

II Cor. 3:17 -- "Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is..."

LIBERTY

A Ministry of Grace Baptist Church, Pittsfield, Illinois - 217-285-5230

Dr. Gary Dice, Pastor

Dr. Leonard Dice, Editor

March 1, 2020

Vol. XVII, No. 9

SALVATION!

If you would like to become a child of God, sincerely from your heart pray something like the following:

Dear God, I'm a sinner headed for Hell, and I need to be saved. I cannot save myself, but I know You can do it for me. I do believe that Jesus in His death, burial and resurrection paid my sin debt and purchased salvation for me. I believe it, and right now I submit myself in full trust to Him. Please, God, forgive my sin and save me. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Making Sure We Don't Go Backward

Two perspiring Irishmen on a tandem bicycle at last got to the top of the steep hill. "That was a stiff climb, Pat," said one.

"It was that," admitted Pat. "And if I hadn't kept the brake on, we would have gone backward sure."

Too many in the Lord's work manage to "keep the brake on," so hindering their own advance and also that of the Lord's people.

Will The Real Christian Stand Up

Years ago, I remember watching a television game show, where the viewer and the player were to guess who was the real celebrity.

Three people claimed to be the celebrity. They answered questions about his life, work, and play. Sometimes they even talked with the right accent and acted as if they were the special guest. No matter their efforts, at the end of the show it was revealed that only one was genuine and others were imposters.

The same occurs in many a spiritual life. Many claim to be a child of the King but their lives reveal that they don't live up to the Christian banner they stand under.

Luke 8:46 points the finger and asks the question, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?". Don't call God your Father unless you are obedient to His Way. Allow Him to be exactly what the word Lord means, to be your controller and master of your life.

— Bill Brinkworth

In Days Gone By

On March 1, 1790, Congress authorized the first U.S. Census.

On March 1, 1872, Congress authorized creation of Yellowstone National Park.

On March 2, 1933, the "King Kong" movie premiered in New York.

THE TRINITY

Can Three Be One?

Christians are often accused of worshiping three gods. Admittedly, the truth of a triune (three in one) God is a difficult, if not impossible, concept to grasp. God is not like humans. So every attempt to explain Him falls short.

Yet Christians worship only one God: the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of Israel. The biblical reality is that He exists as three separate but equal Persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Some have tried to explain this concept using H₂O, which can exist as a solid (ice), liquid (water), and gas (steam). Others use an egg, which is made up of three distinct parts yet is one, or a three-leaf clover. All these attempts seem good on the surface but break down when trying to explain the triune Godhead.

No one can truly explain the Trinity. We know Jesus is God, yet He is not the Father. Nor is He the Spirit. The Father is God, yet He is neither the Son nor the Spirit; and the Spirit is God, yet He is not the Son or the Father.

However, both the Hebrew Scriptures and the New Testament support the trinity of God.

The prophet Isaiah wrote, "Listen to Me, O Jacob, and Israel, My called: I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last. Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand has stretched out the heavens" (Isa. 48:12-13). The One speaking identifies Himself as the eternal Creator of the world.

The speaker continues, "Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there. And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit have sent Me" (v. 16).

So the speaker clearly is God. Yet He says "the Lord GOD and His Spirit" sent Him. The three persons of the Godhead all appear in this verse: The One being sent is God, and the Ones doing the sending are God. Together, they constitute the true and living triune God of Israel: "And now the Lord GOD [the Father], and His Spirit [the Holy Spirit], have sent Me [the Son]."

Isaiah then identified the speaker: "Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: 'I am the LORD your God'" (v. 17). The speaker is the Redeemer, the Messiah.

More than 700 years later, the apostle John received specific revelation concerning the end-times. The risen Messiah declared to Him, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty"

(Rev. 1:8). The speaker here is Jesus, the Redeemer—the Messiah and second Person of the triune Godhead, the same One who spoke in Isaiah 48:16.

Scripture ascribes the act of creation to Him: "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible. . . . All things were created through Him and for Him . . . who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence" (Col. 1:15-16, 18).

Also, "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made" (Jn. 1:3).

Like Judaism, Christianity is monotheistic. The reality is that God is a plurality in His oneness.

The creedal statement of Judaism, the *Shema*, allows for this plurality: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!" (Dt. 6:4). The Hebrew word translated "one" is *echad*, which denotes a plurality within a unity.

