

WHO ART THOU LORD

(THE TRUTH OF GOD'S ONENESS)

BY : R.E. BEASLEY

**IN MEMORY OF :
REV. CLYDE J. HANEY**

If we achieve anything in this life, it is often because we stand on the shoulders of men who are much taller than ourselves !

FORWARD

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.....IN THE MASTER'S SERVICE

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INTRODUCTION

The period following the writings of Malachi the Prophet are often referred to as the silent years. Amos, the Prophet, foretold of this silence from heaven, when he wrote:

“Behold days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.” (8:11-12).

The Writer, Taylor Caldwell, in her novel * “A Pillar of Iron,” studied and wrote concerning this period of History. Especially, concerning the times of Ceasar and his contemporaries. She mentions about a body of believers who worshipped the UNKNOWN GOD. And, about a man by the name of Archias, a Poet and a Scholar from Greece; who came to the city of Rome and taught the great Marcus Tullias Cicero (who was later to become a great Lawyer/ Statesman). He told Cicero about the ‘Unknown God’ of the Greeks, whose coming was anxiously anticipated. “Many Jews” he told Cicero “are expecting a Savior-Messiah. ”Cicero replied, with excitement, then, “He is the Unknown God!” The young Marcus ‘adored Him in His Prayers.’ Later, in life he made the acquaintance of a young Jew by the name of Noe Ben Joel, of whom he inquired about the coming Messiah. The friend wrote to him of the Prophet Isaiah (9:6):“For unto us a Child is born unto us a son is given: the government shall be upon His shoulder and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.” Sadly, Cicero and others, in that era, were not able to encounter THE UNKNOWN GOD that Isaiah wrote about. Cicero died just 40 years before the advent of Christ.

Many years later a man by the name of Saul of Tarsus was making his way to the city of Damacus when suddenly there fell from heaven a great light and a voice speaking to him. Saul recognized the presence of Deity; but, could not clearly identify who it was that was speaking to him. In desperation he cried “WHO ART THOU LORD?” The answer came forth “I AM JESUS!” Years later, he was to stand upon Mars hill where he found an altar with the inscription:TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Paul boldly declared JESUS, to people of Athens! He is Unknown No Longer !

Many, today, are contented to worship God without really knowing who He is, or what His Name is. Much like the woman of Samaria. who said to Jesus: “Our Fathers worshipped in this mountain...” Jesus answered her: “.the true worshippers shall worship the Father in SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH; ...” The noblest desire that any man can possess, is to know God and who

He is. Job wrote: "Oh that I knew where I might find Him ! that I might

* (see Appendix "A Pillar of Fire.")

come even to His seat !" Never, in the history of mankind , has the knowledge of 'who God is,' been made more available, as it is today, to ANY ONE who will seek Him!

Beloved reader: I would invite you to consider, with me, a few questions concerning the true identity of our God. These questions will form the basis of our study. They are:

- 1) What is the New Testament Name of God?
- 2) Is Christ in the Godhead, or is the Godhead in Christ?
- 3) Who is the Supreme Deity?
- 4) What is the 'Savior- Image' of God?
- 5) What is the mystery of Godliness?
- 6) How were the early Christians baptized?

If you cannot answer these questions, based upon your present theology, concerning the God of the New Testament; then, please continue on asking yourself that question: "Who art thou Lord?" And, I'm certain that you will arrive at the same answer that was revealed to Saul .. "I AM JESUS..."

I. THE SPIRIT OR THE LETTER?

It was once said that 'words are the vehicles of thought' We express our thoughts by means of the spoken word. A word standing alone is dead and mute, without much value unless you know something about the person who spoke the word. In order to have confidence in a man's word it is necessary to know something about the man. That is, to come face to face with the man; to have insight into his spirit ; and to get to know his ways.

The Apostle Paul said to the Corinthians: "...for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life." (II Cor. 3:6).. The O.T. Saints only knew the letter of the ancient law; but, not to much about the law giver, GOD. They could not enjoy the fullness of God's Spirit, as we do today. To the Hebrews it was written: "God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect" (Heb. 11:40). With the N.T. experience of receiving the Holy Ghost, we enjoy that perfection. The Holy Spirit dwelling within us is what the Apostle Paul called: "The mind of Christ" (I Cor. 2:16). We can come face to face with Him, in order to know His ways; to feel His great love; and to discern some of the hidden mysteries of His word.

Those who are not filled with His Spirit are not fully capable to teach God's word, though they may have great intellectual ability. James said "...be

not many masters, (teachers) knowing that we shall receive the

greater CONDEMNATION.” (3:1) To lead some one astray carries a heavy weight of responsibility. So, now we understand why ‘the letter (without the Spirit) killeth!’ In the hands of a false prophet, or teacher, the word of life becomes an instrument of death.

The only guarantee that we have against false doctrine, is: **TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT!** After we have been illuminated to know the truth, we must persevere in the **LOVE OF THE TRUTH!** If we do not ‘earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered unto the saints’ (Jude 3); then, it is clear that we do not have that **SPIRIT OF TRUTH** (John 16:13) which is the Holy Ghost, even though we may have spoken in tongues at some point in time. Many, even while in error, have received the Holy Ghost experience; but, since they do not allow the Spirit to lead them into ‘all truth’ and righteousness, are in danger of losing that precious gift.

God will hasten to remove the veil of error and confusion from the eyes of any sincere seeker of truth. God will greatly honor the man who will take a stand for truth, and who has the courage to separate himself from religious error, and the traditions of men. Cornelius, the Centurion, is a great example of this fact (Acts 10). The Ethiopian Eunuch is another great example of the extent to which God will go to bring His truth to an honest and sincere heart (Acts 8:26-38). Jesus said: “....I thank thee, O Father,because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto **BABES.**” (Matt. 11:25). The Holy Spirit is always in the teaching mode; and always in the revealing mode, if He can only find one of those Babes who hunger and thirst after truth and righteousness.

The truth of God’s Oneness is a doctrine that has been jealously guarded by our God. This **MYSTERY** of Godliness has been reserved for the ‘babes’ who will know how to love and appreciate this great truth. Why is it so important to know this truth? Because, to know who He really is, is to **WORSHIP HIM** in Spirit and in Truth! Like Thomas, at that moment of truth, when that veil of darkness was taken from his eyes, he cried out to Jesus: “**MY LORD AND MY GOD!**”

Another great moment of truth is when Phillip (another one of those ‘Babes’ seeking after truth) spoke from a sincere and hungry heart: “Lord, show us

the Father..." Phillip, like so many today, walked with Jesus without really knowing who he was. No doubt, at this point, Phillip fully expected the heavens to open and some great vision to appear; but, no, Jesus answered the inquiry of Phillip in very remarkable way (again, the Lord never withholds truth from 'Babes') "Jesus saith unto him, have I been so long time with you and yet hast thou not known me, Phillip?" Known who, we ask? THE FATHER! Jesus was actually answering Phillip's inquiry AS THE FATHER! (in the First Person) in accordance with Isaiah 9:6: "...and His Name shall be called,.... THE EVERLASTING FATHER..." Some day when we all stand around the throne of God and look upon the Father, we'll see exactly what Phillip saw - JESUS HIMSELF! The image of the invisible God! The only difference being: we'll see him not in the flesh, but in His glorified state, just as John the Revelator saw Him in Revelation chapt. one. Thus, Phillip in his time and John the Revelator in his time saw ALL that there was to see of the Father as far as the natural eyes are concerned.

4. Now, let us consider one more scripture dealing with this important matter, found in Matt. 11:27, which says: "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." please note, in the first part of this verse Jesus said: '...no man KNOWETH THE SON, BUT THE FATHER...' Jesus once asked his disciples: "Whom do men say that I the son of man am?" The answers that they gave showed their uncertainty. It had not yet been fully revealed to them. But, suddenly, the answer did come, BY REVELATION, to Simon Peter, who said: "Thou art THE CHRIST (Messiah) the son of the living God." And, The Lord replied: "Blessed art thou Simon Barjona : flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, BUT MY FATHER..." (Matt. 16:17). Note carefully, Phillip, in John 16, knew the FATHER, by the son. Peter, in Matt.16, knew the SON, by the Father. Oh! that glorious mystery of godliness, who can plumb its depth?

The truth of the oneness of God must come to us by revelation as the Holy Spirit removes from our eyes the veil of darkness and tradition, as the Apostle wrote:"..to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; IN WHOM ARE HID ALL THE TREASURES OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE." (Col. 2:2-3).

Beloved reader, no doubt, by this time you are either ready to throw this Obooklet aside; or, maybe the Holy Spirit has quickened your heart with a hunger to know more about the person of Jesus Christ. I trust the later is the case. I hope that you are one of those 'babes in Christ' that we mentioned; if so, may we continue on as we endeavor to open up together, God's storehouse of wisdom and knowledge.

II. O.T. MONOTHEISM

The word Monotheism simply means: 'the doctrine, or belief, that there is only one God.' The doctrine of One God was unanimously accepted among God's people, the Jews. Since their beginning, this was never an issue for debate. The confusion, that arose, concerning the plurality of our God is a product of the Third Century A.D. The idea of Polytheism (the belief in more than one god) can only trace its roots back to paganism, not to the teachings of the Old Testament.

When Abraham left his homeland, the Ur of Chaldees, he left behind the pagan teachings of his fathers and embraced the truth of One God. This is the cornerstone of Judaism. The point of separation from all other religions. God despises any perversion to His Holy Word. It is interesting to note, that, Judaism is the only religion in history that has ALWAYS BELIEVED AND TAUGHT THE DOCTRINE OF ONE GOD. There has never been a period in Israel's history that this was not the case. The bases of all pagan religions is polytheism, because their founder is the AUTHOR OF CONFUSION, satan! Nevertheless, when Abraham was delivered out of paganism, the truth of One God came by revelation. It was not something that evolved out of paganism!

Monotheism, the Unipersonality of God, has never been a popular notion. The carnal mind of man always rebels against the idea of One God. The carnal notion is to SEE' God as a VISIBLE COLLECTION of deities. Not as a singular, invisible, God, as He is in reality. It was for this reason that so much emphasis was placed on scriptures such as Deut 6:4 : "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord." Can any scripture be clearer than this? If God abhors the building of graven images, would He not also abhor the perversion of His Oneness? Monotheistic teaching in its purist form cannot tolerate anything less than One Person; One Essence; One Substance to God!

It was for this reason that the Jews, in the time of Christ, fanatically opposed the idea that Jesus was anything more than a mere man. They were ready to stone him, not for the many miracles that he did; but, for making himself equal to God. This, to their Jewish mind, was blasphemy (Jn.5:18 & 10:33) The Jews had every reason to defend the doctrine of One God; however, they were never able to grasp the mystery of the incarnation even though this doctrine was clearly taught in the Old Testament (see Isa. 7:14). Now, let us look at a few scriptures found in the O.T. that clearly reveal the truth of God's Oneness:

Exod.3:14 “And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM (Not WE ARE) hath sent me unto you.:

Deut.4:39 “Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the Lord he is God in heaven above, upon the earth beneath: THERE IS NONE ELSE.”

Isa.43:10 “...that ye may KNOW and BELIEVE Me, and UNDERSTAND that I AM HE: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.”

Isa. 43:11 “ I, even I AM the Lord; and beside me THERE IS NO SAVIOR.”

Isa. 44:6 “Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his REDEEMER the Lord of Hosts (The Savior-Image of God, not a separate person) I AM THE FIRST, and I AM THE LAST ; BESIDES ME THERE IS NO GOD.”

Isa. 44:8 “...Is there a God before me? yea, there is no God, I know not any.”

These scriptures, and many more, prove that the God of the O.T. was ONE GOD, SOVEREIGN AND SUPREME. Now, we must take a great leap into the New Testament and listen to the voice of this same SUPREME DEITY speaking here on earth, not as a second person, but as the very SAVIOR-IMAGE of God Himself! Please note:

Mat.28:18 “...All power is given unto me IN HEAVEN and in earth.”

Jn. 8:58 “...before Abraham was, I AM.”

Jn. 14:9 “He that has seen me hath seen the FATHER....”

Rev. 1:8 “I AM ALPHA AND OMEGA, the BEGINNING AND THE ENDING, saith the Lord, which is, which was, and which is to come, THE ALMIGHTY.”

The invisible chain of Monotheism was not broken by the declarations of

Jesus. The scripture still, as always, maintains it's perfect and unique, harmony. The link between the Old and the New Testament remains UN-broken!" The doctrine which teaches a plurality of persons within the Godhead (Also, known as the 'Trinity') is a 'strange doctrine' unknown and inconsistent with all of the writers of the sixty-six books of the bible. Please note: any major doctrine MUST have it's roots in the Old Testament. Any doctrine not having it's roots in the O.T. is not worthy of consideration by the serious Bible student.

III. THE ESSENCE OF GOD

The word 'essence' signifies the basic, or fundamental part of any subject. Dealing with the subject of Deity, or the Divine essence of God, we must address the issue of HIS SPIRIT. Whatsoever God has revealed in His word about His nature, or His Spirit, is exactly what He intends for us to know about Himself. If it is not revealed in His word, than it is not for us to know about it. in John 4:24 there is a simple statement of fact: "...God is a Spirit." This is not a matter for debate, or interpretation, or translation. It is simply a matter to be accepted and believed, or rejected and ignored. To accept the authenticity of God's word is to believe that the ESSENCE OF GOD IS THE HOLY SPIRIT! The use of the indefinite article 'a' Spirit, means that above everything else that God is, He is above all: A SPIRIT. It also means, that He is 'A' SPIRIT that is separate and distinct from every other kind of spirit. Also, the primary attribute of that Spirit is: Holy.

Thus, we have the HOLY SPIRIT! Everything else that God is, is merely a reflection of that Great Spirit. His manifestations; His names and titles; His offices are all RELATIVE and are subject to change in accordance with God's dealings with man during some particular period in history. So, we can safely say, that the one thing about God that never changes is: His Spirit. Along with all the attributes of that Spirit (Love, Omnipotence, Omnipresence etc. etc.) Also, I believe it would be safe to say: that, the term 'Father' is the OFFICIAL TITLE of the Holy Spirit.

