



THE

# TRINITY

GOD IN 3 PERSONS

Week 1

# Class Purpose

- “The doctrine of the Trinity is one of the most important doctrines of the Christian faith. To study the Bible’s teachings on the Trinity gives us great insight into the question that is at the center of all of our seeking after God: What is God like in himself? Here we learn that in himself, in his very being, God exists in the persons of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, yet he is one God.
  - Wayne Grudem (Systematic Theology) p. 226



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GOD IN 3 PERSONS

# Basic Definition

- 1. The Bible teaches there is only one true God
- 2. The Bible identifies three eternal Persons as YHWH/God
- 3. Only one God exists

# Shema

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.”

*Deut. 6:4*



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# Theistic Views

- Monotheism: only 1 deity
- Modalism: Roles played by one person
- Tritheism: 3 gods in a cluster
- Unitarianism: Single personality of god
- Polytheism: Multiple deities
- Henotheism: 1 supreme deity is worshiped over others
- Pantheism: god is everything material
- Deism: Impersonal god
- Arianism: Jesus was a created being

# Deny the Trinity

- Mormon (LDS)
- Jehovah's Witness
- Islam
- Christian Science
- Oneness Pentecostals/Jesus Only Churches  
(United Pentecostal Church-UPC)
- Apostolic Pentecostals
- Scientology
- Unitarian Church





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# Trinity in Community

- **Existed eternally:**
  - Father exists eternally: (John 1:1, 14, 18)
  - Son exists eternally: (John 1:1)
  - Spirit exists eternally: (Heb 9:14)
- **Loved eternally:**
  - Does not need our love in order to be fulfilled
  - The love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are eternal

# Person vs. Being

- Very important to note, the Trinity is NOT teaching:
  - 3 Persons in 1 Person
  - 3 Beings in 1 Being
- Rather, 3 Persons in the 1 Beings of God

# Person vs. Being

- *A rock* has the being of a rock,
  - but does not have a person
  - No personality/consciousness
- *A man* has the Being of a Human
  - This Being has I Person
  - I Personality



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# The Trinity is:

- 3 distinct, co-equal, co-eternal Persons
  - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
- These Persons are the 1 Being of God (YHWH)
  - God's Being includes 3-Persons
  - It's wrong to assume that a "Being can only have 1 Person"
- For God, "Being" has no physical properties
  - Namely, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

# God is:

- 1 Eternal Being of God (YHWH)
  - the WHAT
- In 3 Eternal Persons (Father, Son, Spirit)
  - the WHO
- 1 "What" and 3 "Whos"



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# Biblical Basis for the Trinity

- 1. There is one, and only one, God
- 2. The person of the Father is God
- 3. The person of the Son is God
- 4. The Person of the Holy Spirit is God
- 5. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are distinct and simultaneously distinguishable persons
- 6. But there is only one God



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Week 2

# Basic Definition

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# Economic Trinity

"The economic Trinity can also be called the social model of the Trinity, the community of the Trinity. This emphasizes the three distinct centers of consciousness who are wholly equal in nature, genuinely personal in relationships, and each mutually indwelling in each other... these persons wholly manifest the DNA of deity."

- "Jesus in Trinitarian Perspective" Fred Sanders & Klaus Issler (2007)



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# Discussion

How would you define the different roles of the Godhead?



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# Submission

- When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all. (1 Cor 15:28)
- Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (Eph 5:22-24)



# Roles: Father

- Daddy
- Gives His People to the Son (John 6)

# Roles: Son

- OT Offices:
  - Prophet
  - Priest
  - King
- He Saves His People
  - John 6

# Roles: Spirit

- Creation (Gen 1:2)
- Christ's incarnation (Lk 1:35)
- Human regeneration (Jn 3:5-8)
- The believer's intercession (Rom 8:26-28)
- The inspiration and illumination of Scripture (1 Tim 3:16)



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# Deity of the Spirit

- “But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to *lie to the Holy Spirit* and to keep back for yourself part of the proceeds of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? and after it was sold, was it not at your disposal? Why is it that you have contrived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men *but to God*’” (Acts 5:3-4)

