROM THE BEGINNING of time, space and matter” It does NOT address THE BEGINNING OF GOD! - GOD WAS ALREADY THERE!

THE QUESTION IS: WHAT/WHO IS BEFORE THE BEGINNING?
WHO IS GOD AND WHERE DID HE COME FROM?

The bible gives us a clear understanding.

Psalms 90:1-2

A Prayer of Moses the man of God.

1 Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations.

2 BEFORE THE MOUNTAINS WERE BROUGHT FORTH, OR EVER THOU HADST FORMED THE EARTH AND THE WORLD, EVEN FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING, THOU ART GOD.

Psalms 41:13 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting.

Psalms 93:2 Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting.

Habakkuk 1:12 Art thou not from everlasting, O Lord my God, mine Holy One?

WHOEVER AND WHATEVER HE IS NOW, HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN AND WILL ALWAYS BE.

GOD IS UNCHANGEABLE.

BECAUSE CHANGE IS A FUNCTION OF TIME AND HE IS BEYOND TIME.

Job 36:26 Behold, God is great, and WE KNOW HIM NOT, NEITHER CAN THE NUMBER OF HIS YEARS BE SEARCHED OUT.

A crucial understanding of God can be discovered in how God referred to himself.

Exodus 3

13 And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?

14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

YHWH known as the Tetragrammaton. Later Jehovah, Adonai,

LORD (Gen. 4:1; Deut. 6:18; Ps. 18:31[32]; Jer. 33:2; Jon. 1:9) but also as God (Gen. 6:5; 2 Sam. 12:22) or JEHOVAH (Ps. 83:18[19]; Isa. 26:4).

These all specifically refer to this answer God gave Moses in Exodus 3.

The frequent appearance of this name in relation to God's redemptive work underscores its tremendous importance (Lev. 26:45; Ps. 19:14[15]).

Also, it is sometimes compounded with another word to describe the character of the Lord in greater detail (see Gen. 22:14; Ex. 17:15; Judg. 6:24).
YHWH or Jehovah-Rapha, Shamah, Shalom, Jirah, etc.

But it all points back to this description from God about himself: I AM or I exist.

OUR GOD IS INFINITE!

THE supreme self defined BIBLICAL “MEASUREMENT” OF GOD IS existence!

TO UNDERSTAND WHO AND WHAT GOD IS WE HAVE TO BEGIN BEFORE
THE BEGINNING — WE MUST GO OUTSIDE OF/BEYOND TIME.

- THIS is where the I AM IS!
- He is the unlimited God
- He only fully exists outside of time.

And every interaction within time and space is only an expression of the
limitless God!

For example, a potter may put his hands on the clay and both his hands and what he
creates are an expression of himself, but he is never going to get on the wheel.

His hands are an extension of his person, and what he creates an expression of his
person, and though they are him, they are not fully him.

In like manner every interaction God has in time and space are an expression of
himself. It may be him, but it is not all of who he is.

He is the only self-existent, limitless One.

- Psalms 90 - HE IS FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING - He has no
beginning or ending.

In choosing to call or identify Himself as the “I AM,” He chose “existence” as the
only “measurable,” or identifiable parameter to define Himself with and by.

NO OTHER “measurement” can be used in any way to describe Him.

Even saying that He fills all time and space is, by definition, limiting Him to time and space. MORE ACCURATELY, TIME AND SPACE ONLY EXIST IN HIM! And they can have no existence apart from Him.

EVERY DOCTRINE OF GOD OR THE GODHEAD THAT ORIGINATES FROM WITHIN THE PERSPECTIVE OF TIME AND SPACE IS FLAWED FROM ITS INCEPTION.

This is why the bible is so important and should be held in such high regard, because it was authored by the only one that exists outside of time and space.

God can NEVER be accurately identified, described, or understood from within time and space only. In fact, doing that in effect un-deifies Him because it denies His most unique characteristic as God: HIS LIMITLESSNESS!

Any doctrine of the Godhead that does not harmonize with what the Bible says about God both before and after “time,” cannot be a true teaching about God.