The Trinitarian doctrine teaches, or implies, that the Holy Spirit is 'the third person' of the Trinity, occupying a position of inferiority within the Godhead. This would seem to imply that two of persons within the Godhead are not spirits. Or, it could mean that there are more than one Spirit in the Godhead. Any way that you try to explain the Trinitarian notion, you run into confusion! Once again we turn back to God's word in order to settle the matter. Paul said to the Ephesians: "There is one body, and ONE SPIRIT..." (Eph. 4:4)

JESUS CHRIST IS THE HOLY SPIRIT!

The word 'spirit' taken from the Greek word 'pneu'ma' literally means : "Breath, or wind" As we have said : God is a Spirit. His Spirit is the ' Divine Breath ' that gives life to all of creation. In the beginning God breathed into the nostrils of man and he became ' a living soul ' That Divine Breath gave man a soul; a God conscientiousness; and a moral guide.

Now, we Oneness Pentecostals believe that Jesus Christ was, none other, than: The Holy Spirit manifested in flesh! How can we prove this?

FIRST: The world was created by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Gen.1:2) The following scriptures plainly show that Jesus Christ was the Creator of all things: (Jn. 1:3,14; I Cor. 8:6; Eph.3:9; Col. 1:216) Were there two Spirits involved in work of creation?

SECOND: The Holy Spirit overshadowed the virgin Mary and that which was conceived in her womb was of the Holy Spirit. (Lu. 1:35) Are we to believe that Jesus had two fathers, the first and the third persons of the Trinity?

THIRD: His Name ' Christ ' literally means: "Messiah, the anointed One" Although there were many who bore the name of Jesus, which was a common name. ONLY ONE ever used the name CHRIST , because He was the only Anointed One. (Matt. 16:16; Lou. 2:11 & 4:18). As THE CHRIST he anointed His disciples with power (Lu.10:19) and with the Holy Spirit (Jn.20:22). It is very interesting to note that Jesus 'Breathed' upon His disciples and with a commanding voice said: "RECEIVE YE the Holy Ghost:" In your bible margin the reference takes you back to Gen. 2:7 where God ' breathed ' upon man and made him a living soul. Was is it not the same Divine Spirit working in both cases? (see Ps. 33:6 II Th. 2: 8) " the spirit of His mouth "

FOURTH: The testimony of Paul (Phil.1:19 Rom. 8:9 Col. 1:27 II Cor. 3:17). The testimony of John the Baptist (Lu. 3:19).

FIFTH: The words if Jesus Himself (Jn.14:18-20) According to: I Pet. 1:10-11 and Rev. 19:10 the Prophets were anointed by THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST. According to the Apostle the same prophets were anointed by the HOLY GHOST! We ask, were there two spirits involved in the anointing of the Prophets? Absolutely not! There's only ONE SPIRIT and it doesn't matter if we call Him 'The Spirit of Christ ' or ' The Spirit of God ' or ' The Holy Ghost ' It all refers to the same Divine Spirit!

The MOUTH OF GOD

The 'mouth' taken from the Greek word 'stoma' (also, the root word for

the word 'stomach') conveys the idea of a fountain from the inner-most being. The term, 'the mouth of God,' is often used in the bible to help us to understand, on our human level, how the Spirit of God and the word of God, emanates forth out of God's inner-most being. Metaphors, symbols, and allegories are often used in God's word in order to illustrate supernatural truths. Of course, we understand that God does not need a literal mouth, in order to speak or to breath life.. But, just like the word 'heart' they have symbolic meanings. "...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." Matt. 12:34.

The two things that come forth out of THE MOUTH of God are: 'THE LOGOS' Which is His WORD (Jn 1:1 and Heb. 11:3); Which denotes 'AUTHORITY' (see Rev. 1:15-16) "His voice as the sound of many waters" Also, 'THE PNEUMA' which is His SPIRIT (Gen.2:7 Jn.20:22) denotes 'POWER' Of course, in many ways His Power and His Authority are synonymous. In the natural body the BREATH IS NEEDED TO FORM THE WORD! Now, Let us look at an interesting portion of scripture found in Psalms 33:6, which says: "By THE WORD of the Lord were the heavens made; and the hosts of them by THE BREATH of His mouth."

Now, I cannot imagine how it would be possible for the, so-called, 'second person' (Jesus the WORD) and the, so-called, 'third person' (The Holy Spirit) of the Trinity, could come forth out of the mouth of God AS DIVINE PERSONS with separate identities! This strikes me as an absurdity! We will try to deal with the use of the term 'person' in the godhead, later. But, now, let us turn to Rev. 19 where we find The Lord riding forth on a white horse, and His name is called: 'THE WORD OF GOD' (verse 13) . "And out of HIS MOUTH goeth a sharp sword, .."(verse 15). What we see here is a scene of judgment and wrath against the nations executed by the FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD through His POWER and His AUTHORITY. In IIThes.2:8 the Antichrist is destroyed with the spirit of His mouth.

In I John 5:7 we read: "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and THESE THREE ARE ONE." How are they ONE? Because they come forth out of the mouth of God as POWER and AUTHORITY, not as 'persons' ! In John 20:22 we find where Jesus is executing His POWER and AUTHORITY, by giving His disciples a measure of the Holy Ghost: "And when He had said this, He BREATHED on them, and saith unto them, RECEIVE (commanding voice of Authority) ye the Holy Ghost" Two actions were done with His mouth: He 'Breathed' and He 'Spoke' Is this not the same God that was executing power and authority in Gen 2:7 and Rev. 19 ? Paul said: "For in Him (Christ) dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." (Col. 2:9).

THE ESSENCE OF GOD IN RELATION TO THE MANIFESTATIONS OF GOD.

The Essence of God, in all the fullness of His glory and magnificence, cannot be contemplated by such a lowly and sinful creature as man; not even from afar off! The children of Israel were so terrified by the presence of God on Mt. Sinai that they pleaded with Moses to speak to God for them, lest they die.(Ex.20:18-19, also Rev. 6:16). Please note, that the Shekinah glory of God is not Omnipresent! The dwelling place of God is in the heaven of heavens. This human body would have to be transformed in order to stand in the presence of God. The Apostle put it to us this way: “....He shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of Kings, and the Lord of lords; who only hath immortality, DWELLING IN THE LIGHT WHICH NO MAN CAN APPROACH UNTO ; WHOM NO MAN HATH SEEN, NOR CAN SEE to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen” (I Tim.6:15-16) This would be comparable to a man trying to approach the Sun! He would not even get close before being consumed into nothing!

So, what is God to do? Since man is so unworthy and cannot ever hope to approach His God; therefore, his only hope is for God to approach him. That is: to literally come down to man on his own level. How could this be done? **FIRST:** He had to set aside, temporarily, the fullness of His shekinah glory; this light that is inaccessible to man. **SECOND:** He had to adapt Himself to five senses of a man. In other words, to take on the body of a man. This special situation in which God places Himself in, is called: A THEOPHANY. A Theophany is any visible ‘Manifestation’ of this invisible God. A Manifestation is always TEMPORAL. Down through the ages God has used this method to directly influence the affairs of man. A Theophany is the fullness of God, but not the fullness of His Shekinah glory. Also, A Theophany is not another personality, separate and apart, from God. It is simply an extension of God Himself. The Writer in Deut. 4:39 put it to us this way:”...the Lord he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is NONE ELSE.” Whether we understand how He does this, is not important. If God chooses to do this, then He does it, because He can! God spoke to Moses from ‘a burning bush’ but this does not mean that ‘the bush’ was a separate divine being! God spoke from the mouth of Balaam’s mule, but this does not imply that God is an animal! These are only temporal manifestations of God. Jesus Christ was not just ‘a’ manifestation of God, but ‘the’ (def. art.) Perfect Manifestation of the Invisible God, using all of the weak human faculties of man. THE OFFICIAL TITLE of this manifestation is : “THE SON OF MAN’ It is consistent in the word of God , that God uses both OFFICIAL NAMES and OFFICIAL TITLES for His different manifestations. Each manifestation of God had an Official Title. For example: one O.T.

manifestation was titled 'The Angel of the Lord.' The manifestation of God 'in flesh' has always been a great stumbling stone for many. They try to separate these manifestations into 'Persons' with separate identities! To the natural eye alone, Jesus appeared to be just like any other man. His material poverty; His humility; and, finally, His natural death gave him the appearance of being, nothing more, than a righteous man. At this point, we must look beyond what our natural senses want to tell us, and BELIEVE what the Word tells us about Him. We must keep in our minds the same question that Saul of Tarsus ask: "Who art thou Lord?" Or, as the disciples put it: "...what manner of man is this?" It is no wonder, God's word declares: "GREAT IS THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS, GOD WAS MANIFESTED IN THE FLESH..." (1 Tim. 3:16). To the Hebrews, he wrote: "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners (Theophanies)hath in these last days spoken unto us by His SON,..." (Hebs. 1:1-2).

At this point, it is very important to note: God HAS AN IMAGE, like unto a human body; but, GOD IS NOT AN IMAGE!!! HE IS A SPIRIT!!! His image, or body, was created to facilitate His contact with human beings down through the ages. Once again, Jesus Christ is the perfect visible image of the invisible God. (see 1 Cor. 4:4 Heb. 1:3). When Jesus walked here upon the earth, there did not remain in heaven any other Image of God! as some would have us believe. When the heavens opened up unto John the Baptist, He did not see another divine being, only Jesus standing there in the water with him.

The church of Rome has been guilty of lifting up man made images of our Lord; thus, DEIFYING THE FLESH! Jesus said: as a man, "I receive not honor from men." The rich young ruler saw Jesus only as a good man, for this the Lord rebuked him, saying: "Why callest thou me good? Nevertheless, when Thomas fell down before him and worshipped Him as: "MY LORD AND MY GOD." He was commended. Thomas, at this moment, was able to see beyond the visible image of Jesus, and was given a revelation as to who he really was.

The Jews, at the time of Christ, were also guilty of looking upon visible THINGS with adoration. Even though they shunned the worship of idols, they committed the error of almost DEIFYING THE BUILDINGS OF THE TEMPLE, and completely forgetting THE GOD OF THE TEMPLE! For this Jesus said: "...There shall not be left here one stone upon another that shall not be thrown down." (Matt. 24:2). God is not a Temple! God is not a body! These are only temporal vessels that He uses for a short period of time. Again, we go back to our key verse, in Jn. 4:24, "GOD IS A SPIRIT: and they that worship him must worship him in SPIRIT and in TRUTH." The worship of

any kind of physical objects is an error.

What are the reasons why that God has chosen to manifest Himself in the flesh of a man? First, as we have already said: He used this means in order to communicate directly with man, on his level. The second, and most important reason, is: since God is a Spirit, and a Spirit cannot shed blood, it was necessary to take upon Himself the body of a man in order to fill this requirement of the law. Heb. 9:22 states: "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."

Now, to conclude our subject concerning the 'Essence of God' (The Holy Spirit) I wish to mention: that, the Spirit of God, down through the ages has been silently, but actively, involved influencing the affairs of men. We see the, unmistakable, hand of God working and shaping the course of human events. In the creation we see His magnificent handiwork (Rom. 1:20); He took from nothing and cast forth unto the uttermost reaches of space this marvelous universe. The Spirit of God breathed into the nostrils of man, and man became His masterpiece of creation. This same great Spirit came down upon the mountain called Sinai in full manifestation of His glory. Again, it was the Spirit of God that came down upon the ark of the covenant in order to forgive the sins of the people. Once again, we see the Spirit of God descending into the womb of a virgin in order to shape the vessel that would be used to bring salvation to fallen man. Yet again, we see the Spirit of God in the mouth of our Lord as He breaths upon them that they might taste of the Spirit of God. And again, we witness the moving of that great Spirit upon the lifeless body of our Lord as he lay in the tomb, raising him from the dead. Finally, we see the great outpouring of that eternal Spirit upon the hundred and twenty believers assembled in the upper room.

Can any one imagine that the Spirit of God is nothing more than an 'agent' of God, or some 'third person' as the doctrine of the Trinity would have us to believe? My answer is an emphatic 'NO' The Spirit is: the very breath of God Himself working, moving, filling and executing His power in millions of ways. What a mighty God we serve!

IV. THE FATHER

When we think about our 'Heavenly Father' or God the Father, we're not using the title, father, in the same sense that we think of an earthly father. Obviously, our heavenly Father does not pro-create children in the same way that an earthly father does. Therefore, the title FATHER must be understood and used in a little different way than the earthly title, father. Once again,

we turn to the Greek language in our attempt to discover the original meaning. In his Expository Dictionary, Dr. Vine states: Father- (Pater- Greek Trans.) from a root signifying “ a nourisher, protector and upholder “ also, as a “progenitor” or “forefather” i.e. Abraham’ was the literal and the spiritual father of the Jewish race. (I Cor. 4:15). Other examples of the use of father, are: “one who is advanced in the knowledge of Christ, is called a father.” (I Jn. 2:13). Satan is called father ”(Jn.8:38,41,44).

So, we can see that the use of the term ‘father’ has many applications and uses. Generally speaking, we think of a father as some one who gives ‘direction, protection, and who supplies our needs.’ Our Lord Jesus Christ is, in every sense of the word, Our Father! He does the work of the Father in our lives!

JESUS CHRIST IS THE FATHER!

This statement, no doubt, could cause a great clamor among the traditionalist Theologians of our time; nevertheless, I do not hesitate to make this claim. If this truth is to be revealed to us, it is because our heart has become as one of those ‘babes’ in Christ- like Philip - who came to Jesus with a sincere desire to know ‘the Father.’ Now, let us examine a few reasons why we can call the Lord Jesus Christ ‘Father!’ :

FIRST: We are ‘begotten’ in the faith by His death upon the cross. The church, in a spiritual sense, was taken from the bloody side of our Lord as He hung upon the cross, just as Eve was taken from the side of Adam and given to him as a bride. As Christ was in the ‘bosom’ of Father so we, ‘His Bride’ are in His Bosom. Is not this the a definition of the term ‘Father’ that is to say: ‘one who begets children?’ Why do we cry “Abba, Father?” because we have “received the spirit of Adoption!” (see Rom. 8:15 Gal. 4:4-6) . Slaves were never allowed to use this term, which denotes the head of a family. To whom do we cry ‘ Abba, Father ?’ **TO THE FATHER OF OUR REDEMPTION JESUS CHRIST!** God is a Father to the just and to the unjust, but only in an impersonal way, as Creator and Sustainer of the universe. Only those who are redeemed and are called the children of God can claim Jesus as their spiritual Father!