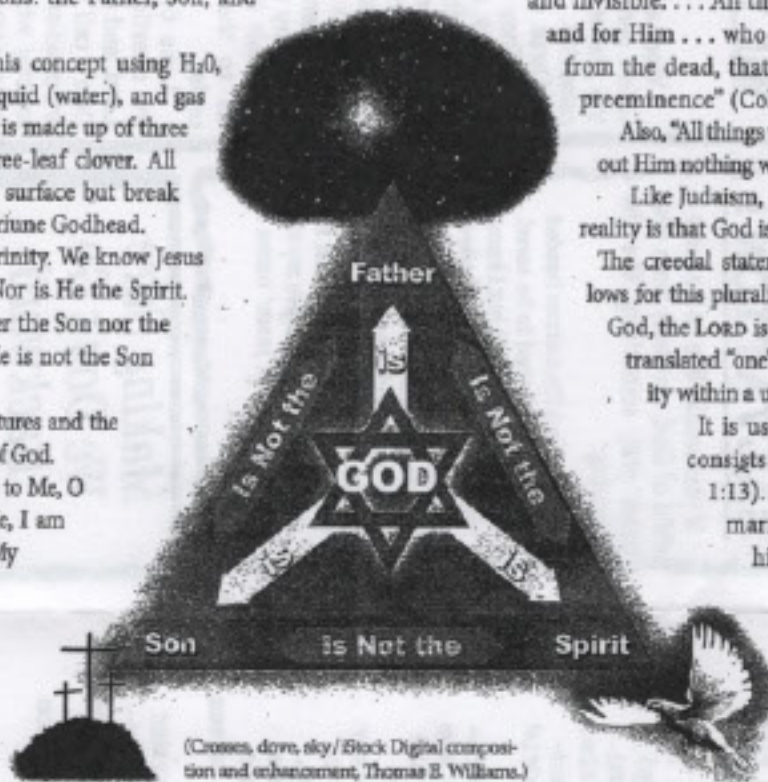
It is used to refer to a single day that consists of evening and morning (Gen. 1:13). It is also used to describe the marriage union: "A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one [*echad*] flesh" (2:24).

When the Israelite spies returned from the Land of Promise to report to Moses, they brought from the "Valley of Eshcol . . . one

[*echad*] cluster of grapes" (Num. 13:23). It was a single cluster composed of many.

Because God is triune, He could come to Earth as a Baby in the Person of Jesus, yet still sit on His throne in heaven. Many find this truth difficult to grasp. But God is omnipotent and omnipresent; and with Him, nothing is impossible.

by Thomas C. Simcox, *The Friends of Israel*



(Crosses, dove, sky / Stock Digital composition and enhancement, Thomas B. Williams.)

The above illustration is called a paradigm, or a small model, showing the relationship of the Trinity. In Romans 1:19-20 the Trinity is called the Godhead. The Father is not the Son, the Holy Spirit is not the Son, the Son is not the Holy Spirit and the Son is not the Father. However, notice that God is the Father, God is the Son and God is the Holy Spirit. (See Below).

NOTE: Everything in the world has three parts. If you take one part away, you have nothing. A book has three parts, length, width and depth. Take one part away and you have nothing. This is true with everything. So it is with God; He is a composite God consisting of three parts: Father, Son, Holy Spirit, as taught in the Word. The entire universe is made up of three things: matter, time and space. Matter consists of solids, liquids and gases. Time has three parts: past, present and future. Space has three parts: length, width and depth. The atom

is the smallest building block of the world and yet it has three parts: protons, neutrons and electrons. All the food you eat comes in three parts: skin, flesh and core. The egg has three parts: shell, white and yolk. You are a three part person: body, soul and spirit. Read Romans 1:19-20 where Paul explains it clearly for us to see. Everything is made to exactly reveal the very nature of God. Everything reflects the Godhead. If you do not believe it, the Apostle Paul says that you are without excuse.

-LRD

Miscellaneous.

Leonard R. Dice, Editor and Asst. Pastor

*STORIES
*EVENTS
*VIEWS
*NEWS



IT HAPPENED IN THE BOOT-HEEL OF MISSOURI

I relate this story because some of our church folks live in Missouri and travel across the Mississippi River to attend Grace Baptist Church here in Pittsfield, Illinois. We are about 20 miles from the river. We also have a church bus route that brings children and adults across the Mississippi, and when church is over they return to Missouri, crossing the river again. I believe this article will be of interest, especially to Missourians, and probably to Illinoisians as well.

In the boot-heel of Missouri, located in the southeast corner of the state, a massive earthquake shook the Mississippi River valley on December 16, 1811 at 2 a.m. in the morning. It was heard in Mexico and Canada, and President Madison also heard it in Washington, D.C. It was the first of three massive earthquakes during a 4-month period along the New Madrid fault system.

The town of Little Prairie, which is now called Caruthersville, Missouri, was utterly destroyed. Houses sunk into the earth, trees snapped like twigs and one resident watched the Mississippi River "rise up like a loaf of bread" and spew water, sand and black sulphur toward the sky. Ten miles away a woman walked out to her smokehouse and water well only to find them on the other side of the Mississippi River. Now, here is an amazing thing: sandbars dissolved, uprooted trees accumulated, docked ships found themselves on dry land, and THE MIGHTY MISSISSIPPI RIVER FLOWED BACKWARDS! Powerful waves carried boats upriver.

Another quake on February 7, plunged enough marshland under water in Northwestern, Tennessee, on the east side of the river, to create Reelfoot Lake in Tennessee, opposite the boot-heel area. The devastation to landowners was so great that Congress passed the first-ever federal disaster relief legislation in 1815.

Indian wars were still being fought, and the great Chief Tecumseh believed that this was an indication of God's anger with the white man. He offered this interpretation of the earthquake: "The Great Spirit is angry with our white enemies. He speaks in thunder, and the earth swallows up villages and drinks up the Mississippi." He believed his war with the U.S. had Divine approval.

The states of southern Illinois, western Kentucky and western Tennessee were also affected by this great quake.

It's good to know that the God of all Creation is in complete control, and whatever happens comes from His all-wise design. It's good to know Him who holds the world in His hands.