GOD HAD TO PRE-EXIST ANY AND EVERYTHING BECAUSE LIMITLESSNESS COULD NOT BEGIN, COMMENCE, OR COME INTO BEING INSIDE OF THE LIMITED; OR THE INFINITE CANNOT COME FROM THE FINITE.

RATHER THAN VIEWING GOD FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, WE NEED TO VIEW US/CREATION FROM HIS PERSPECTIVE.

EVERYTHING MUST BEGIN AND END WITH GOD.

NOTHING SPIRITUAL CAN BEGIN WITH US WITHOUT INTRODUCING ERROR INTO IT.

We can neither understand God or His purpose for all of this by viewing Him only from within time.

Neither Himself or His plan can be accurately understood until viewed first and foremost from outside of the limitations/confinement of time and space.

THE CREATIVE PERSPECTIVE CANNOT DEFINE GOD.

For God to truly be God (the I AM, the Self-Existent One) He alone can be the source of all things that exist.

While God may be made manifest in and by Creation, everything at all times, only exists in HIM.

HE IS INFINITE

God is limitless, unmeasurable, undefinable, etc. by any human term, means, or dimension.

- The finite can never “comprehend” the infinite, so God simply defined Himself as the One who has always been and will always be. Psalms 90:2

Therefore, God both named and described Himself as the I AM.

He further defined and identified Himself as I AM THAT I AM or The Self-Existent One.

When there was nothing but God, He had no need of a name of any kind.

- So God used “naming” Himself as a means of identifying Himself or describing Himself to mankind.

- In revealing His “name” He was actually revealing Himself. But He did this by degree. His name was not fully revealed until the birth of the MESSIAH, when He, JESUS, WAS GIVEN A NAME THAT IS ABOVE EVERY NAME! (PHIL 2, Acts 4:12)

So, let's look at the only book that has an author that exists outside of time and space and see what he says about the Godhead.

Probably the most famous scripture concerning the Godhead is known as the SHEMA. To this day it is the most important prayer of the Jews.

Deuteronomy 6:4. "Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God is one LORD."

Deuteronomy 6:5 "And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

This is the scripture Jesus referenced when asked what is the most important commandment.

The Ten Commandments begin with, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3; Deuteronomy 5:7). God emphasized this command by stating that He is a jealous God (Exodus 20:5).

In Deuteronomy 32:39, God said there is no other god with him.

There is none like the LORD and there is no God beside Him (II Samuel 7:22; I Chronicles 17:20).

He alone is God (Psalm 86:10).

"Before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour" (Isaiah 43:10-11).

"I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God" (Isaiah 44:6).

"Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any" (Isaiah 44:8).

"I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself" (Isaiah 44:24).

"There is none beside me. I am the LORD and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:6).

"There is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else" (Isaiah 45:21-22).

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me" (Isaiah 46:9).

"O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth" (Isaiah 37:16).

Malachi 2:10 Says that we all have one father, and one God created us.

The New Testament continues the oneness theme.

*"Seeing it is **one God** which shall justify" (Romans 3:30).*

*"There is none other God **but one**" (I Corinthians 8:4).*

*"But to us there is but **one God**, the Father" (I Corinthians 8:6).*

*"But **God is one**" (Galatians 3:20).*

*"**One God** and Father of all" (Ephesians 4:6).*

*"For there is **one God**" (I Timothy 2:5).*

*"Thou believest that there is **one God**; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble" (James 2:19).*

The Bible calls God the **Holy One** (I John 2:20).

There is **one** throne in heaven and **one** sits upon it (Revelation 4:2).

How many gods does the bible teach? One.

Every understanding about God must have that as its core revelation.

If something seems to contradict that, it is the supposition that is in error and not that core doctrine.

One of the most widespread and anti-biblical doctrines in modern Christianity today is the doctrine of the trinity.

One God that exists in three distinct persons that are co-equal, co-eternal, and con substantial.