SECOND: The use of the title ‘Father’ as the First Person of the Trinity, is not completely accurate. The Trinitarian teaching seems to place much emphasis on the impersonal title - Father. But, God, everywhere in His word, seems to place greater importance upon His Personal Name. In the business

world the power to execute a transaction, or a contract, is in the name of person. It’s the person’s name that separates and distinguishes him from

every other person. Thus, all matters of spiritual business must be done in the EXECUTIVE NAME of the Godhead. Paul said: "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, DO ALL IN THE NAME OF JESUS,..." (Col.3:17). A title denotes relation, but a name denotes identity. We may have many different titles in this life, such as: a son, a father, a minister, but it's our personal name that sets us apart from all others.

Now, our 'heavenly Father' is not an anonymous, mysterious God, living somewhere out in space. Our Father robed Himself in flesh and came to this earth revealing Himself through the Person of Jesus Christ. He identified Himself by that Name. Jesus said: "I have come in my Father's Name" (Jn.5:43 see also Jn.17:6 & Rev. 14:1) Before leaving this text, please note: This verse appears to give the impression that Jesus did not have a personal name of his own; that, the name that he bore was on 'loan from the Father.' Even though this may sound ambiguous, and it certainly would be, unless we can understand that HE WAS THE FATHER. If Jesus was not the Father, than he never did possess a name of his own.

THIRD: The Lord in his discussion with the unbelieving Jews reveals to us that He is the Father. Let us read, carefully, the words of Jesus found in John 8. They asked him : "Where is your Father?" (ver.19) The same question that Philip asked in John 14. Jesus answered them like this: "Ye neither know me, nor my Father: If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also. In ver 24 he continues: "...for if ye believe not that I am HE (The Father), ye shall die in your sins." Finally, in ver. 27 he said: "They understood not that he spoke to them of the Father." The answer to their question was plainly given but, from their eyes it was kept hidden. Again, we go back to Matt. 11:25 where Jesus said: "...thou hast hid these things from the wise and the prudent, AND HAST REVEALED THEM UNTO BABES."

FOURTH: The term 'Father' according to Dr. Vine's dictionary "One who Protects, Feeds and guides." Who is our Protector? Who was it that said: "...I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.?" Who was it that said: "I am the bread of life?" Who was it that gave the multitudes bread and fish ? IT WAS JESUS CHRIST, THE FATHER!

FIFTH: The word 'Father' in most cases, in the scripture, is synonymous with the word 'Lord" Both, refer to the head of a household. Both terms can be

used interchangeably without any problem. Father denotes the progenitor of a family; and, Lord refers to the reverence or respect given to that position Abraham was the 'father' of a great nation; Sara, his wife, revered him

calling him: 'lord.' Christ is the Supreme head of His own house- the church. (see Heb. 3:4-6 & Eph. 5:23-25).When saul of Tarsus, while responding to the voice, without knowing who it was, said: "Who art thou Lord?" Being the Jew that he was, he responded to the only God that he knew, the Lord, Jehovah, of the O.T. The answer must have come with a total shock, when he heard the words: "I am Jesus..." (see Heb 9:5& Phil. 2:11)

Dear reader: this doctrine has been severely attacked on this point. It was attacked by the Jews in bible times and today it is attacked by the Traditionalist Theologians. Only a very few know who the Father is, or can tell you what His name is. I would hope that God would find you worthy enough to find this revelation. Jesus said: " I will not leave you ORPHANS (that is: Fatherless) I WILL COME UNTO YOU." When you have a problem; when you are sick; when you are in financial need, cry unto your Father-JESUS- there is no other! "Ye are complete in HIM, which is the HEAD of all principality and power." (Col.2:10).

V. THE DUEL-NATURE OF CHRIST

As we continue forward in our search for answers as who God is, we must now take up the matter of the 'Duel-Nature of Christ' This is the only place that we will ever refer to God in the plural sense. Jesus Christ, when He walked upon this earth, had TWO separate and distinct natures. These were OPPOSITE natures. The word 'nature' meaning: 'the particular qualities, or properties of any subject.' Understanding the 'Duel-Nature' of Christ is the key that unlocks the mystery of the incarnation of God manifested in flesh.

The term, duel-nature, ought not to frighten any one. Those that have experienced the new-birth of the water and the Spirit, also possess a 'duel-nature' The nature of our father Adam, which is carnal; and the nature of Christ, which is spiritual. We have within us two opposing forces, completely different from one another; yet, we remain only one person. Every child of God is a human/spiritual being. Jesus Christ was the perfect model of this phenomenon of the two natures dwelling in the same person. He was both Father and Son. He was both the Holy Spirit and a human being. He was both the Savior of the world and a carpenter. He came forth from the throne of God and He also came out of the city of Nazareth.

WHO IS JESUS CHRIST ?

For the Romans he was nothing more than a man. Pilot said: "Behold, the man" For the Jews: He was a Nazarene, the son of Joseph and Mary. Certainly, He was a man in every sense of the word. John 4:6 says: "...Jesus therefore, being weary.." with the same weariness that we face. As a man He had to grow both physically and mentally.(Lu. 2:52). He could feel physical pain like any other man. Perhaps, the humanity of Christ is seen the clearest when He was subjected to temptation, just like any other man (Heb. 4:15). This also reveals to us that Jesus had a 'will' He had the power to make choices. Finally, His death upon the cross was the crowning achievement of His human existence.

Now, what more are we to say concerning the life of Christ? Well, as far as His humanity is concerned there is nothing more to say. But, to say: that this is all there is to explain about the life of Christ, would be a terrible lie! Because, there is something far more to this man Christ Jesus, that the natural eye of man could not contemplate! IT WAS THE DIVINE NATURE OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD! It is very important to note, while studying the life and ministry of Christ, to recognize those scriptures which deal with His human nature and those scriptures which deal with His divine nature. When Jesus walked upon the shores of Galilee he walked along like any other man; but, when He walked upon the waters of that same sea, that was God! When Jesus ate with His disciples it was to give strength to His natural body; but, when He fed the multitudes, it was God doing the miracle! Please note: as a man He gave thanks; but, as God He 'created' bread in His own hands. He did not pray for a miracle, as we would do; He, as God the Father, performed the miracle! When Jesus died, He died just like any other man dies; but, when He rose from the dead, it was the power of Almighty God doing the work. Jesus spoke of His own body when He said: "...Destroy this temple, and three days I will raise it up. " (Jn. 2:19-21). Note, He did not say that some other divine person would raise Him up; but, "I will raise it up." There is never an instance, in the ministry of Christ, where He ever prayed for a miracle; but, as God the Father, He simply performed miracles!

At this point, we must consider some false terms that have been invented, along the way, in order to justify the Trinitarian teaching. Instead of throwing out this well worn out Romanist theory, like a pair of worn out pants, they have attempted to 'sew' on some new patches in order to cover up the 'holes' in their theology. We only wish to mention two of the most commonly used 'false terms' applied to the doctrine of the Trinity. These two terms are never found in the bible; they are: 'man-made' terms which automatically make us suspicious. These terms are: 'God, the son' and 'the eternal son.' Words do mean something and especially the way that they are used and put together into phrases and sentences.

GOD, THE SON

This phrase appears to be very innocent. The Trinitarian doctrine teaches, that: 'God is in three persons.' Which are: 'God the Father, GOD THE SON, and God the Holy Spirit' Now, we can accept 'God the Father' and 'God the Spirit' because these are biblical terms used in referring to the godhead. But, not the term 'God the son' The bible speaks much about the 'son of God' but no mention of 'God the son' Thank God for that! So, what is the difference? Where is the error in this ? The biblical term: 'the son of God' (as we have said: is the official title of the incarnation of God in flesh), simply means: that God had a son by an earthly woman. That is ALL that it means! But, the Trinitarian idea of 'God the son' DEIFIES THE FLESH ! Making the flesh an object of worship! Which is exactly what the church of Rome does! This 'God the son' idea would make Jesus into some kind of a super-human' not equal to us. This is not correct! Heb. 2:9 says: "But we see Jesus, who was made A LITTLE LOWER than the angels" If the word of God teaches us not to worship angels, and if Jesus was made lower than the angels, than we ought not to worship Him as an idol, or as a physical object. If the body of Christ was meant to be an object of worship, than we are out of luck because no one knows what He looked like. The only reference we have as to His physical appearance is found in Isa 53: 2, which says: "...He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is NO BEAUTY THAT WE SHOULD DESIRE HIM " This tells us that God's focus was never on the body of Christ, but on His Spirit. It is absolutely necessary to acknowledge His DEITY before we can worship Him correctly!

One final point before we leave the subject of 'God the son' Did the 'second person of the Trinity' die? Did God the son die? It ought to be obvious to any one that God cannot die. The son of man, in that earthly vessel, is what died! When He expired upon the cross, the Father (which is the Holy Spirit) was temporarily lifted from off of Him to where he felt total darkness and totally forsaken. At that moment He became a substitute for all of the wickedness that men could ever imagine, or devise. Therefore, the Father, in His holiness, turned His face away and only Mary, His earthly mother could look upon Him.

THE ETERNAL SON

This teaching maintains that Jesus Christ existed as the 'son of God' through-out all eternity. It was necessary for Trinitarians to arrive at this conclusion, otherwise, if the sonship of Christ was not eternal, than, neither is the doctrine of the Trinity eternal! The words 'son' and 'eternal' have two completely opposite meanings. The word 'son' implies a being that was

begotten or was created at some point in time. The word 'eternal' refers to something having no beginning. If the 'Son of God' existed as the eternal son; than, we must ask ourselves the question: who was the eternal mother? The truth is: that, the 'sonship of Jesus' did not exist until Bethlehem. It was when God took upon Himself 'a Savior-Image' robing Himself in the flesh of a man, and taking upon Himself that saving name ! It is true that the angels were sometimes called the 'sons of God' but they were created beings, who had a beginning.

The anger of the Lord was sealed against the children of Israel because of their worship of the 'Queen of Heaven' (Jer. 44:15-26). This practice was an abomination unto the Lord. There is no Queen in Heaven ! This doctrine began with the Queen of Babylon and later gave rise to great 'mother religions' of Asia Minor; such as, the worship of 'Diana of the Ephesians' (Dr. Hislop's book 'The Two Babylons' pages 29-30). Many countries had their own version of the 'Queen of Heaven.' Diana was depicted with a turret-like crown shaped like the tower of Babel, on her head. The symbol of Rebellion against God! The Roman Catholic church has tried to perpetuate this idea of the 'Queen of Heaven' in their teachings concerning the virgin Mary calling her 'Holy Mary MOTHER OF GOD,' in their rosary. This teaching is an abomination, because it is obvious that God did not have a mother!

In talking with a Catholic Priest, he referred me to Rev. 12:1 concerning the woman that John saw with the 'crown' upon her head. This vision is not referring to Mary, the mother of Jesus, but to the nation of Israel ! She is not called a 'Queen' here in this scripture. The only reference that we have concerning a 'queen' is found in Rev. 18:7, and this is referring to the 'mother of harlots.' This queen is the whore that is seen riding on the back of the beast. I asked this same Priest if they believed in the pre-existence of Mary? He confessed to me that they did not believe this. They believe that Mary was prepared, from birth, to be a sinless person; but, deny that she is deity. I wanted to asked him: how they could believe in the 'eternal Sonship of Jesus' without believing in the 'eternal motherhood of Mary.' But, I did not want to embarrass him.

**“FOR IN HIM DWELLETH ALL THE FULLNESS OF
THE GODHEAD BODILY.”**

JESUS CHRIST

AS MAN :

AS GOD :

His Title: 'SON OF MAN'

His Title: 'THE FATHER'

Under 50 yrs old.
Jn. 8:57

Was the great I AM
jN,8:24,58 Rev.1:17

Was the Offspring of
David. Rev. 22:16

Was the Root of David
Rev. 22:16.

Became weary
Jn. 4:6

Was THE ALMIGHTY
Isa. 9:6 Rev.1:8

Grew in wisdom
Lu. 2:52

He knew all things
Jn.21:17

Was a servant
Phil. 2:7

Was the King of Kings
Rev. 19:116

He hungered
Mat. 4:2

He fed the multitudes
Mat. 14:16.

He died
Jn. 19:30

Rose Himself from the
dead! Jn.1:19

HIS HUMANITY :

“ He is despised and
rejected of men; a man
of sorrows and acquainted
with grief..”
Isa. 53:3

HIS DIVINITY :

“..and His Name shall be
called WONDERFUL, COUN-
SELLER, THE MIGHTY GOD,
THE EVERLASTING FATHER
THE PRINCE OF PEACE.”
Isa. 9:6

Let us make one more observation concerning the subject of the dual-nature of Christ. Satan has always been a great imitator of the ways of God. He imitates religion. He imitates angels. He imitates the working of miracles. Also, he is able to imitate the Spirit of God! In other words, he inhabits the lives of men much like the Holy Spirit does; but, of course, the results are far different. It is noteworthy to mention that satan has no power of his own. He is a fallen angel and the power that he has is the power of God! Now, let us look at an interesting account found in the book of Luke 8:26-39, concerning

the man that had the 'Legion of devils.' This will give us some insight into the operation of the spirit world, and more importantly, help us to understand a little more about the dual-nature of Christ. We note two things, here: **FIRST**, The words and the thoughts that came from this poor individual, **WERE NOT HIS OWN**, but were satan's! Jesus was conversing with the evil spirit while he was looking into the face of a man! Satan was possessing and using the body, the voice and the tongue of this man, as his very own. **SECOND**, when Jesus addressed the man asking him for his name, it was satan who answered : 'Legion' This was not the mans name, it was the devil's name! The body, the will, and the spirit of this man was under the control of the devil. His own identity was lost!

So, what we are seeing here in the example of the man just mentioned, is: the contrast between the two natures (human and satanic) operating in the same individual. When Jesus asked the man what his name was, it was not the man who answered, but 'Legion.' Jesus was looking face to face with the profile of a man yet, His conversation was with the evil spirit! On the other hand, when Jesus came to this place, the man came out to meet Him. This seems to imply that the man did have some control over his own will and that his own human spirit was crying to be freed.