# The Personal Spirit

- Comforts/Helper (John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7)
- Teaches (John 14:26; 1 Cor. 2:13)
- Speaks (Acts 8:29; 13:2)
- Makes decisions (Acts 15:28)
- Grieves over sin (Eph. 4:30)
- Overrules human actions (Acts 16:6–7)
- Searches the deep things of God/knows thoughts (1 Cor. 2:10–11)
- Determines the distribution of spiritual gift (1 Cor. 12:11)
- Interprets & brings human prayer before the Father (Rom. 8:26–27)
- Assures believers of their adoption (Rom. 8:16)
- Bears witness to and glorifies Christ (John 15:26; 16:14)

# In Jesus' Ministry

- Brings the incarnation (Luke 1:35)
- Anoints Jesus for his public ministry at his baptism (Matt. 3:16; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:21–22)
- Fills Jesus (Luke 4:1)
- Leads and empowers Jesus throughout his earthly life (Luke 4:14, 18)
- Raises Jesus from the dead (1 Peter 3:18)
- The atoning work of Christ, with the Spirit playing a prominent role (Hebrews 9:14)
- Empowers gospel preaching (Acts 1:8)

# Personality

- Intellect/Knowledge
- Mind
- Emotions
- Will
- Teaches
- Testifies
- Guides
- Convicts
- Regenerates
- Commands





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# GOD'S GENDER

WEEK 4

## DOCTRINE

WHAT CHRISTIANS SHOULD BELIEVE

# Gender of God

- The Bible describes the Father & Son in masculine terms
- the Spirit is feminine in Hebrew (Ruach) and neuter in Greek (Pneuma)
- It's appropriate to call God "He"
- Terms of gender speak to relation, not gender identity

# Gender of God

- Importance:
  - God reveals Himself
    - (unlike impersonal pagan gods)
  - God is personal
    - (He's not an "It")
  - God is relational
    - (Father/Son relationships)