Facts:

1. The term trinity is not in the bible.
2. The term God the son is not in the bible.
3. The term God the Holy Ghost is not in the bible.
4. The term trinity was not even heard of until nearly 300 years after Christ.
5. The trinity was only officially recognized nearly 400 years after Christ.
6. Almost immediately there was issues with the philosophy of the trinity from within the ranks that have never been sufficiently satisfied.

The most popular one is Called the Logical Problem of the Trinity.

The trinitarian doctrine makes three core claims that fall apart when tested by logic.

1. God is one.
2. The father is God, the son is god, the Holy Ghost is god.
3. The father is not the son, the father is not the Holy Ghost, the son is not the Holy Ghost.

In simple logic if the father is god, the son is god, and the Holy Ghost is god and god is one, then the father, must be the son, which must be the Holy Ghost.

There is no logic to it because they are trying to say that 3=1 and 1=3, and the entire issue is they are trying to define God from a creative perspective and not allowing God to define himself.

A person as defined by Websters online dictionary as a member of the human race.

In regard to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, only the man Christ Jesus qualifies as a person. Jesus, a man born of woman, (Galatians 4:4)

John 4:24, God is a Spirit. Luke 24:39 says a spirit hath not flesh and bone.

To call a person a Spirit distorts and damages both the meaning of the words Spirit and person. God is invisible.

God is one.

God is Spirit.

The problem is Gods creation was lost, so God said, the Father said. I'm going to save them.

Old Testament Prophecies — Jehovah God Himself Will Come

YHWH GOD SAID

Isaiah 35:4 (KJV)

"Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you."

Isaiah 43:11 (KJV)

"I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour."

Isaiah 45:21–22 (KJV)

"...there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.

Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth..."

Isaiah 52:6 (KJV)

"Therefore my people shall know my name... I am he that doth speak: behold, it is I."

Wait... I thought they already knew your name?

Isaiah 59:16, 20 (KJV)

*“...his arm brought salvation unto him...
And the Redeemer shall come to Zion...”*

Isaiah 63:1 (KJV)

*“...I that speak in righteousness, (am) **mighty to save.**”*

Psalms — God Comes Down to Deliver

Psalms 98:1–3 (KJV)

*“...his holy arm hath gotten him the victory...
The **LORD** (all caps) hath made known his salvation...”*

Prophets Declaring Divine Visitation

Zechariah 2:10 (KJV)

*“Sing and rejoice... for, lo, **I come, and I will dwell in the midst of thee, saith the LORD.**”*

Zechariah 14:5 (KJV)

*“...and the **LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.**”*

Malachi 3:1 (KJV)

“...the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple...”

So, the God of the burning bush has declared that he alone will come and save his people from their sins.

The problem is, he’s a spirit. He can't get on the wheel, so to speak.
He cannot redeem his people as a spirit.

But what God can do is create a body that he can inhabit through which he can redeem fallen man.

Philippians 2

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

Hebrews 2:14

14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

John 1

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Greek is clear: *ēn ho Logos theos* — the Word was God. Not a god. Not “godlike.” Not “appointed by God.” BUT GOD

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

Verse 14 And the word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.

Matthew 1:23

23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

WE KNOW, BIBLICALLY, THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD. MATTHEW SAID THAT JESUS IS GOD WITH US.

Colossians 2:8-9

8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

1 Timothy 3:16 (KJV)

*“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh...**”*

Through Hosea God said.

Hosea 13:4 (KJV)

*“...thou shalt know no god but me: **for there is no saviour beside me.***

Titus 2:13 (KJV)

*“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of **the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.**”*

God did not delegate the difficult work of Calvary to someone else, but he robed himself in flesh and became the propitiation for our sins.

Acts 20:28 (KJV)

“...the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”

This is why the early church preached **Jesus not as a second person**, but as **the visible revelation of the invisible God**.

Hebrews 1:1-3

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Paul (A man that could quote the Torah, a doctor of the law and a Pharisee of the Pharisees) directly asked Jehovah God in Acts 9:5 **Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.**

Did you know the reason the scribes and Pharisees hated Jesus, besides the fact his light shown on their dark hearts, was because they knew that there was only one God and he professed to be that one God.

