

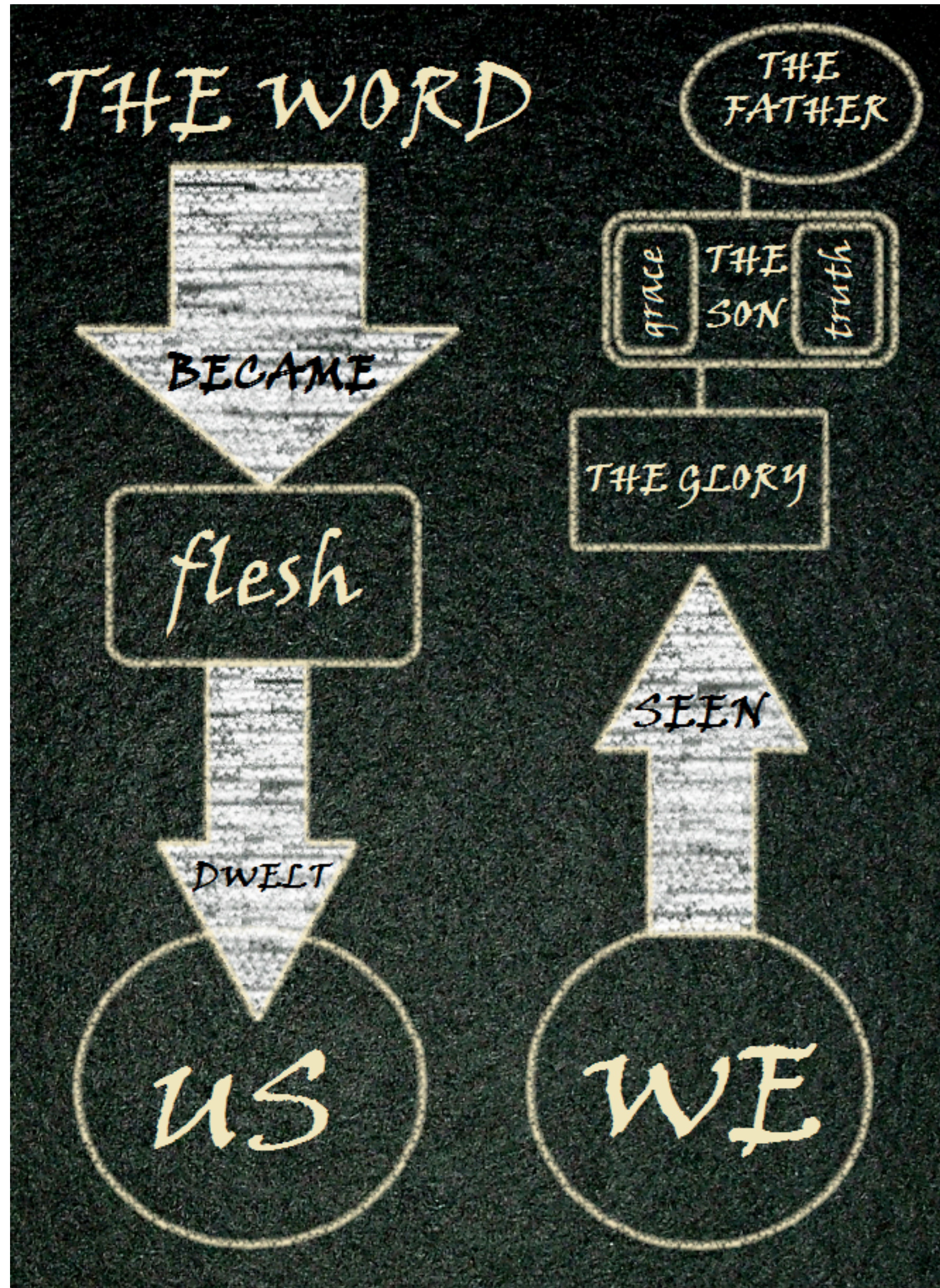


AN ETERNAL RELATIONSHIP

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THE TRIUNE GOD





## THE INCARNATION

And the Word (Jesus) became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. – *John 1:14 (NASB95)*

- Jesus existed from eternity past: He **became** flesh.
- In this verse alone we have the proof that Jesus was **preexistent**.