In using this example as a parallel, I would like to draw your attention to the words of Jesus, when He was referring to His own Divine nature. Please read in John 14:19, which says: "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The **WORDS THAT I SPEAK UNTO YOU I SPEAK NOT OF MYSELF; BUT THE FATHER THAT DWELLETH IN ME, HE DOETH THE WORKS.** " It is not difficult for us to understand how that satan was able to take control over the lips of the man from Gadara; but, in the case of our Lord, some would still try to create two personalities instead of accepting the fact of His **Dual-Nature**. This is the key to understanding the **Oneness of God!**

The Father had total control over the body, the mind, the will, and even **THE NAME** of our Lord while He walked upon this earth. In John 5:43 we find these words: "I am come **IN MY FATHERS NAME....** " In the case of the man of Gadara, satan had taken away his identity by taking away his name; even though, at some point in his life, he must have had a name of his own. It is vital to note, that: If the Father and the Son were two separate persons they would have separate identities and separate names!

The last part of John 5:43 says: "...if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive." This is, no doubt, speaking about the coming of the

anti-christ. THE GREAT IMPOSTOR, who will come in his own name. He will come as a man, trying to pass himself off as a 'Political/ Religious Savior'. He will be the incarnation of Satan manifested in the flesh, not a 'second person' in some kind of a 'diabolical trinity.' (see Matt.24:5 Jn.5:43 & II Th. 2:7-8). Those who do not accept the "mystery of Godliness," (God manifested in the flesh); then, they will be forced to accept the "mystery of iniquity" (Satan manifested in the flesh).

VI. THE ETERNITY OF CHRIST

In dealing with the subject of the 'Duel-Nature' of Christ, we said: that it was not possible that Christ may have lived in the past, before Bethlehem, that is to say: AS THE SON. If He did not live before his birth at Bethlehem, in what proper sense, can we say, that He did exist in eternity? First, let us remember, that the Old Testament totally rejects the idea of plurality in the Godhead. Monotheism was the 'corner-stone' of O.T. Theology. The Prophet Isaiah said: "...understand that I am he: BEFORE me there is no God formed, neither shall there be AFTER ME." (Isa. 43:10). The Bible does not leave us without an answer concerning the pre-existence of Christ. Now, let us move forward as we consider the subject of the 'Savior-Image' in the mind of God.

THE 'SAVIOR-IMAGE' OF OUR GOD

In the eternal past, even before there was a world, God had a plan. This plan was formulated and FINISHED in the mind of God, even before man's fall. God, who knows the future, was already prepared with a plan for man's redemption. As the builder who is able to conceive in his mind 'the image' of a building that he wishes to build and gets joy thinking about the details; thus, our God, rejoiced in His mind as He conceived 'the image of a Savior - God.' God took upon Himself this 'Savior-Image' immediately after the fall of man.

In each, and every place, in the scripture, where we find God intervening to SAVE HIS PEOPLE i.e. the salvation of Israel from Egypt; the conversion of Jacob at the river Jabok; the 'son of man' that King Nebuchadnezzar saw in the fiery furnace; the one 'like unto the son of man' that Daniel saw (7:13) was the SAVIOR/AVENGER IMAGE OF GOD, But, especially as the Savior of the world; we see, in each case, the work of our God executing the office of Savior-God. Through-out history, God has used various 'symbols' and 'allegories' to illustrate His 'image' as a 'Savior-God.' The most common symbol used in the word of God that portrays the 'Savior-Image' of God, is the "Lamb." Jesus was called "the Lamb of God" In Rev. 5:6 we find a "Lamb'

in the midst of the throne,” Can we take this literally? Is Christ a literal lamb? Of course not! Even though John the Revelator actually saw a lamb in the midst of the throne; nevertheless, what John was seeing was the SAVIOR-IMAGE of God. Our Lord Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of the ‘Savior-Image’ of God. The ‘Rock’ that followed the children of Israel symbolized the ‘Savior-Image’ of God in the midst of His people. That ‘Rock’ was called Christ (I Cor. 10:4). ‘The Arm of the Lord’ that Isaiah spoke about (Isa.53:1) is still another beautiful reflection of His ‘Savior-Image’ The phraseology of Isa. 44:6 reflects the SAVIOR-IMAGE, note : “..the King of Israel, AND HIS REDEEMER the Lord of Hosts (Not a second person):I am the First and the Last and beside me THERE IS NO GOD.”

Every detail in the life of Christ was CONCEIVED AND CONSUMMATED, in the mind of God, before the foundation of the world. (see Rev. 13:8). This is very important! Christ was crucified in the mind of God, even before there was a need for a Savior. As Paul wrote”..and calleth those things which be not as THOUGH THEY WERE.” (Rom. 4:17).

While praying in the garden Jesus,spoke these words: “And now , O Father glorify thou me with thine own self with glory which I had with thee before the world was.” (Jn.17:5). The Trinitarian teaching would have us to believe that : ‘God the son’ sought to be glorified by ‘God the Father’ Can one Deity pray to another Deity, without losing His Deity? Did one God pray for glory from another God? The Prophet Isaiah said: “I am the LORD that is my name: AND MY GLORY WILL I NOT GIVE TO ANOTHER,..” (Isa. 42:8). Jesus prayed as a man, and only as a man. As God He answered prayer, performed miracles and raised the dead. When He raised Lazarth from the dead, He simply said : “Lazareth, come forth.” He did not have to pray to the Father, because at that moment, He was the Father! But, now let us return to the matter of His ‘glorification.’ As we have said: God, in the eternal past ‘rejoiced within Himself over His Savior-Image.’ That He, personally, would come into the world and save it from sin. When Jesus prayed that prayer for ‘glorification’ the fulfillment was yet in the future. He would still have to suffer the agony of the cross. The Apostle Paul put it to us this way: “Looking unto Jesus the AUTHOR and FINISHER of our faith;..” (Heb. 12:2). The ‘Author’ in whose mind was conceived the plan, is the very same one who became the ‘Finisher!’ God was the great Architect who designed this spiritual house; then, robed Himself in flesh and became its Builder. It is significant to note the final words of Jesus upon the cross, when He said: “IT IS FINISHED.” The only thing that is lacking is His Glorification. With ten thousand voices of Hallelujah, let us lift up the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ, THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER of our faith! “I, even I, am the Lord; BESIDE ME THERE IS NO

SAVIOR.”

Now, let us move forward, as we attempt to shed more light upon the subject of ‘His Glorification” In our communion with the Lord, it is so important that we understand and acknowledge the level to which God’s word exalts His ‘Superiority and Supremacy’

VII. JESUS CHRIST, THE SUPREME DEITY

Perhaps, satan’s masterpiece of deception that we can find in his showcase of lies is that which robs our Lord Jesus Christ of His rightful place in the hearts of men. He has tried to reduce our Lord down from the honor and glory that He deserves. But, in reality, satan can do nothing when His time comes to be lifted up and exalted above all the earth.

During the last two thousand years, satan, with his well calculated MASTER LIE has, with frightening success, been able to mask the true identity of our Lord Jesus Christ. To be miss-led in this point, is very serious. It could even affect our salvation! The Traditionalist Theologians of this century have never been able to shed from their eyes the idea that Jesus Christ is more than just ‘the second person’ in a collection of Deities, whose head is the ‘Father.’ We do not object to the use of ‘Father’ as a title of God; but, we cannot accept that our Lord Jesus Christ be placed in position of inferiority within the Godhead.

The Apostle admonished the believers at Colosse, saying: “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. FOR IN HIM (CHRIST) DWELLETH ALL THE FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY. AND YE ARE COMPLETE IN HIM, WHICH IS THE HEAD OF ALL PRINCIPALITY AND POWER;” (Col. 2:8-10). In Paul’s time, there were already men at work through their ‘philosophies, vain deceits and traditions of men’ trying to down-play the role of Jesus Christ within the Godhead In his book Bro. Mcgee asks a good question: “is Christ in the Godhead (as Trinitarians teach), or, is the Godhead in Christ (as Paul said) “?

The first words that we find in the book of Revelation are these: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ..” Dr. Vine in his dictionary of N.T. words, defines the word ‘revelation’ as: ‘the drawing away by Christ of the veil.” Even though the book of Revelation deals extensively with coming events and judgment upon the earth; the principle theme of the book is the revelation of who Christ really is. The drawing away of the veil as to His true identity. No other book does this like the book of Revelation! The four gospels

present Christ in the days of His humiliation, as a servant of men. His 'mantle of Royalty' His majesty, the shekinah glory were all set aside when He walked upon this earth. In the book of Revelation we see Him, once again, exalted and lifted up in His rightful place as 'the Supreme Being.' The fulfillment of that garden prayer for 'glorification' has now come to pass. His Name is now exalted to the highest. "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY NAME: That at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in the earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD...." And, if there be any other gods in heaven or in the earth they, too, will bow their knee before the Lord Jesus Christ. (see Phil. 2:9-11 & Rev. 5:12-13). Just like 'Dagon' the fish god of the Philistines, who fell on his face before the arc of God (I Sam. 5:13) Dagon, along with all the other fishy gods, will be blown into oblivion with the coming of The King of Kings and the Lord of Lords! All the traditions of men; all the pagan influences that have come to us through the portals of Rome will be destroyed! This same event, where 'every knee shall bow,' was prophesied by Isaiah (45:22-23) many years ago. Both the Prophet Isaiah and the Apostle Paul were speaking about the same God. The only difference is that Isaiah did not have the revelation of the NAME! (see Rom. 14:11-12).

The common definition for the word 'God' is: "The Supreme Being." This is a 'superlative' just like the the word 'Almighty' These terms and definitions are consistently used, in the book of Revelation, in connection with our Lord Jesus Christ. It would be a contradiction to say that there could be more than One Supreme Being. There could never be one or two Supreme Beings, as the doctrine of the Trinity seems to imply. This theory of 'the three divine persons' implies the notion of 'RELATIVE DEITIES' within the godhead A 'relative deity' could not be a deity at all! Jesus never exercised power from the stand-point of a 'relative' deity; but, as 'The Supreme Deity.' He never prayed to the Father for the storm to cease, He COMMANDED the storm to cease! He did not pray for bread to rain out of heaven, like Moses did; He created bread in His own hands! He did not pray for Lazareth to come forth; He COMMANDED him to come forth! He said: "Destroy this temple (His body) and in three days I WILL RAISE IT UP." (Jn.2:19) Is this the work of a 'relative deity', or one who is interdependent, that does these things? In no way! Our God is always the Supreme Deity. It doesn't matter whether He is sitting upon His throne in heaven or walking upon the shores of Galilee. Where ever he may be; or, what form He may have taken. He never ceases to be THE SUPREME BEING.

SUPREME OBJECT OF WORSHIP
(Rev. 4:8-11 & 5:11-14)

THE ALMIGHTY
(Rev. 1:8 Mat. 28:18
Col. 2:10)

HIS NAME IS SUPREME
(Rev.19:16 Eph. 1:21
Phil 2:10-11)

JESUS

THE SUPREME AVENGER
(IIThes.1:7-9 Rev. 5:1- 5
& Rev. 19)

THE SUPREME JUDGE
(Jn. 5:22 Acts. 17:30-31
Rev. 20:11-21).

THE SUPREME KING & LORD
(Rev. 17:14 & 19:16 I Tim.
Rev. 20:11-21).

VIII. THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS

A Bible mystery is something that is very different and very special. According to Dr. Vine in his dictionary of Greek words ‘A Bible Mystery can only be known by divine revelation; and is made known in a manner and at an appointed time by God, and to a select group who have made themselves worthy.’ Paul put it to us this way : ‘...the mystery of Christ. Which in other

ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.” Eph. 2:2-5. Therefore, a mystery has three characteristics, which are; (1) A certain truth hidden in the mind of God. (2) The fulfillment of time necessary to bring about the revelation of said truth. (3) A select group of believers of whom God has determined sincere and worthy to know the mystery. (see Matt. 11:27 Col. 2:2-3).

The Apostle Paul writing to Timothy said: “And without controversy great is the MYSTERY OF GODLINESS: GOD WAS MANIFESTED IN THE FLESH...” (I Tim. 3:16). The fact of the incarnation of God in the flesh is an undeniable truth. The part that is difficult for us to understand is: how this in-measurable and limitless God could scale Himself down to the level of a fragile human being. Solomon said the same thing when he wrote about

the temple that he had built for God: "But will God in very deed dwell with men on the earth? behold the heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; HOW MUCH LESS THIS HOUSE WHICH I HAVE BUILT!" (II Chron. 6:18). To Solomon it appeared incredible that the God of the universe could dwell within a house made by man. This was a mystery to him! Even though, like Solomon, we cannot comprehend this mystery it is not for us to doubt it, but to believe it! It is necessary to have the element of faith. Neither will we understand, in this life, how the Spirit took from nothing and created all matter. As Paul to Hebrews wrote: "Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made from things which do appear." It is certain that the same writer did not fully understand the mystery of Godliness, when he wrote these words: "For in HIM dwelleth ALL FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY."

The Doctors of the law marveled that day when they observed the incredible wisdom of this 12 year old boy. For a brief time Joseph and Mary lost parental control over Jesus as He assumed His office as THE LORD OF THE TEMPLE in order to fulfill the prophecy of Mal. 3:1, "... and the Lord, who ye seek, shall suddenly come to HIS TEMPLE,..." This child said to his parents, not as the adolescent of 12 years old, but as the LORD HIMSELF: "How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Fathers business?" (Lu. 2:48-52) In verse 51 we read: "And He went down with them... and was SUBJECT UNTO THEM: but His mother kept all these things in her heart." Mystery of mysteries, who can find its depth? First, we see him coming to celebrate with His parents in Jerusalem. Next, we see Him inside HIS TEMPLE as Jehovah of the O.T. Finally, we see Him, once again, subject to his natural parents. Oh! how exact are the words found in Rom. 11:33, which says: "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and the knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!"