Jesus claimed to be the manifestation of the I AM at the burning bush.

John 8

58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

I am in the Greek is ego-imee. It is not the term we would use like I am 54 years old. It was a specific term Jesus was using to reference the I am statement that God made at the burning bush.

The seven I AM statements of God reflect the same concept.

1. I am the bread of life
2. Light of the world
3. The door
4. Good Shepard
5. Resurrection and the life

6. The way the truth and the life
7. True vine

2 Corinthians 5:

18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself,

WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT JEHOVAH IS CHRIST, WE BELIEVE THAT JEHOVAH WAS IN CHRIST.

John 14

6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

7 If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

8 Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us.

9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

The Father (Spirit) was manifest in the flesh (Son), therefore the only way to “see” the Father was to behold the Son. The Spirit dwelled in the body; the Father dwelt in the Son. God was in Christ: His purpose was to reconcile the world to Himself. (See 2 Corinthians 5: 19)

John 10 Jesus says

30 I and my Father are one.

31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

Why? Because he being a man made himself God.

The problem is the language of Father/son

What did Jesus say about it?

Joh 16:25 These things have I spoken unto you in proverbs: but the time cometh, when I shall no more speak unto you in proverbs, but I shall shew you plainly of the Father.

Proverbs – paromia – translated many other times in a more familiar word – parable

I speak in parables

English Standard Version

“I have said these things to you in figures of speech. The hour is coming when I will no longer speak to you in figures of speech but will tell you plainly about the Father.

Berean Literal Bible

I have spoken these things to you in allegories; an hour is coming when I will speak to you no more in allegories, but I will report to you plainly concerning the Father

Contemporary English Version

I have used examples to explain to you what I have been talking about. But the time will come when I will speak to you plainly about the Father and will no longer use examples like these.

The expressed subject is the father.

The implied subject is the son – the use of father implies son, just like the use of husband would imply a wife.

So, Jesus is saying that all of this Terminology he has been using to describe the relationship between the father and son is proverbial.

Parabolic language.

Figures of speech.

Father is a reference to the “I AM GOD”

Son is a reference to the word, logos, or Gods express image of himself, inside of time

Father is, in our language, a reference to the soul

Son is, in our language, a reference to the body

Anywhere you read son in reference to God in scripture you can just substitute body. It's talking about the Messiah or the Christ.

The terms father and son help us understand the dual nature of Christ.

He was fully God and fully man.

His spirit was God himself, but his flesh came through Mary.

The God inside never thirsted, got tired, grew hungry; but because his flesh was not divine it did.

The God nature derived from being the spirit of God in Christ could not die,

But the human nature derived from his mother could shed blood that could be used to redeem fallen man.

We are made in the image of God.

The whole structure of man is made to mirror God...

Our body is different from our soul, but it is not a separate person.

It is of utmost importance that we know who Jesus is.

John 8

24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

If we don't understand that he is the visible image of the invisible God and the express image of His person, we are in trouble.

2 Thessalonians 1

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

8 In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

Colossians 2:8-10

“Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy, and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in Him.

We have a strong warning from the Apostle Paul to beware of systems of thinking that would keep us from understanding the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

What we are not -

Modalist - God is a single person manifested in 3 modes consecutively, not simultaneously.

Jesus only - Jesus Christ is one God who sometimes manifest Himself as the Father or Holy Spirit

What we are - Oneness Pentecostals - there is one God who has revealed Himself as our Father, in His Son Jesus Christ, and as the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is God manifested in flesh. He is both God and man.

To more fully understand the three manifestations of God, answer the following questions:

Who indwells the Christian?

a) Ephesians 4:6 – Father

b) 2 Corinthians 13:5 – Son

c) 1 Corinthians 6:19 Holy Ghost

We do not have two or three divine spirits in our hearts, nor can we identify distinct religious experiences with each of three divine persons. Both the Bible and personal experience tell us that there is one Spirit, the Spirit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In Ephesians 4:4 the Bible says “*There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; (5) One Lord, one faith, one baptism, (6) One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

Zechariah 14

9 And the Lord shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one Lord, and his name one.