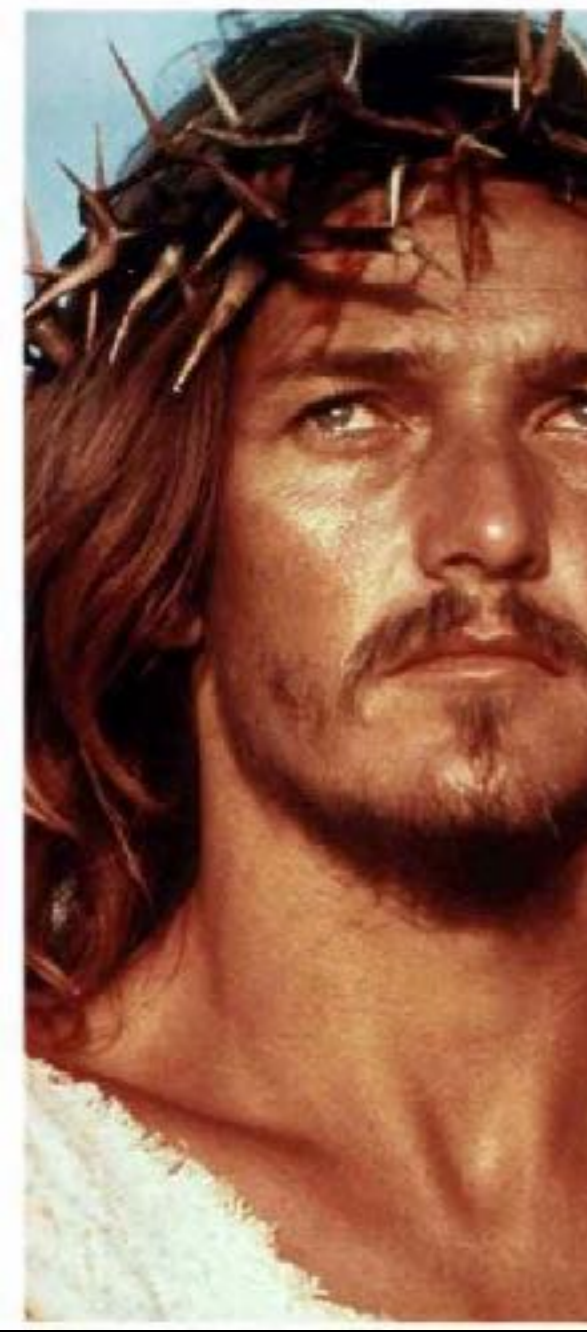
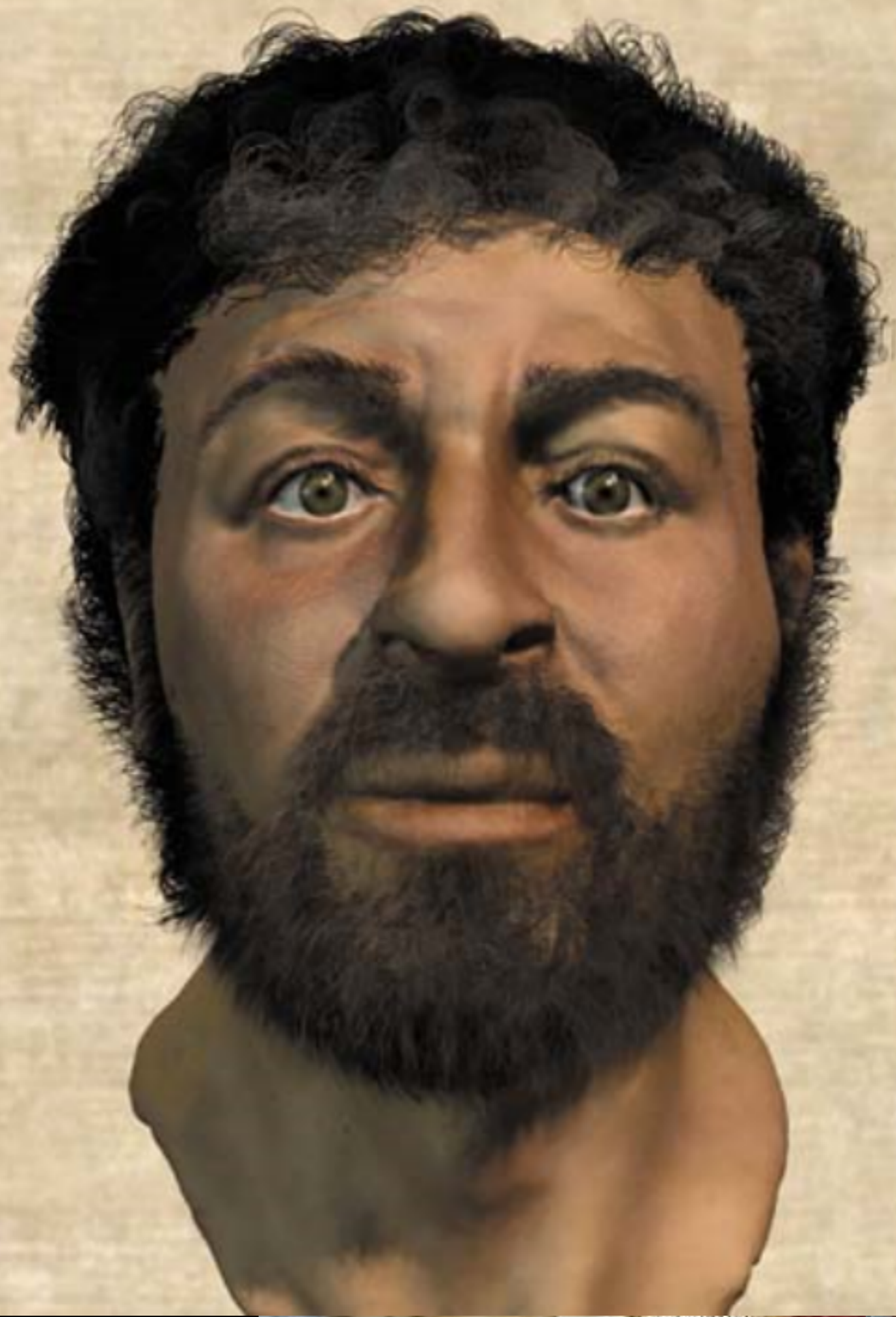
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Week 4







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# Exegesis

- the explanation or critical interpretation of a text (to explain)
- ἐξηγησις (to lead out)
- "WHAT WAS THE AUTHOR'S INTENDED MEANING?"