On another occasion, when His mother and His brothers came to speak to him, He answered with these words: "Who is my mother? and who is my brethren? Jesus was not ignoring His mother, who gave Him birth; but, at this moment He was speaking as the God of the universe WHO HAS NO MOTHER, nor natural beginning! Jesus spoke to his mother, not as her son, but as her GOD AND SAVIOR! Though his natural birth did depend upon her; yet, her spiritual birth depended upon Him! Mary needed her own son in order to be saved!

The traditionalist Theologians teach that God was manifested in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost. But, the Bible teaches that

the mystery of Godliness was the manifestation of God in the flesh! (ITim.3:16). Certainly, the doctrine of the Trinity is a 'mystery' but not one that has come out of the word of God. The 'mystery' of the Trinity is related to the MYSTERY OF ANCIENT BABYLON the birthplace of paganism. The Roman Catholic church is the modern counterpart to ancient Babylon, the citadel of satan! (Rev.17:5). Dr. Hislop in his book 'The Two Babylons' * (page 16): "In the unity of that one Only God of the Babylonians, there were THREE PERSONS, and to symbolize that doctrine of the Trinity, they employed, as the discovery of Layard proved, THE EQUILATERAL TRIANGLE, just as it is well known the Roman church does today." The papacy has in a number of its churches, i.e. 'Monastery of the Trinitarians' at Madrid an image of the Triune God, with THREE HEADS and one body. A mystery, for sure, but not the 'mystery of Godliness!' In the far away country of India their supreme deity is, likewise, shown as a three-headed god, called 'Eko Deva Trimurti' (one god in three forms). Also, in Japan Buda is worshipped as a three-headed image. Thus, this false idea of a three-headed deity has found its way into many societies and religions around the world.

The ancient tower of 'Babel' was probably a monument to some deity. The word, originally, comes from the Semetic word 'Babilu' meaning "the gate of god." The term, later, became synonymous with 'confusion' after God came down and confused the tongues of men causing the dispersion. Nimrod the great became a mighty builder and the first to organize these ancient pagan cults. Baal worship was among the first. Their priest

*(see Appendix "The Two Babylons")

were called 'cahnas' and were required to eat human flesh. 'Cahna-Bal' were priests of baal, thus came our word 'cannibal' or, one who eats human flesh. The deification of the woman in most debased and licentious forms was also a part of baal worship. It is no wonder that God hated this form of perverted religion. Abraham was 'called out' of this environment to 'separate' himself and his people. Therefore, like Abraham, we are called out of 'babylon' to separate ourselves from all pagan influences. In Rev. 18 we read about the destruction and the warning: (ver 4) "...come out of her(babylon), my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues."

In the parable of the 'wheat and the tares' the Lord illustrates to us how that the wheat and the tares grow up together side by side in the same field, the world. The question came forth: "...sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An ENEMY hath done this." We also note that the tares' are ALMOST identical to the wheat, but in the end they are worthless. To be cast out and burned (Matt.13:24-30).

The enemy, satan (the author of confusion), has sown in the field of the world the 'tares' of false religion. Just like the 'tares,' the doctrine of Trinity, is 'almost' identical, in many ways, to the truth of the oneness of God.

Now, beloved reader, we have touched on the 'mystery of Godliness' or, God manifested in the flesh. God, the Supreme Deity, in all His fullness, walked here upon this earth robed in the the flesh. This is the heart of that mystery. Immanuel, 'God with us' Any doctrine that teaches anything less than this is not worthy of trust by the serious bible student. Those who do not accept the 'mystery of Godliness' are in danger of falling for the 'mystery of iniquity' (the antichrist, satan with us. see II Th.2:9-11)

IX. THE PERSONAL NAMES OF GOD

Just as in the wedding at Cana we have kept 'the good wine' for last. A Bible study on Theology would not be complete without commenting on the 'Personal Names of God.' It was not man, but God who was the first to use names. Stars have names. Angels have names. We know the names of at least three angels: Michael, Gabriel, and Lucifer. When Lucifer (which means: 'light bearer') fell from grace he was never called 'Lucifer' again. Eve, the first mother, was called 'the mother of all living.' The important thing to note: is the significance that God places in His plan for use of names. In the Bible, names were very often used to characterize the role of key

individuals in the plan of God. Often, God would change, or modify, the persons name in order to underscore the purpose to be fulfilled in that persons life. God changed Abram's name to 'Abraham' which means: 'Father of a nation' To Jacob, (which means: 'supplanter') was changed to 'Israel' (which means 'Prince') because of the conversion which took place in his life. To Simon, the Lord gave the name 'Peter' which means 'a stone.' Saul's name was changed to Paul.

Now, with this introduction, we wish to make the point, that: God, Himself, throughout history, has used this system to underscore His plan at some particular point in history. Each time that God would reveal some new part of His plan, He would take upon Himself a NEW NAME. In the commercial world, when a person opens a business, the first thing he will do is to put up a sign in order to announce to the public what kind of business it is. Thus, when the God of the universe veiled Himself in the flesh of a man for the specific purpose of saving man from sin, He took upon Himself a name - JESUS-which would define the work of grace that He was to perform. "...and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall SAVE his people from their sins." (Mat. 1:21). The literal meaning of the name Jesus, is: "Jehovah, our savior"

All of God's names reflect His relationship with man. God, it would appear, identifies Himself with man more than to any other creature. His names reflect His personality, His attributes, and especially His great love for man. Our relationship with God depends upon our recognition of His name. More importantly, our salvation depends upon that name. The Psalmist said: "Save me, O God, by **THEY NAME.**" (Ps.54:1 also 9:10). Perhaps, the most revealing scripture dealing with 'the saving name' is found in the Acts of Apostles (4:12): "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men: whereby ye must be saved."

JEHOVAH OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

Before the time of Moses, God was not known by the name Jehovah, He was only known by various impersonal names and titles. In the book of Exodus (6:3) we read: "And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by the name **JEHOVAH** was I not known to them." God took upon Himself this name for three reasons: **FIRST** He did this in order to identify Himself with His people, in a personal way.

Note, that Pharaoh did not receive Moses, nor the God of Moses. Pharaoh said: "Who is Jehovah?" (Ex.5:2) The Name Jehovah meant nothing to him, because the name was not for him! He was not of the family of God! The Name only has value with those who are of the family of God. We ,today, like the Isrealites of old, are the people of the Name! It is because we have a personal God ! His Name sets Him apart from every other false deity. David said: "The Lord is MY Shepherd" This denotes the intimate relationship that David enjoyed with his God. **SECOND**, God took upon Himself this name because the Name Jehovah means: 'Deliverer' or 'Redeemer' because He delivered Israel out of Egypt. (Ex.3:13-15) **THIRD**, The power and authority that Moses used to perform miracles was through the Name of Jehovah.

THE NAME OF JESUS HIDDEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

As we have already said, Jesus Christ did exist from all eternity, but not as 'the son of God,' nor with the new testament name of Jesus. Out of the mouth of the prophet Micah comes an amazing prophecy, he tells us: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah,...out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel whose goings forth have been from old, from ever- lasting." (Micah 5:2). How did the Lord appear in the O.T. ? Before His appearance as a child in Bethlehem, He revealed Himself as the 'Savior-Image' of God delivering, saving and intervening in behalf of His people. Again, we repeat,

that man cannot look upon the face of God and live. His holiness, His majesty and His shikinah glory are all too much for human flesh to contemplate. God always used some kind of manifestation, or personage to deal with man in his time of need. The Lord usually used the personage of an angel, called 'The Angel of the Lord' Even though He is called the Angel 'OF' the Lord, we still understand that it was the Lord, Himself! Jesus was called : 'the son OF God' He was still God. The use of the word 'of,' in both cases, should not confuse any one.

Now, when Jacob struggled with the Angel, he cried out: "Tell me, I pray thee, THY NAME. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou doest ask after MY NAME?And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God FACE TO FACE..." (Gen. 32:29-30). Manoa, likewise, asked the Angel of Lord that appeared unto him: "What is thy Name?" And the Angel of Lord replied: "Why askest thou thus after my Name, SEEING IT IS SECRET." (Jud. 13:17-18). Obviously, the hidden name here was not the name JEHOVAH, since the name Jehovah had already been revealed some 300 years before this! This had to be referring to a future name! Perhaps, this is the first

reference that we have to that hidden name which was later spoken of by the prophet Isaiah (9:6). In verse 22 Manoa said: "...We shall surely die, because we have SEEN GOD." As the time drew near for the coming of the Savior, the prophecies became more revealing. The Lord revealed the attributes contained in that hidden name without mentioning the name! The words of the Prophet were: ".....and His Name shall be called WONDERFUL , COUNSELOR, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE EVERLASTING FATHER, THE PRINCE OF PEACE." No doubt, the Prophet was extremely anxious to hear that name uttered, just as Jacob and Manoa were. It could not happen, because the time had not yet been fulfilled. It's no surprise that there existed, in early Roman times, a religious body that worshipped at the altar of the 'UNKNOWN GOD' who anxiously awaited the coming of the promised Redeemer. One more beautiful prophecy is found in the writings of Isaiah (62:2). "...and thou shalt be called by a NEW NAME, which the mouth of the Lord shall name." Paul refers to the preexistence of the name when he said: "...as he hath BY INHERITANCE obtained a more excellent Name..." (Heb.1:4). In the fullness of time the Angel announced FOR THE FIRST TIME : "...and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save His people from their sins."

WHAT DOES THE NAME OF JESUS SIGNIFY ?

Dr. Vine tells us about the name of Jesus. In the Greek it is written: 'Iesous' it is translated 'Joshua' from the Hebrew. It is also written

‘Jehoshua’ meaning “Jehovah is salvation.” This agrees with Isaiah’s prophecy (43:11), which says: “I, even I am the Lord; and beside me there is no Savior.” Clearly, what is said here is: Jehovah of the O.T. is Jesus of the N.T. The name of Jesus evolved out of the name of Jehovah, and then replaced it as God’s N.T. name. It is interesting to note that the name jehovah is never mentioned again in the N.T.

It is significant to note that the name of Jesus was a common name among the Jews. Not like the name Jehovah, which was never used by men. The dual nature of Christ- human/Divine - are clearly seen in the name of Jesus. Only ONE name could fill all of the attributes found in Isa. 9:6 Why is this name so important in the plan of God?

FIRST: In order to identify Himself in an intimate way with His Church. Paul commanded, saying: “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all IN THE NAME OF JESUS,…” (Col. 3:17). In baptism we identify ourselves with HIM. The Church is the Bride of Christ. In marriage, the bride takes upon herself the name of the groom in order to be identified with him. When we congregate ourselves together in worship, we do it in the name of Jesus. When we pray and seek healing, we do it in the name of Jesus. The name of Jesus is the fulfillment of Isa 9:6, which says: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: ...and his name shall be called Wonderful (Jesus), Counselor (Jesus), The mighty God (Jesus), the everlasting Father (Jesus), The Prince of Peace (Jesus).”

The communion that we enjoy with our God, through the name of Jesus, is greater than that which the Old Testament Saints had. Even the angels cannot take upon themselves that name, which means salvation. Many today, like Pharaoh of Egypt, do not accept the name. The Jewish leaders tried to prohibit the Apostles from teaching in that name (Acts 4:18). Why? Simply because they were guilty of his blood and had hardened their hearts just like Pharaoh did against Moses; therefore, THE NAME WAS NOT FOR THEM! The majority of the religious world does not fully understand the great significance that God places upon His name. Some have even gone so far as to persecute those who are called by His name. Many of the early Christians were hated not because of their separation from the world, but because of that name. Jesus warned His disciples that they would be hated for His name. (Matt. 10:22). Satan has focused his hate upon that name more than any thing else, because it is that name that has brought about his defeat. Every time we use that name; every time we praise that name; every time we witness or uplift that name, we are driving satan’s defeat deeper!

SECOND: God chose the name of Jesus because it signifies ‘the work of

Grace' that He would perform, as 'Savior of the world.' Again, we quote Acts 4:12: 'Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.' God used these earthly elements of water and blood mixed together with that name in order to perfect His Savior-Image.

THIRD: God has invested His authority in the church, through the use of His name. It is the EXECUTIVE NAME of God for this dispensation of Grace. (Jn. 14:12-14 & 15:23-24). Moses used an earthly 'shepherd's rod' to convince Pharaoh and to open the Red Sea, and to defeat Amelek. Elijah's old mantel became the focus of God's power and authority. With good reason Peter was able to say to the paralytic: "Silver and gold have I none, but SUCH AS I HAVE give I thee: In the NAME OF JESUS CHRISTrise up and walk." Paul said to the unclean spirit "I command thee in the NAME OF JESUS to come out of her."

Thanks be to God! the Name of Jesus has not lost its power. The 'Rod of Apostles' is the same rod that we use today. "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever."

THE COMPOUND NAME ' THE LORD JESUS CHRIST '

The three descriptive Names of the 'Lord' 'Jesus' 'Christ' enclose within themselves the fullness of the Godhead - The Father, the son and the Holy Ghost. **THE LORD**- This denotes the Paternal aspect of Christ, as the Lord of His own house- The Church. As heir of all things He has total dominion and lordship over the entire earth. Soon He will exercise His Lordship as foretold in the book of Revelation. **JESUS** - The Redemptive Name of God during this present dispensation. Also, the Name of the son of God. **CHRIST**: In other words, 'The Anointed One' Also, translated in the Septuagint the word 'Messiah' This, of course, refers to the Holy Spirit. (see Jn.4:24 & II cor.3:17).

When we place these three names together- The Lord Jesus Christ- we have the compound name of God. This is the fullness of the Godhead - The Lord (Father), Jesus (son), Christ (the Holy Ghost). Not three persons; but, rather three names (offices, or titles) enclosed in One Person. So, the commandment to baptize in 'the Name' (singular) of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Ghost is obeyed when we use the name of Jesus.

It is worth mentioning that the compound name of God was never used BEFORE the resurrection of the Lord. They were used separately, but not collectively. This, of course, means that when He had ascended into the heavens He, once again, assumed His rightful place of majesty and glory. In

Acts 2:36 we read:” ..that God hath made this same Jesus,...both LORD AND CHRIST. He is now exalted to the highest.The days of His humiliation are passed. In the Acts of the Apostles (1:1), we read: “.....all that Jesus BEGAN to do and to teach.” What Jesus began to do in the flesh, (build His church) He will complete and perfect in the SPIRIT, AS THE LORD JESUS CHRIST! While here upon the earth the flesh did cause certain limitations; but, after His ascension into heaven these limitations disappeared. Jesus said: “...the works that I do shall he do also; and GREATER WORKS than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.” (Jn. 14:12). What does this mean? It means, simply, that His works through a universal outpouring of the Holy Ghost will allow Him to work through thousands of vessels filled with His Spirit all over the world.