▶ Notice Three Statements About Jesus:

1. He **EXISTED** in the beginning.

2. He **was with GOD** in the beginning.

3. He **was (and is!) GOD.**

▶ What does verse 3 tell us about Him? **HE IS THE CREATOR!**

▶ HINT: "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made." – *John 1:3 NKJV*

**1 IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD,  
AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD, AND  
THE WORD WAS GOD.**

**2 HE WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH  
GOD.**

**3 ALL THINGS CAME INTO BEING  
THROUGH HIM, AND APART FROM HIM  
NOTHING CAME INTO BEING THAT HAS  
COME INTO BEING.**

**– John 1:1-3 (NASB95)**



JOHN 1:1-3

**In the beginning**  
**was the WORD**

And the Word  
**was with God,**  
and the Word  
**was God.**

He was in the  
**beginning**  
with God.

All things were made through Him,  
**and without Him**  
nothing was made that was made.

“The person of Christ incarnate is best understood in comparison to the person of Christ before He became incarnate. In any orthodox statement of the doctrine of the Trinity, the Second Person is described as possessing all the attributes of the godhead, being distinguished as the Second Person in contrast to the First or Third Person of the Trinity and as the eternal Son in contrast to the Father or the Holy Spirit.”

– *Dr. John Walvoord*



## Definitions:

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*INCARNATIONAL: The Word (JESUS) became flesh and dwelt among us.*

**AN ORTHODOX, BIBLICAL VIEW OF GOD  
(YAHWEH) MUST BEGIN WITH  
INCARNATIONAL, TRINITARIAN THEOLOGY.**

*TRINITARIAN: God eternally exists in three persons who are in perfect unity.*

Who was there at the very beginning of the creation?

1. **JESUS CHRIST** was there because He is the Creator (John 1:3)
  - For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

—Colossians 1:16-17 NAS95)





Who was here at the very beginning of the creation?

1. **JESUS CHRIST** was there because He is the Creator (John 1:3)
  2. The Spirit of God, the **HOLY SPIRIT**, was there.
- You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the ground.  
— *Psalms 104:30 NAS95*

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and **the Spirit of God** was moving over the surface of the waters. — **Genesis 1:1–2 NAS95**

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*NOTE: Psalm 104:24-30 in context:*

“The psalmist broke forth with praise to the **LORD** for all of His Creation, made in His great **wisdom.**” — Dr. Allen P. Ross in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*

Who was here at the very beginning of the creation?

1. **JESUS CHRIST** was there because He is the Creator (John 1:3)
  2. The Spirit of God, **the HOLY SPIRIT** was there.
  3. **GOD the FATHER** was there.
- For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him (JESUS), because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God.

— John 5:18 NAS95

In the beginning **God** created the heavens and the earth.  
The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

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— Genesis 1:1–2 NAS95



**GENESIS 1:1-2 AND JOHN 1:1-3, 14  
SHOW US THAT THE TRIUNE GOD HAS  
BEEN IN PERFECT UNITY FOREVER.**

- ▶ “Trinity” - and “Triune God” are used interchangeably.
- ▶ TRIUNE is preferred by many as the Godhead is truly a TRI-UNITY.



# OLD TESTAMENT FORESHADOWINGS

- ▶ There are many places in the Old Testament that foreshadow the Trinity.
- ▶ The SHEMA: "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!"
  - *Deuteronomy 6:4 NAS95*
- YAHWEH is our ELOHIM, YAHWEH is ONE
- This statement is not that GOD (singular) is ONE; but that YAHWEH is ONE.







## OLD TESTAMENT FORESHADOWINGS

The LORD bless you, and keep you;  
The LORD make His face shine on you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The LORD lift up His countenance on  
you, And give you peace.'

– *Numbers 6:24-26 NAS95*

- ▶ Notice the triplet structure.
- ▶ There are numerous Old Testament passages that contain this structure.



## NUMBERS 6:24-26

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Many branches of the church have adopted this blessing for use at the close of Christian worship. And this is entirely appropriate, for not only are its petitions of abiding relevance, but in the threefold repetition of the divine name theologians have traditionally seen an adumbration (*foreshadowing*) of the Trinity. The New Testament affirms that Jesus is Lord, and that the Holy Spirit is Lord (Rom. 10:9; 2 Cor. 3:17). In Jesus the full meaning of peace is revealed: he gave peace, made peace and is our peace (John 14:27; Eph. 2:14f.). This new covenant dimension gives an added depth to a prayer that in its Old Testament setting is already extraordinarily meaningful.