# exegetical process

- 1. What does the text say? Big picture
- 2. What do the words mean? Small picture
- 3. The genre

# Genre

- The lion sleeps tonight
- mountain lion released into homes
- lions achieve first crown
- lions lose title as king of the jungle

# tory

**H. FLOOD**  
Down with His Killing Right for Schmeling Lat- & Bravely.

written a very to the Perils of as he did to the Masterful Maxie us Progress of

was robbed of his when that Louis a the canvas and trial horse are e a satisfactory g from many eriment on his rested the cus- as able to dem- as what other lacked.

ly for publicity told the world the fight that have twice the seling or Max erests of truth, g to admit the that power in

## LIONS ACHIEVE FIRST CROWN IN PLAYOFF CONTEST

### 12,000 Watch Football Teams Battle in Snow Storm

### Detroit Scores 13 Points in Final Period Assault

Detroit, Mich. — (AP) — Detroit won its first National Professional Football League championship here yesterday as its powerful Lions, in a great display of straight football power, routed the New York Giants, 26 to 7, before 12,000 spectators who shivered under a snow storm throughout the contest.

A heavy field, spotted with pools of water, failed to slow the fast offense of the Lions, winners of the league's Western Division title.

Early in the first period two passes set the stage for a touchdown and

## Alberts' Week's Best Loebig H

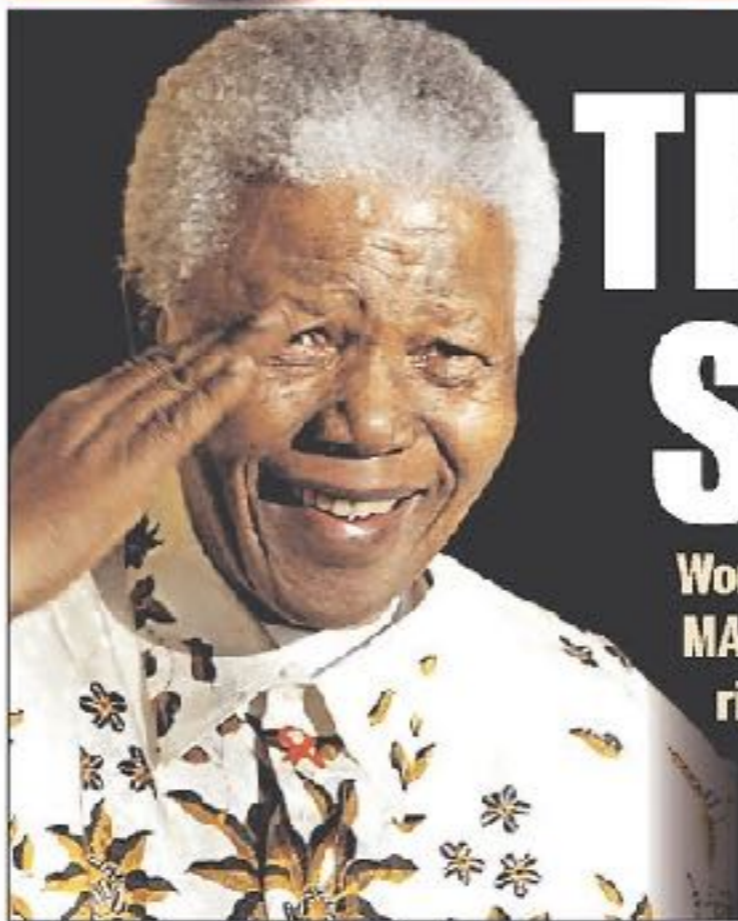
Dick Alberts' feat three-game totals—74 bowling play among Alberts achieved his City League, and will same league for the

**10 Highest Games Player League**

Loebig, GYM	.....
Mulligan, Cap. Dist. B	.....
Witteimer, Pine Hills	.....
F. Salerno, C. of C.	.....
Bronik, Polish AC	.....
Morse, Church	.....
Hendered, C. of C.	.....
Travison, Pastime	.....
Dixon, NYP&L	.....
Duke, Keeler	.....
Salerno, Grill Owners	.....
M. Pape, Linter	.....
Alberts, National City	.....