This is the only period in history where God has ever used a compound name. No doubt, the reason is that in this dispensation He wishes to underscore His multiple ministries i.e. Savior, the Father of His Church; the healer; the great high-priest; the King of Kings. All of this, and more, can be found in the fullness of that compound Name - The Lord Jesus Christ! Paul said to the jailer: “....Believe on the LORD JESUS CHRIST, and thou shalt be saved,...(Acts 16:31).

THE GREAT ‘I AM’

God appeared unto Moses in a burning bush. The bush was on fire, but was not consumed. Out of this burning bush God spoke these words: “ I AM THAT I AM “ This combination of the bush that was not consumed and the declaration that ‘ I AM ‘ speaks to us clearly that God NEVER CHANGES. As the prophet Malachi said (3:6) : “For I AM the Lord, I change not;...” He is altogether Trustworthy. Not like the gods of Egypt. Our Lord Jesus Christ is the great ‘I Am!’ He told the unbelieving Jews: “....Verily, verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was I AM.” (Jn.8:58). What a profound statement this is! It was too much for these narrow-minded Jews, they were ready to stone Him. Later, when the Jews came to arrest Jesus, he asked them: “whom seek ye?” They responded: “Jesus of Nazareth, Jesus answered, I have told you that I AM HEAs soon then as he had said unto them, I AM HE, they went backward and fell to the ground. “ (Jn.18:4-6). This is the God of the burning bush speaking! It is the same God that later spoke to John the Revelator, saying: “ I AM the alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.” (Rev. 22:13). Jesus Christ is the burning bush of the New Testament church. And, After two thousand years that bush has not been consumed. It just continues to burn brighter and brighter until the time of the end.

THE NEW NAME

As we have already seen, God had always used names as a means of relating to His children. They have always played an important part in the plan of God. It is crucial to know the name of God in any given period of history. The Redemptive Name for this dispensation of grace is, JESUS. No doubt, the Name of Jesus through-out the past two thousand years, has spoken, preached, published, and cursed more than any other name in history.

Now, after the last soul has been saved by that name. After the last enemy of truth has been subjected; then, God will no longer need a redemptive name ! His work as Redeemer and avenger will be eternally finished! Remember, God always takes a name that coincides with His purpose or plan for any given period of time. He tells us in His word that He will 'make all things NEW.' When this happens, He will take upon Himself a NEW NAME, as well. This new name, undoubtedly, will be far more glorious and exalting than any name that He has used in the past. Perhaps, it will encompass all of the names that He has ever used throughout the ages in His dealings with man. John the Revelator tells us (Rev. 3:12) : "Him that overcomethI will write upon him the name of my God: and will write upon him my NEW NAME." Now, please take note, no unbeliever, no hater of truth, no sinner, no rebel or blasphemer will ever be permitted to use, or even hear this new name. At this point, let us note some important facts about this new name that God will someday reveal :

FIRST: We note, that when the name of Jesus was first revealed, the name of jehovah was no longer used, or mentioned. Likewise, as we study the book of Revelation, we find that the name of Jesus is mentioned only in the first and the last chapters. This is significant, because these two chapters (the first and the last) are still dealing with the present era. Once we enter into the future and God makes all things new; then, as we have said, He will take upon Himself a NEW NAME.

SECOND: That new name will be an exclusive name. According to Rev. 2:17 only those who are worthy will receive it. The Name of Jesus was a glorious Name and we do not wish diminish its great value; nevertheless, the name of Jesus was an earthly name and was common among the Jews. God has even allowed men to go so far as to curse and mock that name. But, the day will come when that redeeming name will no longer be needed. And, men will never again be allowed to take His Name in vain, because it will never be

revealed to those who hate God ! It will be a great honor to all those who are found worthy to hear that name, and even to have it written upon their bodies.

THIRD: This new name that we have been discussing is, once again, shrouded in mystery and secrecy. As we have said, not until the last soul has been redeemed, and the last sinner has been judged will God reveal that great and glorious NEW NAME. Just as the name of Jesus was hidden in the attributes of Isa. 9:6; likewise, the new name is hidden away in the attributes and titles of Rev. 19 th. chapt. Now, let us look at the events taking place in the chapter we have just mentioned: First, we see the judgment against the great whore which represent the false religious system which will be used by the Antichrist. Also, known as Babylon. In verse (7) we see the great rejoicing 'for the marriage of the lamb is come, and his WIFE (the church) hath made herself ready.' Could it be at this time, during the great wedding feast with His bride that He will reveal that New Name? In verses (9) and (10) we're back on the Isle of Patmos where John the Revelator is told to write. It is very interesting to note that the voice who spoke to John must have been one of the redeemed saints, because he admonished John not to fall down before him, saying: " I am thy fellow servant, and of THY BRETHREN that have the TESTIMONY OF JESUS. In verse (11) we go back to the vision which again takes us into the future. We see a great white horse and upon it One who is called 'THE FAITHFUL and TRUE.' In verse (12) 'He had a name written, THAT NO MAN KNEW, BUT HE HIMSELF.' In verse (13) we find that he is called 'THE WORD OF GOD.' in verse (13) He has upon His vesture and upon His thigh a name written, 'KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.' Yet, with all of these titles and attributes, we still do not have access to the 'singular name !'

No doubt, this New Name will encompass all of His mighty works since the beginning of time. Saints from every age and dispensation will worship that New Name. It will certainly be a name of great adoration and praise Let us be faithful and true in order that some day we may be found worthy enough to know and to worship that great name.!

X. ARGUMENTS TO REFUTE THE TRINITARIAN DOGMA

The doctrine of the Trinity is comparable to a ship without a rudder drifting upon the sea of confusion. This teaching is full of errors and contradictions. The common definition of the doctrine of the Trinity is: 'One God in Three Persons' (The Father in creation, The Son in Redemption, and

the Holy Ghost in Regeneration). In our language, the word 'Person' necessarily implies 'individuality' To say that three persons are not three individuals is to violate the definition of the word. Even though the bible is, sometimes, mysterious and hard to understand, it is never contradictory, or illogical. There's always a KEY to unlock scripture. In this case it is the ONENESS KEY! Oneness is the key that is consistent through-out God's word. Dr.Cambron, a Trinitarian Theologian, stated in his book: "The Doctrine of the Trinity cannot be comprehended." We say Amen! to that. Even though the doctrine of the Trinity cannot be understood, the GODHEAD, as we find revealed in God's word ,CAN be understood! Anything that God has revealed in His word was meant to be understood, or it never would have been put there! If it is found in God's word, than it is important to know and to understand. If it's not found in His word ,than it's not important, as far as God is concerned .There is a beautiful portion of scripture found in Deut. 29:29 that says: " The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are REVEALED BELONG UNTO US and to our children for ever,..." We can understand some of the things that God does, but, it's not easy to understand HOW He does it. We understand the incarnation of God in flesh; what we don't understand is how He did it. He does not tell us how He set aside His robes of glory and came down to man; nevertheless, we believe it! We do not understand how he can be the 'good Shepherd' and at the same time 'the Door to the sheep fold' where the Shepard passes. Or, how that He can be both the FATHER and the SON, all at the same time. These are secrets that belong unto Him! But, God does what He wants to do, because HE CAN!

Down through the ages God has been especially concerned with getting this message to the world, that the God of heaven is ONE GOD. The scripture that is on the lips of every Jewish believer is: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is One Lord." This has never been a popular message in mainstream religious thought. Today, the Trinitarian doctrine is the corner stone for most of the Christian world, in spite of the fact that there is not one scripture in the bible that even suggests that the God of the universe is in 'three persons!' The word 'Trinity' is no where to be found in God's word! Thank God for that! The use of the term 'persons' (plural) is a Trinitarian invention. It is a carnal, man-made way, to explain spiritual truth. In a very limited way it may be permissible to use the term 'person' in reference to God, even though the bible never does. All the references, in the bible, using the term 'person' refer to man.

There are two words in the Greek language that are used in the bible to translate the English word 'person' They are:
PRSOSON: Literally means: 'appearance, face or countenance especially around the eyes.' There is one scripture in I Pet.3:12 that speaks of the 'face

of the lord,' but this is a FIGURATIVE reference to God's countenance. Again, God does not have three faces; nor three bodies; nor three images !

ANTHROPOS: This is the generic name for 'man' This term is never used in reference to Deity. Therefore, our conclusion is that the term 'persons,' when you try to apply it to Deity, falls way short.

Another argument against the Trinitarian doctrine is this: invariably, Trinitarians base their assumptions on scriptures that have **NOTHING TO DO WITH THE GODHEAD ISSUE !** Every scripture in the bible that deals directly with the Godhead issue, are all **ONENESS !** For example, Trinitarians use the creation where God said : "Let us make man." Or, when Jesus was baptized. Or, when He prayed to the Father, in order to prove their doctrine. But, these portions of scripture are dealing with other matters far and away from the issue of the Godhead. Why cannot Trinitarians find scripture that deals with the subject of the Godhead in order to establish their teaching? The reason is: because there are none! All scriptures dealing with the Godhead are all Oneness. For example, where Moses said: "Know, therefore this day, and consider it in thy heart, that the Lord He is God in heaven **ABOVE**, and upon the earth **BENEATH**; **THERE IS NONE ELSE**" Is there any doubt about what the subject matter is here? Is He talking about some other theme, or issue, other than His identity ? His Omnipresence? Or, His Oneness? The answer is: **NO !** What about the question that Phillip asked Jesus when he inquired about the Father (Jn.14: 9), and the reply that Jesus gave (Jn.14:9-11), Can there be any question here as to what the subject matter was about ? So, let our Trinitarian friends show us some scriptures like these, that is, if they're serious about discussing the issues of the Godhead.

QUESTIONS THAT TRINITARIANS CANNOT ANSWER:

1. Who was the Father of Jesus ? The bible tells us that the Spirit overshadowed Mary. Are we to believe that Jesus had **TWO** fathers That is, God the Father and the Holy Spirit ?
2. Who raised Jesus from the dead ? Jesus said: "Destroy this temple and in three days I **WILL RAISE IT UP.**" Peter said: "This same Jesus whom God hath raised.." Were there two divine being who raised him up ?
3. If there are three divine persons in the Godhead, why do we not see more than **ONE THRONE** in heaven, and only **ONE** seated on that throne ? (see Isa. 6 & Rev. 4:2).
4. What is the Name of the Father in this dispensation ? According to Jesus (Jn. 5:43 & 17:6). What is the name of the son ? According to the angel

(Matt.1:21).

5. Who is the Almighty ? According to Moses (Gen. 17:1) .According to John the Revelator (Rev. 1:8).

6. Who is He that is to come ? According to the Prophet (Zac.14 5-7). According to Paul (I Tim. 3:13). According to John the Revelator (Rev. 4:6 & 19:11-19). How many are we looking for at the second coming ?

7. How many Spirits are there ? Paul speaks of the 'Spirit of Christ' (Rom. 8:9). Moses speaks about the 'Spirit of God' (Gen. 1:2). The Bible speaks about the 'Spirit of the Lord.' We suppose that these 'Spirits' are all 'Holy Spirits' Is there more than one Holy Spirit ? This would be absurd !

8. How many Divine Persons do we have living in us ? According to Jesus (Jn.14:23). According to Paul (Col. 1:27). On the day of Pentecost they received the Holy Spirit. Are there three divine persons living in us ? If so, which one should acknowledge first ? Which one should we address our petitions ?

XI. ARGUMENTS USED TO DEFEND THE TRINITY.

"LET US MAKE MAN"

Many well -known Theologians use this verse in Gen 1:26 as a bases for their belief that God is a 'Trinity,' or, a 'Triune deity.' We say, that this argument is weaker than the 'proverbial reed shaken in the wind!' Because, the very next verse (27) tells us:" So God (always singular) created man in His own (singular) image, in the image of God created He (singular) him..." The words of the Prophet Isaiah are even plainer: "....I am the Lord that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens ALONE; that spreadeth abroad the earth by MYSELF; " (Isa. 44:24 see also Mal 2:10).

Nevertheless, the question still remains: who was God referring to when He said : "Let US make man in OUR image?" We have a similar scenario found in Gen 11:7 where God appears to be counseling with other beings concerning the situation at the tower of Babel. But, again, when the work is actually executed it is always the Lord (First Person singular) who is doing the work. Now, we ask ourselves these two questions: Who was present with God on these two accounts ? And, who else bears the same image as does both God and man ? Even though there is no concrete proof, It would not be a stretch of the truth to believe that ANGELS were present at these momentous occasions. We read in Job 38:7 when God 'laid the foundations of the earth' "...and all the sons of God (the angels) shouted for joy." Also, it is

apparent that angels have the same physical characteristics as both God and man. In Heb. 2:7 & 9) Paul seems to tell us that we were made like unto the angels, only inferior. One last reference is found in Rev. 19 where our Lord is seen riding on a white horse to execute judgment upon the earth and there was a great host that ACCOMPANIED Him. Therefore, it is not unusual for God to be accompanied by other beings whenever He went forth to execute His mighty works. And, it is not unusual for God to 'counsel,' as it were, with His lowly creatures. He did it with Abraham before the destruction of Sodom, and also with Moses before punishing the people for sin.

There is another scripture found in Col. 1:15 that has often been used to put forth the notion of the Trinity. It is speaking of Jesus: "Who is the image of the invisible God, the FIRSTBORN of every creature." Are we to believe that, the so-called, 'third person' of the Trinity had a beginning? If that is the case, than the Trinity is not eternal! The doctrine of the Trinity teaches One God in three Persons, co-existent, co-equal and CO-ETERNAL. The only logical conclusion that we can make from this: is that the invisible God took upon Himself a 'visible image' and called that image 'the Firstborn.' In other words, it is that visible part of God that relates to inferior creatures. Otherwise, it would be totally impossible for any inferior creature to know God. In no way can we conclude that any image that God may take upon Himself will constitute 'another person' in the godhead. It does not matter if that visible image is seated upon a throne in heaven, or walking upon the sea of Galilee, it is always the same One True God. It does not matter what form, or image He may take upon Himself at any given point in history, His Oneness never changes! (Refer back to the chapter on the 'Savior-Image of God').