— Gordon J. Wenham, *Numbers: An Introduction and Commentary*,  
*Tyndale Old Testament Commentary*



## OLD TESTAMENT FORESHADOWINGS OF THE TRINITY

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1. Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
2. Give thanks to the God of gods, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
3. Give thanks to the Lord of lords, For His lovingkindness is everlasting.
4. To Him who alone does great wonders, For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
5. To Him who made the heavens with skill, For His lovingkindness is everlasting;
6. To Him who spread out the earth above the waters, For His lovingkindness is everlasting; – *Psalms 136:1-6 NAS95*



## OLD TESTAMENT FORESHADOWINGS OF THE TRINITY

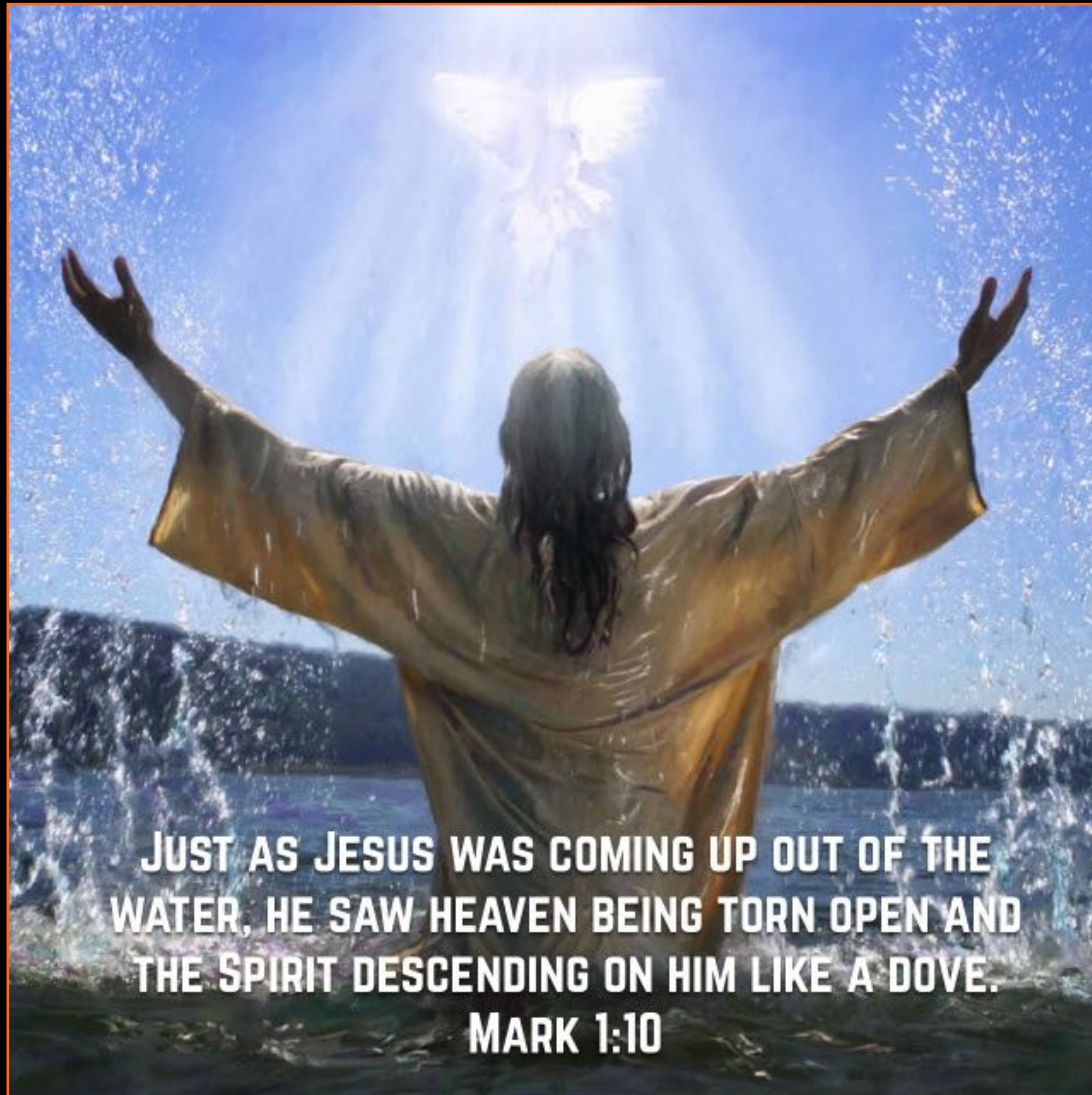
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1. In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.
  2. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.
  3. And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory." – *Isaiah 6:1-3 NAS95*
- This is known as "the *trisagion*. (Holy, holy, holy)
    - ▶ Trisagion means "thrice holy."
    - ▶ It is used in hymns in Orthodox/liturgical churches, and is a name for some special services, with the focus on the Holy Trinity.