**CENTER Y Philbies—2**

Birnbaum	189	194	13
Lairy	144	150	14
Cole	127	160	1
Shafter	118	151	14
Osborne	175	177	11
Totals	731	832	6



# THE LION SLEEPS

World mourns death of **NELSON MANDELA**, whose fight for civil rights inspired generations

» PAGES 10, 15, 42-43

ALEXANDER/REAP

**FRIDAY \$50 MILLION** TAKE IT TO THE

**Circus blasted for sea lion act**

Cricket: Sarason helps Ireland to T20 win over Windies

MMA: Sauer gets the call to fight at UFC London

**PERFECT PAIR!**

THE LUCAS COUPLE

TRIP TO PARIS

**So fleur, so good: Local couple win a romantic trip to Paris**

Local couple wins a romantic trip to Paris



## OS X Mountain Lion

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# exegetical process

- 1. What does the text say? Big picture
- 2. What do the words mean? Small picture
- 3. The genre
- 4. The historical/geographical setting

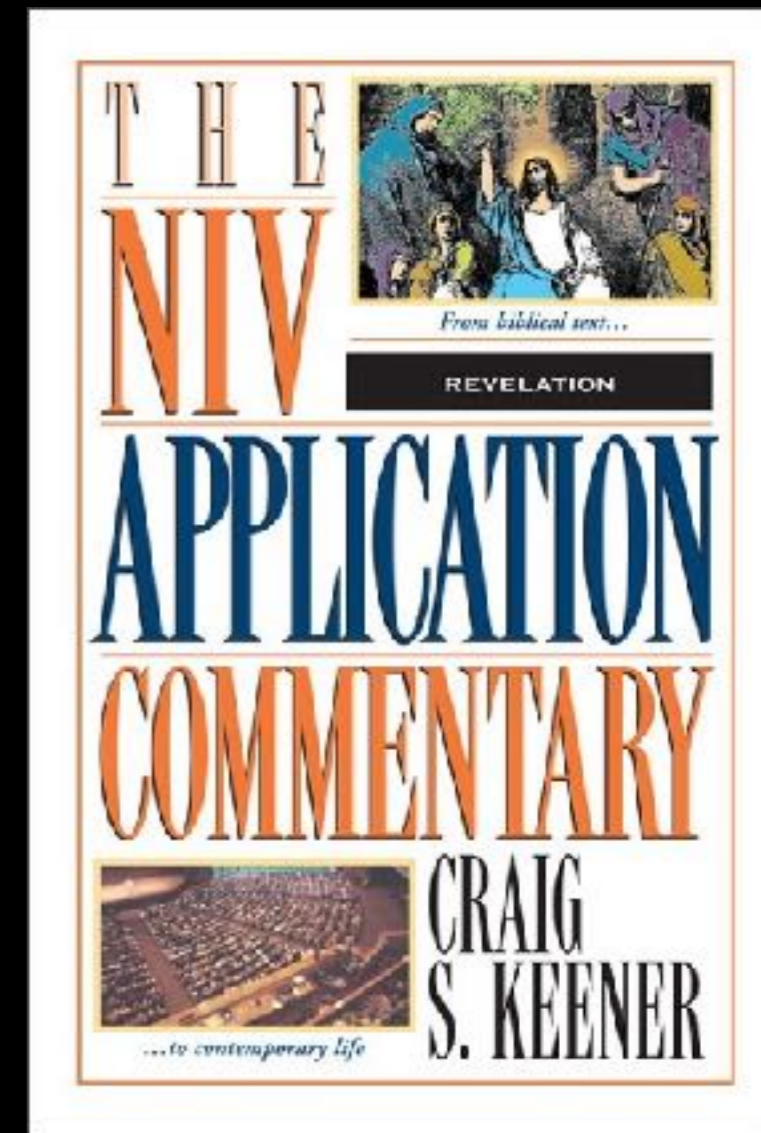
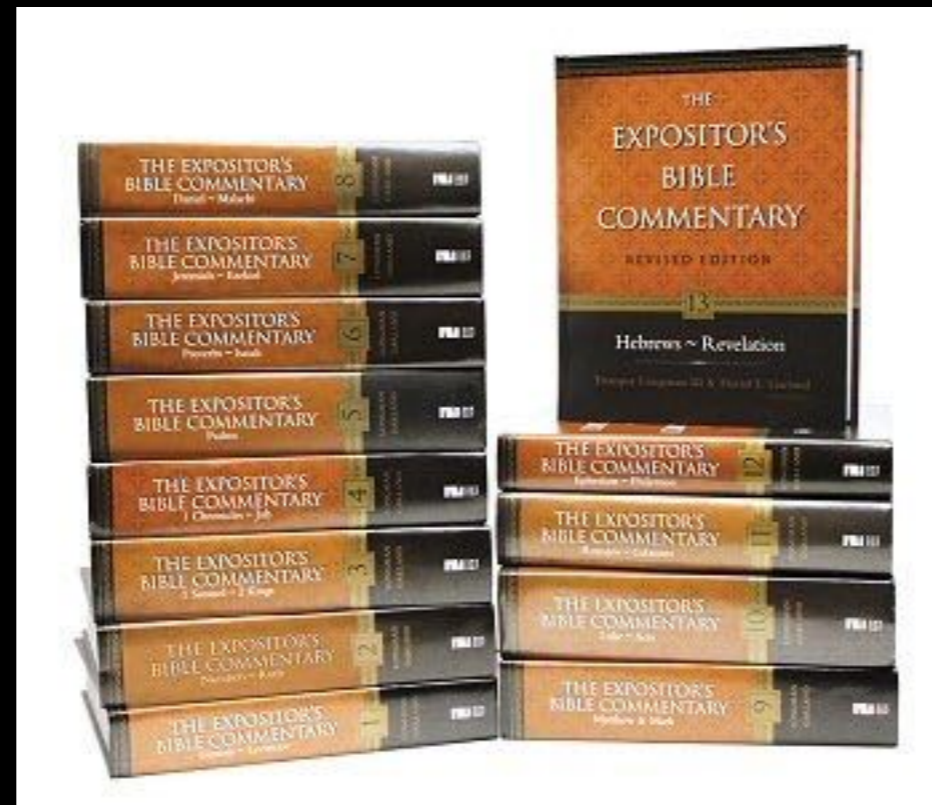
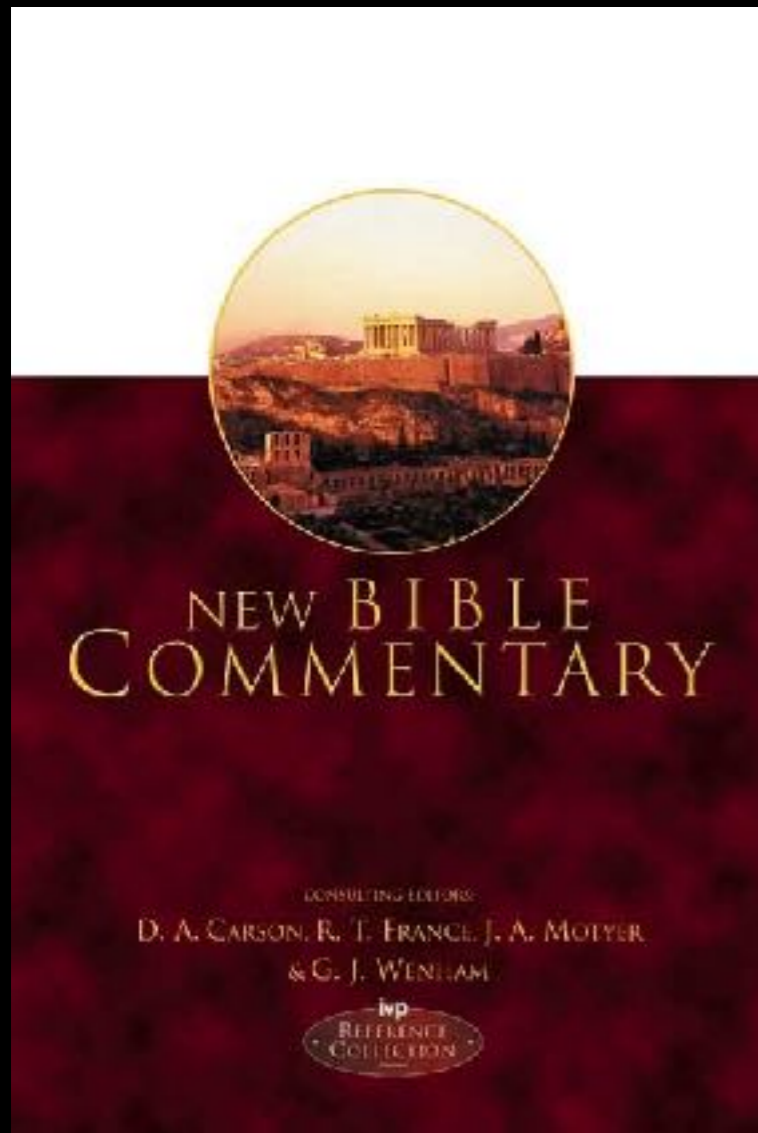