ELOHIM:

The word 'Elohim' is the plural form of the Hebrew word 'Eloah' which is a general term for deity. This term can refer to any god, true or false. Dr. Vine in his dictionary on O.T. words states: "Certain scholars regard the word (eloah) as being a singular version of the common plural form 'Elohim,' a plural of majesty. 'Eloah' is thought to be vocative in nature (to address God), meaning 'O God. "the plural 'Elohim' is frequently translated as a vocative when the person is speaking directly to God, as in Ps.79:1." The point here is: that the title 'Eloah' (the singular form) and 'Elohim' (the plural form) are both used interchangeably through-out the scripture. 'Elohim' can only be referring to a 'plurality of attributes,' nothing more. Any one trying to make a plurality of deities from the title Elohim is only grasping for straws in the wind. Hebrew scholars would scoff at the idea that the common word for God (Elohim) could be translated as a plurality

of deities. The Hebrew language is very difficult to translate. It is a religious language, and when referring to God it is common to use a form of 'poetic parallelism' which is meant to exalt, to magnify, and to lift Him up. For example: "O magnify the Lord with me." This form of poetic pluralism found in the title 'Elohim' would appear to be used as a way to set Him apart from other deities.

If the title 'Elohim' was meant to denote a plurality of deities; than, this interpretation should remain consistent through-out the O.T. In Isa. 9:6, for example, the son to be born is called : "The Mighty God." Are we to understand that the son will be a plurality of persons ? In Zech. 14:5 the bible speaks about the coming of "the Lord my God." Are we to understand this to mean a plurality of divine persons are to come ? Obviously, the title 'Elohim' was never meant to be interpreted as a plurality of persons, or deities. The only conclusion that we make is the uniqueness of the Hebrew language that uses plurality as a means of places emphasis on a word; or to display a multiplicity of attributes; or to demonstrate intimacy. Some words in Hebrew are always written in the plural form, but still refer to one, or more, persons. Any attempt by the traditionalist Theologians to picture the God of the O.T. as a 'Tri-une' deity, falls to the ground in face of over-whelming evidence, and the clear Monotheistic declarations of scripture.

THE USE OF 'PLURAL PRONOUNS' IN THE BIBLE

Let us read very carefully the follow text found in Ex. 3:14 "And the Lord said unto Moses, WE ARE THAT WE ARE: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, WE ARE hath sent me unto you." You would think that this is the way this text ought to read as you listen to some folks defend the Trinity ! How does this scripture really read ? "...I AM THAT I AMI AM hath sent me unto you." If the use of 'plural pronouns' is a legitimate argument in favor of the Trinity, it would appear that this text should be the key verse. In verse 15 He says, that "...this is my Name FOREVER and this my MEMORIAL UNTO ALL GENERATIONS." When Jesus used that 'pronoun name of God' in Jn 8:58 He was perpetuating, continuing on, 'that Memorial' to His generation. (see Jn.18:4-6). In Rev. 1:8 once again He is continuing that 'Memorial.' It is significant to note that even the last chapter of the bible continues to fulfill that 'Memorial unto all generations' (Rev. 22;13). Refere back to chapter IX 'THE NAMES OF GOD' under the sub-title 'the Great I AM.'

Though Trinitarians state emphatically that they believe in One God, the use of plural pronouns to defend their doctrine, causes us to suspect that in reality they are closer to 'polytheism' than to 'Monotheism!' I believe that it

would be an embarrassment for them to admit that they are 'polytheists'(a plurality of gods); therefore, they have come up with a compromise, which is neither the one, or the other; but, instead a strange 'mixture' of both teachings, which they call the 'Trinity.'

Now, let us go to the N.T. in order to examine a few verses which contain 'plural pronouns,' in reference to God, and see if we can determine the legitimate use of these terms. On the other hand, if we don't find the correct usage of these 'plural pronouns,' we'll soon find ourselves tangled in that briar patch of polytheism !

Jesus said to Phillip in Jn. 14:10 : "Believest thou not that I am that I AM IN THE FATHER, and the Father in me ?" What was it that Phillip saw ? Phillip was looking at the Father and the son; but, with his natural eyes, he saw only ONE PERSON ! Are we to believe that there was another Father still in heaven ? The Trinitarians believe that the 'essence' of the Father was in Christ, but the Father remained in the heavens as another person. Now, we ask, if the Father remained in heaven 'as another person,' how is it possible that the son 'was in the Father' when the son was here on earth talking with his disciples? Are there two sons in this strange case ? We see how easy it is to lose our way in this forest of confusion. What is the truth in this case ? The truth is found in our key verse (Col. 2:10) : "For in Him (Christ) dwelleth all the FULLNESS OF THE GODHEAD BODILY." Were the heavens absent of the Father while He walked upon the earth clothed in flesh ? NO ! The Spirit of God is Omni-present, filling Jesus and the universe, all at the same time. But, in heaven there remained NO VISIBLE IMAGE OF GOD. Well, what more was Phillip contemplating apart from the Person of Jesus Christ ? Phillip was seeing a PLURALITY OF NATURES ! A PLURALITY OF NAMES ! AND A PLURALITY OF MINISTRIES ! As we have already said, Jesus was all man, with a human soul. He was not a robot. He had a 'will' of his own. Thus, we can say, that his human conscientiousness was completely separate and distinct from his divine conscientiousness. Jesus put it to us this way "I (the human conscientiousness) and the Father (the divine conscientiousness) are One." (one substance, one personality, one person).

On one occasion Jesus said to his disciples: "...If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, AND WE WILL COME UNTO HIM, and will make OUR ABODE with him." Does any one believe that we actually have THREE (with the Holy Ghost) PERSONS ABIDING IN US ? There is no way ! We have only One God dwelling within us, it doesn't matter how many titles or names you may give Him ! In I Jn. 2:23 the writer makes it very clear, ".....he that acknowledgeth the son hath the Father also." Another classic error committed by those who interpret the scripture using the Trinitarian

theory is when Jesus prayed in the garden. In his booklet, Bro. G. Mc Gee, gives an explanation to this question that cannot be better stated. The question must be asked: Who is praying to whom ? Are we saying here that one divine person is praying to another divine person ? Or, the second person of the Trinity praying to the First ? This cannot be. One divine person cannot pray to another divine person without that divine person LOOSING HIS DIVINITY ! People who pray have needs. Jesus, as God of the universe, gave himself that choice to feel pain, to be tempted, to experience human anxiety, to allow Himself to be baptized by a man. If He chose to experience all of these things that men do, would it not seem logical that He would take upon Himself the necessity of prayer ? Jesus, as God has no needs; but, He CHOSE to have a need. He chose to do this for our example, just like when He CHOSE to wash the feet of His disciples. Jesus CHOSE to pray as a man prays. Death is the ultimate human experience; all the armies in the world could not have taken His life unless He had CHOSEN to give it up!

Jesus said on one occasion: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." In other words, there was as much of the power of God within Him as there was in the rest of the universe. Moses said it this way: "...the Lord He is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath; there is none else." (Deut. 4:39). It is no wonder the Apostle Paul, under the unction of the Spirit, made this statement: "Ye are COMPLETE IN HIM which is the HEAD OF ALL PRINCIPALITY AND POWER." (Col. 2:10).

I wish to comment on another portion of scripture that has caused some misunderstanding. It is found in Jn.14:16 : "And I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter,..." According to the Trinitarian interpretation, the second person of the Trinity (Christ) is praying the First person (The Father) that He may send the Third Person (The Comforter). If this explanation is true, than it should be consistent it each, and every portion of scripture that deals with the sending of the Comforter ! Please note the following scriptures that deal with this matter:

John 14:16 "And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter."

John 15:26 "But when the Comforter is come, WHOM I WILL

John 16:7 SEND unto you."

John 14:18 "I will not leave you comfortless: I WILL COME UNTO YOU. "

John 14:23 "...and my Father will love him, and WE WILL COME AND MAKE OUR ABODE with him."

There seems to be some confusion here, but 'God is not the author of this confusion!' Man is the author it ! The problem arises from those who insist on separating God into three distinct persons. When bible speaks about the 'son' it referring also to the 'Father.' When it speaks about the 'Father' it is also referring to the 'son.' Again, we refer to I Jn. 2:23 "...he that acknowlegeth the son hath the Father also." Once again the Trinitarian notion of the first , second, and third persons in the Godhead falls to the ground ! The truth is: The Father is the First Person; the Son is the First Person; and the Holy Ghost is also the First Person !

If Trinitarians wish to use 'Personal Pronouns' with reference to God, why not use that great 'Pronoun Title/Name' that Moses received ? From the lips of God came forth "I AM THAT I AM" Jesus said: "I AM alpha and Omega the beginning and the end." Again, "And ye are COMPLETE IN HIM which is the HEAD OF ALL PRINCIPALITY AND POWER."

ONE MEDIATOR:

The text that we wish to look at in connection with our discussion on 'the Mediator' is found in I Tim. 2:5, "For there is One God, AND ONE MEDIATOR, between God and men, THE MAN Christ Jesus." In this verse of scripture there is no contradiction, nor confusion, as to what we have talked about so far. If the reader has been able to comprehend anything at all about the 'the Dual Nature' of Christ, than this scripture presents no problem. We should be in full agreement with the fact that Jesus Christ is God. That He possesses all power 'in heaven and on earth.' We must understand that He DOES NOT occupy a lesser role, or a lesser rank, or a lesser status in the Godhead. The key to understanding I Tim. 2:5 is in the phrase : "THE MAN CHRIST JESUS.' God, with His infinite understanding of Justification, CHOSE to use the flesh of a man as the vehicle for salvation. He became the sacrificial lamb which was the purchase price for redemption. Before Calvary, there was no ROAD, OR PATHWAY, leading to God. When Jesus died upon the cross, immediately, there was a ROAD PAVED with His blood, right to the throne of God. That is why Jesus said: "....I AM THE WAY, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the FATHER, BUT BY ME. (that is to say, His broken body)" One very great miracle happened in the temple when Jesus died. The great veil that separated the common people from the Holy place, was rent from top to bottom. (Matt. 27:51). The 'rent veil' is symbolic of the 'broken body of Christ.' A WAY was opened up, through the break in the veil, into the most Holy place. An in- depth study of Hebrews 9 & 10 would be very helpful in this case.

Some times the question comes up: 'how is it possible, that Jesus Christ

could be both Father and Son ?' The answer came to me many years ago as I was studying 'the tabernacle in the wilderness.' The tabernacle is a 'perfect type and shadow' of the body of Jesus Christ. God, in all His perfection and exactness, chose each article of furniture and each ceremony that would exactly portray the ministry of Jesus Christ. Every article, every priest and every ceremony all speak of Him, **SIMULTANEOUSLY!** Why do we say simultaneously ? Because at the same moment that He was the **SACRIFICIAL LAMB** He was also the **HIGH PRIEST** carrying the sacrifice ! At the same moment that He was the **HIGH PRIEST**, He was also the **VAIL** being penetrated by the same **HIGH PRIEST**. At the same moment that He was the **VAIL**, He was also the **HOLY OF HOLIES!** Of course, we cannot understand how He could occupy all of these roles at that same time; but, He does it because He can, because He's God! In one chapter He is called 'the Good Shepherd' in another chapter He is called 'the door' to the sheep-fold where the Good Shepard passes! So, why is it so difficult to accept that Jesus could occupy the role of both Father and Son ? Likewise, at the same moment that He is the Father demanding a sacrifice for the sins of man, He is also the **VERY MEDIATOR** who brings the sacrifice ! Mystery of mysteries, who can plumb their depth? At best, we look through a glass, darkly!

In Hebrews 10:19-20 we read: "Having.....boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way,through the **VAIL**, that is to say, **HIS FLESH;**" According to the Trinitarian version, the Second Person of the Trinity intercedes before the First Persons for the sins of man. Once again, we have the scent of 'polytheism.' This explanation could never be true ! For one thing, Jesus entered in **ONCE AND FOR ALL** in order to make propitiation for our sins! Nevertheless, **THE BLOOD REMAINS** as a constant witness allowing man to enter **FOR HIMSELF** to ask forgiveness for sins. (see Heb. 7:24 & 9:24-28). The notion that Jesus lives before the throne to continually plead for our mercy, is false! When Christ walked upon the earth He did pray and intercede for His disciples, but after His death this was no longer necessary. Jesus said: "At that day ye shall ask in my name: and I say **NOT UNTO YOU**, that I pray the Father for you:" (Jn.16: 26). Each sinner has **THREE STRONG WITNESSES** in order to present his case before the tribunal of heaven. They are, the Spirit, the water, and the **BLOOD**, and these three agree ! (see I Jn.5:8). As we have said, Jesus Christ **THE MAN** was the 'lamb of God;' He was the **WAY** to the Father; and also the High Priest who offered the sacrifice. All this represents the work of the **MEDIATOR**. So, as man He was the Mediator; but as God He was the **FORGIVER** ! The Jews once criticized Him for forgiving sins "Who is this that forgiveth sins ? Only God can forgive sins ! " For once they had it right. What they didn't understand was, that He was God ! Therefore, if Jesus has the power to forgive sins, why would He need to petition another ? He who was the **AUTHOR** of our faith, was also the

FINISHER !

Another important portion of scripture is found in II Cor. 5: 19, which reads: "...God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself...and hath committed UNTO US (the church) the word of reconciliation." Who are the 'Mediators' of God in this age ? We ourselves, THE CHURCH ! We are the Ambassadors of Christ to this lost and dying world.(ver.20). We are the ones who pray for sinners, interceding before the throne that they might repent. In the case of Cornelius, God would do nothing through the angels, the gospel had been committed unto men. Peter was God's ambassador to Cornelius. It was he that brought the message of reconciliation. The only thing that stands between a lost world and a Holy God, is THE CHURCH ! The ark of salvation. Not one soul will be saved without the church ! God will not deal with the world except through His church !

Once again, the Trinitarian notion falls to the ground like the proverbial reed shaken by the winds of truth.! In each case we must the apply truth of God's word and plain reason and we will always arrive at the same conclusion that the God of the bible is One, in every sense.

