

# Behold your God!

## Exploring the doctrine of the Trinity

Text: **Select texts**

Ben Joseph • September 26, 2021

- The doctrine of the Trinity is one of the mysterious doctrines in the Bible.
- How can God be both one and three?
- How can God be three persons, yet one God?
  - Trinity is a mystery (Deut. 29:29; Isaiah 55:8-9)
  - Trinity is the Biblical truth and the Bible alone must be used to explain it

Be aware of errors in explaining the Trinity:

- Modalism
  - Arianism
  - Subordinationism
  - Adoptionism
  - Tritheism
- The word “Trinity” does not appear in the Bible, but the concept does
  - The doctrine of the Trinity affirms in one God (Deut. 6:4; Isaiah 44:6)
  - There is one God, but oneness does not imply absolute singularity.
    - The Hebrew word used to describe God’s oneness is “echad” which demonstrates compound unity of oneness. If the Hebrew text had intended to use absolute oneness, the word “yachid” would have been used.
    - The Hebrew word translated “God” is the word “El” or “Elohim”, whereby “Elohim” is the plural form of “El”, and 2845 times the word “God” is used in the Old Testament, 2607 the plural form is used.
  - The doctrine of the Trinity is progressively revealed in the Bible (Gen. 1:1-2; 26; 3:22; 11:7; Matthew 3:16; 28:19; Cor. 13-14)

### 1. WHAT IS THE TRINITY?

- “God eternally exists as three persons, the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, and each person is fully God, and there is one God.” (Wayne Gruden)
  - What does it mean God as a “person”? (Mind to think, heart to reflect, and a will to choose)
  - Each member of the Trinity has a distinct center of consciousness thus they relate to each other personally.
  - Trinity is NOT three individuals who together make one God, or three gods joined together; Trinity does NOT divide God into three parts since the Bible is clear that all three persons are each one hundred percent God; Trinity is NOT each person of the Trinity “one third” God, rather each person of the Trinity is 100% God.
  - “Essence” refers to the attributes of God and the three share the same attributes.
  - The Father is God (Duet. 4:35)
  - The Son (Jesus) is God (Isa. 9:6; John 1:1-3; 8:58; 10:30; Col. 1:15-20; Rev. 1:8)
  - The Holy Spirit is God (John 14:26; Acts 5:3-4)
  - The Holy Spirit is NOT a force, rather a person with qualities of personhood (Heb. 3:7; Acts 15:28; 1 Cor. 2:10; Eph. 4:30; 1 Cor. 12:11; 2 Cor. 13:14)
  - All members of the Trinity are equal in essence but they do not have the same roles.
  - There is a functional subordination that exists within the Trinity.
- ### 2. WHY THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY?
- Highest revelation God has made Himself to people
  - Perfect picture of community and relationships
  - Unity in the midst of diversity
  - Perfect example of authority and submission
  - Solidified the salvation of mankind
  - The assurance of Prayer
  - Explains a relatable God