# THE TRINITY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

## THE ETERNAL RELATIONSHIP



- ▶ At Jesus Christ's baptism we see the first New Testament revelation of the Triune God:
- ▶ After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased." – *Matthew 3:16-17 NAS95*
- ▶ And the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "You are My beloved Son, in You I am well-pleased." – *Luke 3:22 NAS95*
- ▶ The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are all present!



# THE TRINITY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

## THE ETERNAL RELATIONSHIP

- ▶ The Lord Jesus' command for us to baptize those who receive Christ also features the Trinity!
- ▶ "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, – **Matthew 28:19 NAS95**
- ▶ "NAME" is singular, including the three members of the Holy Trinity.
- ▶ "The experience of God in these three Persons is the essential basis of discipleship. At the same time the singular noun name (not 'names') underlines the unity of the three Persons." – R. T. France, *Matthew: An Introduction and Commentary*







DISC

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“THE EXPERIENCE OF  
GOD IN THESE THREE  
PERSONS IS THE  
ESSENTIAL BASIS OF  
DISCIPLESHIP.”

– R. T. France, *Matthew: An  
Introduction and Commentary*



The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, and the love of **God**, and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit**, be with you all.

**2 Corinthians 13:14 NAS95**



# HOW THE TRIUNE GOD IMPACTS YOUR LIFE

- ▶ God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit all existed before the Creation, were active in the Creation, and have been active ever since in dealing with their Creation.
- ▶ Therefore, the Holy Trinity has an ETERNAL RELATIONSHIP between Themselves.
- ▶ The Triune God made man in His own image:
- ▶ Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;" ...God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

– *Genesis 1:26-27 NAS95*

- ❁ A PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY IS THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING WE DO.
- ❁ THE TRIUNE GOD ENJOYS A PERFECT, ETERNAL RELATIONSHIP WITHIN ITSELF.
- ❁ OUR GOAL AS CHRISTIANS MUST BE TO RECONCILE PEOPLE TO THE TRIUNE GOD.
- ❁ THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOT ONLY FORGIVENESS, HEAVEN, ETC.
- ❁ THESE ARE BENEFITS OF OUR BEING IN RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HOLY TRINITY.



**THEREFORE, WE ARE AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST, AS THOUGH GOD WERE MAKING AN APPEAL THROUGH US; WE BEG YOU ON BEHALF OF CHRIST, BE RECONCILED TO GOD.**

**— 2 Corinthians 5:20 NAS95**



# WHY IS UNDERSTANDING THE TRINITY SO IMPORTANT?

- ▶ Biblical Christianity is the ONLY religion that seeks to reconcile people to the Triune God!
- ▶ The Trinity is a wonderful and intriguing truth of God's Word.
- ▶ If our finite minds could fully comprehend GOD, we probably wouldn't have the proper view of Him.
- ▶ Here is the math: Some Trinity rejectors say  $1+1+1=3...$
- ▶ ...we can tell them that  $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1!$



# WHY IS UNDERSTANDING THE TRINITY SO IMPORTANT?

- ▶ When you trust the Gospel and receive Jesus Christ as your Savior, when you're born-again, you are placed into a right relationship in a number of ways:
  1. A right relationship with the Triune God. You are now His child and indwelt with the Holy Spirit.
  2. A new relationship with those who know Christ. We call this the Church. Grace United is a subset church of the big Church of the Firstborn! (Heb. 12:23)
  3. A new understanding and relationship of those around you, seeing them as people who need to be reconciled to God, but who must be loved whether they are or not.
  4. A right relationship with yourself. You are now complete in Christ (Col. 2:10)



# WHY IS UNDERSTANDING THE TRINITY SO IMPORTANT?

- ▶ One of the greatest and most wonderful truths of all this is that our right and eternal relationship with the Triune God can only be attained one way:
- ▶ BY GRACE!
- ▶ God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit have decreed that the only way to be in glorious relationship with them is to receive their gift!
- ▶ Are you in a right, eternal relationship with the Triune God?





AN ETERNAL RELATIONSHIP

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THE TRIUNE GOD