THE BAPTISM OF JESUS:

Now we come to one of the classic arguments used by most of Traditionalist Theologians of our time. As we have stated in a previous chapter, the baptism of Jesus is not dealing with any other subject matter other than His baptism. The heavenly vision and voice that was heard, was not given for the purpose of REVEALING TO US HIS DEITY. Everything that happened there that day was incidental to the main event. The focus was on the baptism of the Lord, and it's significance as He began His ministry.

At this point we must interject a rule which cannot be ignored by the serious bible student. You cannot form a doctrine upon a parable, or any HISTORICAL EVENT (such as the baptism of our Lord), without FIRST ESTABLISHING THE DOCTRINE BASED UPON SCRIPTURES THAT DEAL DIRECTLY WITH THE SUBJECT IN QUESTION. Paul said to young Timothy: "And if any man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive LAWFULLY."

Now, in dealing with the events that took place that day we look to the gospel of Luke (3:21-22). The first thing that we note is that "the heaven was opened." Any time that this has ever happened in scripture there has always been some visible figure seen by the person for whom the vision was intended. (see Isa. 6:1 Acts 7:56 Rev. 4:1 & 19:11). In the vision that John the

Baptist saw, THERE WAS NO DIVINE BEING SEEN when the heavens opened ! This is significant! Because the only VISIBLE MANIFESTATION OF GOD, that John saw, was Jesus standing there in the water with him. There are those who believe that the Father appears like an old man with a long beard seated upon His throne; if this were so, why did John not see this when the heavens opened? There is no place, in the scripture, where that God ever used more than one visible manifestation, at a time ! Thank God for that ! The next thing that I would like to point out is, that John saw “the Holy Spirit descending like a DOVE .” The dove is purely symbolic in this case; it is just like when John said “Behold, the lamb of God.” Of course, the people didn’t see an animal, they saw Jesus ! The word of God is full of symbolism; nevertheless, the fulfillment of the symbol is always literal. The meaning of the dove vision was to demonstrate to John that the Holy Spirit was upon Him (see Jn.1”33). In Luke 4:18 we read, “The Spirit of the Lord is UPON ME because He hath ANOINTED ME to preach the gospel..”

The Trinitarians believe that the voice that spoke from heaven indicates presence of another divine person. Are we to believe that the voice that came out of the ‘burning bush’ indicates that the bush divine person ? There are those who do believe that God is found in nature, that everything is God. They’re called ‘Pantheists.’ Are we to believe that the voice that came out of Balaam’s donkey indicates that the animal was deity ? Of course not ! Who can deny that these were only temporal manifestations of God for that moment ? God does not need a mouth in order to speak; nor does He need hands to create worlds; nor feet to walk ! Oh! how we try to limit God and bring Him down to our lowly level of thinking ! The simple truth (though it escapes many) is that the same Spirit that fills the universe, also filled our Lord. Water can take on three forms: solid (ice), liquid (water) and gas (steam). In a glass of ice water, the water is in the ice and the ice is in the water. You can place a drinking glass inside of a pool of water and the glass will be in the water, but the water will also be in the glass. The Divine fullness was inside of our Lord and outside all at one time. Also, in like manner, God was in the heavens above and at the same time ministering to Israel from between the Cheribums in the most holy place. This should not be that hard to understand, God fills the universe, yet He fills thousands of believers and communicate with each of them at the same time. He can do this because He is God ! Moses put it to us this way : “...the Lord He is God in the heaven ABOVE, and upon the earth BENEATH; there is none else.” (Deut. 4:39).

One final comment concerning the baptism of our Lord. God had a two-fold purpose in giving this vision to John: He wanted to show him that this was the Christ and also, He wanted to announce to the world the beginning

of His ministry. Always, at the thresh-hold of any major change in God's plan for mankind, there has always been some AUDIO/ VISUAL SIGN from heaven to mark the event. At Sinai the people 'heard' the thunder and voice of God and 'saw' great fire and smoke. When Jesus was baptized John 'saw' the dove and 'heard' the voice. On the day of Pentecost the disciples witnessed this audio/visual sign with the out-pouring of the Holy Ghost, which marked another great event in history. They 'saw' tongues of fire land 'hear' a rushing mighty wind. Nevertheless, the important thing to note is: that, they were not filled with tongues of fire or a rushing mighty wind, but with the Holy Spirit! The tongues of fire and the wind was this audio/visual sign language that only ACCOMPANIED the Holy Ghost outpouring! Likewise, in the baptism of our Lord, the dove and voice were there as an audio/visual sign to ACCOMPANY the Lord and to mark this great moment in history.

THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD

We now enter into a study of extreme importance. Once again, the truth has been distorted by those Traditionalists who do not understand biblical terminology. To start off, I wish quote from a book by Dr. Moule, dealing with 'idiomatic expressions in the Hebrew language.' Please note: "Any expression such as the HAND (of God) are purely Hebrew (that is, idiomatic expressions peculiar to the Hebrew language), and should not be interpreted literally, except for some word, or phrase, denoting POWER. So, we understand that terms such as 'the hand' 'the arm' or 'the right hand' (of God) are purely idiomatic expressions peculiar to the Hebrew language. Remember, Hebrew is a religious language filled with spiritual and poetic expression towards God. God uses symbolism, frequently, to illustrate some important truth. Even though such truth is expressed symbolically, the fulfillment should be taken literally.

So, we understand that the use of the term 'Right Hand' is symbolic for the execution of POWER. The most common use of this POWER, in the scripture, was for the execution of JUDGMENT and VENGEANCE against God's enemies. Israel's enemies were God's enemies. Likewise, the church's enemies are God's enemies. In Heb. 10:30 He says: "...Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord..." The first example that we have concerning 'The Right Hand' of Power executing vengeance against Israel's enemies, was the case of Pharaoh's army (Ex. 15:3-6). This account in Exodus establishes for us the over-riding principle whereby we can understand 'the purpose of God' whenever the term 'The Right Hand of Power' is used.

Now, we come to the question: what does this have to do with the

Godhead ? Well, the Traditionalist Theologians would make us believe that the 'Right Hand' of God is actually the 'Second Person of the Trinity' acting under the authority of God the Father, which is the 'First Person.' Granted, there are some scriptures that SEEM to imply the presence of a 'Second Person,' But, close examination of all scriptures dealing with the matter will show that this is not the case. At this point, we will take you to Psalms 110:1, which reads: "The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou at my RIGHT HAND until I make thine enemies thy footstool." The first thing that we note is that this is dealing with a TEMPORAL situation, not an eternal one. He says: "..UNTIL I make thine.." A parallel text is found in I Cor.15:24-28; we will focus on ver. 38, which reads: "And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall THE SON also himself be subject unto Him that put all things under Him, THAT GOD MAY BE ALL IN ALL." The next question is: what is happening here in this TEMPORAL situation ? In a previous study we talked about 'The Sonship title' or, 'The Official Title of the Redeemer.'" which is: THE SON OF MAN. Please keep this title in your mind as we progress through this study ! Most of the scriptures that deal with the coming VENGEANCE and WRATH upon sinful man; have two things in common, they are: 'The Right Hand' and 'The Son of Man.'" For example: Matt. 24:30, which says, "And then shall appear the sign of THE SON OF MAN in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall SEE THE SON OF MAN coming in the clouds of heaven with POWER and great glory." (see also Lu.22:69 Acts 7:56 Heb. 10:12-13 Rev.14:14)

In order to understand what's happening we must 'explore a little into the mind of God.' Everything that God does has a specific purpose. There is one thing that is very clear in the bible and that is, that God jealously guards His Holiness Image. No sinful man can ever look upon God and live. Therefore, in order for God to have any dealing with sinful men He must take upon Himself another face, or image. God has chosen to use this 'human image' which is called 'The Son of Man' in order to deal with a wicked world. He has gone so far as to allow evil men to curse, mock and blaspheme His name. But, this is THE ONLY IMAGE that evil men will ever have of God. Let us note a very interesting verse found in Matt 12:32, which will illustrate this point: "And whosoever speaketh a word against the SON OF MAN is shall be forgiven him; but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world neither in the world to come."

The absolute necessity for guarding His Holiness, is the reason for the the 'Duel-Nature' of God. But, once that last act of redemption is complete; and the last sinner has been saved; and the last act of judgment and vengeance has been executed; and the last enemy has been made His footstool; then, will God do away with the duel-nature. He will no longer use the title of 'The

Son of Man,' since there will be no more works to perform in which He must deal with fallen man. Read again I Cor. 15:28 "...the son also himself be subject unto that put all things under him, that God may BE ALL IN ALL." It is clear that Jesus Christ is not going to disappear only the office of Redeemer/ Avenger is going to disappear. (see Lu.1:33 Eph.1:21-22 Col.1:16).

Let us go back again to Psalms 110: 5, which says:" The LORD AT THY RIGHT HAND shall strike through the kings in the day of wrath." Using the Trinitarian theory you have two persons going forth to strike the kings. But, in the actual fulfillment of this prophecy (Rev. 19:11-21) John saw the heavens opened a great white horse and He that sat upon him was called Faithful and True. Every reference here is to only One God going forth to execute judgment. He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lord. There cannot be two 'Lord of Lords' (see Isa. 63:3-4).

Before we leave the subject of the 'The Right Hand' of God, let us look at the vision that Stephan saw at the moment of his death. In Acts 7:55-56, he states: "...Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the SON OF MAN standing on the right hand of God." Again, on the surface, it would appear that Stephan did see two persons standing side by side. But what did Stephan actually see with his NATURAL EYES. ? As we stated before, the enemies of the church are the enemies of God. That's why the Lord said unto Saul as he was persecuting the church: "Saul, Saul why persecuteth thou meit is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." (see Acts 9:4-5 also 12:23). What Stephan was seeing was a 'preview' of coming vengeance upon his killers. Remember, that 'The Right Hand' of God is usually synonymous with God's vengeance against His enemies. Did Stephan see two persons ? No ! He saw "the glory of God" and Jesus standing at the right hand of that glory. With his natural eyes he saw only Jesus Christ who is "the IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD." (Col.1:15). As he gave up his spirit, he recognized only ONE: ".....calling upon God, and saying LORD JESUS, receive my spirit." If there were two standing there why he did not acknowledge the other divine person ?

To sum up what will take place at the time of the end : The Almighty God will go forth as 'The Right Hand' of Power, but all that wicked men will be allowed to see will be His human image, called 'The Son of Man.' They will never see him in His glory and holiness, because they're not worthy ! The final act that He will perform as 'The Son of Man' will be to subject all enemies under His feet, including satan. (see Jn.5:22 Rev. 20:12-15). After this, God will abolish the 'sonship office' and the title 'son of man' because there will be no more works to execute with evil men.

One final thought on the 'Arm of the Lord' In Isa. 59:16 and Isa. 63:5 we

find the phrase: ...His arm brought salvation.....” This refers, symbolically, to power of God to save His people from sin. Who is the ‘Arm of the Lord’? According to Isa. 53:1 Jesus Christ is the ‘Arm of the Lord!’ This is a beautiful Oneness scripture, because no one can be separated from their arm. It is not possible to interpret these scriptures in a literal way. It is obvious what the Lord is saying here; He is saying, that His OWN ARM should be manifested in flesh. His own arm would do what no one else had the ‘power’ to do. His own Arm would heal the sick and raise the dead. His own Arm would raise Him out of the grave on the third day.

XI THE CONCLUSION

Beloved Reader, I trust that this treatise on the ‘Oneness of God’ has been a blessing to you. There are so many good books on this subject and there is no way that any one person could ever exhaust the subject of God’s Oneness. At best, if we remain humble before the Lord, He will give us a ‘glimpse’ into His many mysteries and secrets. All truth comes by revelation! the problem with most people is that they do not have the sincerity and hunger for truth. Jesus, in His prayer, actually thanked the Father ‘because thou hast hid these things from the wise and the prudent, and hast REVEALED THEM UNTO BABES.’ We must be faithful and obedient to whatever truth God may lead us into. He is not obligated to lead us into more truth, until we obey what we already know. If you can understand your need to be baptized in JESUS NAME than you should obey that command first, even if you do not understand all the mysteries of His incarnation.

The Bible is very clear on the subject of water baptism. Jesus Himself, left us this example to follow. Without this sacrament no one can enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus said to Nicodemus: “....Verily, verily I say unto thee, Except a man be born of the water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.” (Jn. 3:5). There’s only one correct way in which to administer baptism that is, in the NAME OF JESUS! (Acts 2:38 ; 4:12 ; 19:5). Some have said that they would rather obey the words of Jesus (Matt. 28:19), then to they would the words of Peter (Acts 2:38). What they don’t realize is that Jesus gave to Peter the ‘Keys to the Kingdom’ and with that the AUTHORITY “.....whatsoever thou shalt BIND ON EARTH SHALL BE BOUND IN HEAVEN.” It would be foolish to think that Peter would ,in any way, contradict His Lord; or, to think that the bible would not be in harmony with itself! The message that Peter preached on the day of Pentecost was under the full anointing of the Holy Ghost, and was forever bound and sealed in heaven! The Apostles understood fully the message of Pentecost. This never was a controversy in the early church. The controversy arose many years

after the Apostolic era.

The Author

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It is noted, that in this book, the biography of Cicero is written as a novel
based upon his own writings. It is presumed that the quotations are factual.
Several references to the sect of the 'Unknown God.'
pages 65, 68-69, 76-77, 158, 196-197, 259,268, 272, 296-7**

**The name 'Noe Ben Joel' is a fictional name. Cicero does not mention
the name of this Jewish friend, in his writings.**

**The following is a quotation from 'THE FORWARD' by T. Caldwell page 10
(She is quoting Atticus, Editor and Publisher and Cicero's dearest friend) : "He
was deeply involved in Judean Theology and Philosophy, and was well
acquainted with the prophets and particularly with the prophecies of the
Messias-to-come, and was a worshipper of the Unknown God. He longed to
see the Incarnation, prophesied by King David and Isaias and other of the
mighty prophets, and his vision of the end of the world, contained in the first
and second chapters of Joel (K.J.V.) and certainly describes the world in a
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moving, as he relates his dream of the vision of God's hand."**

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