**Jonah? Where ya going???**

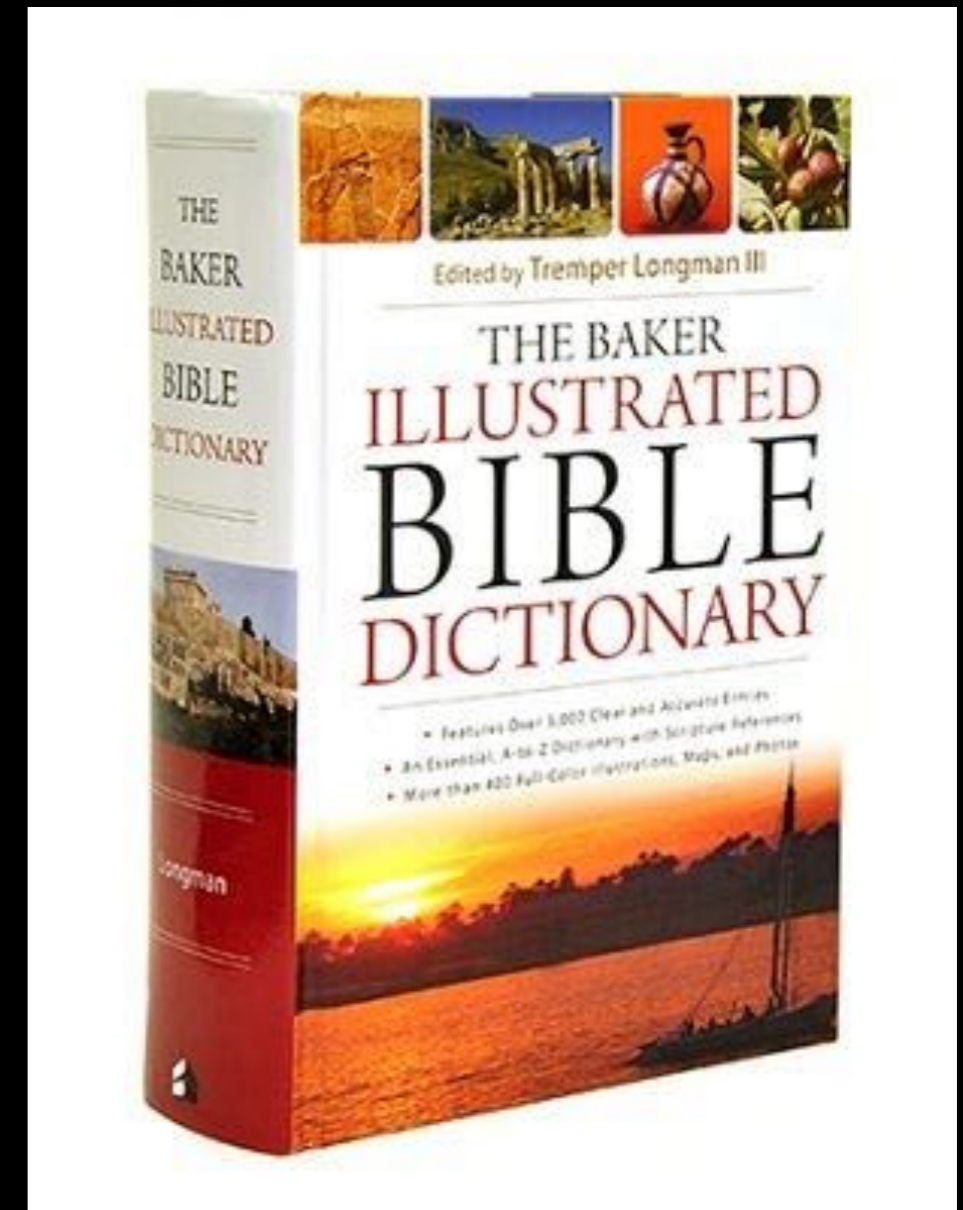
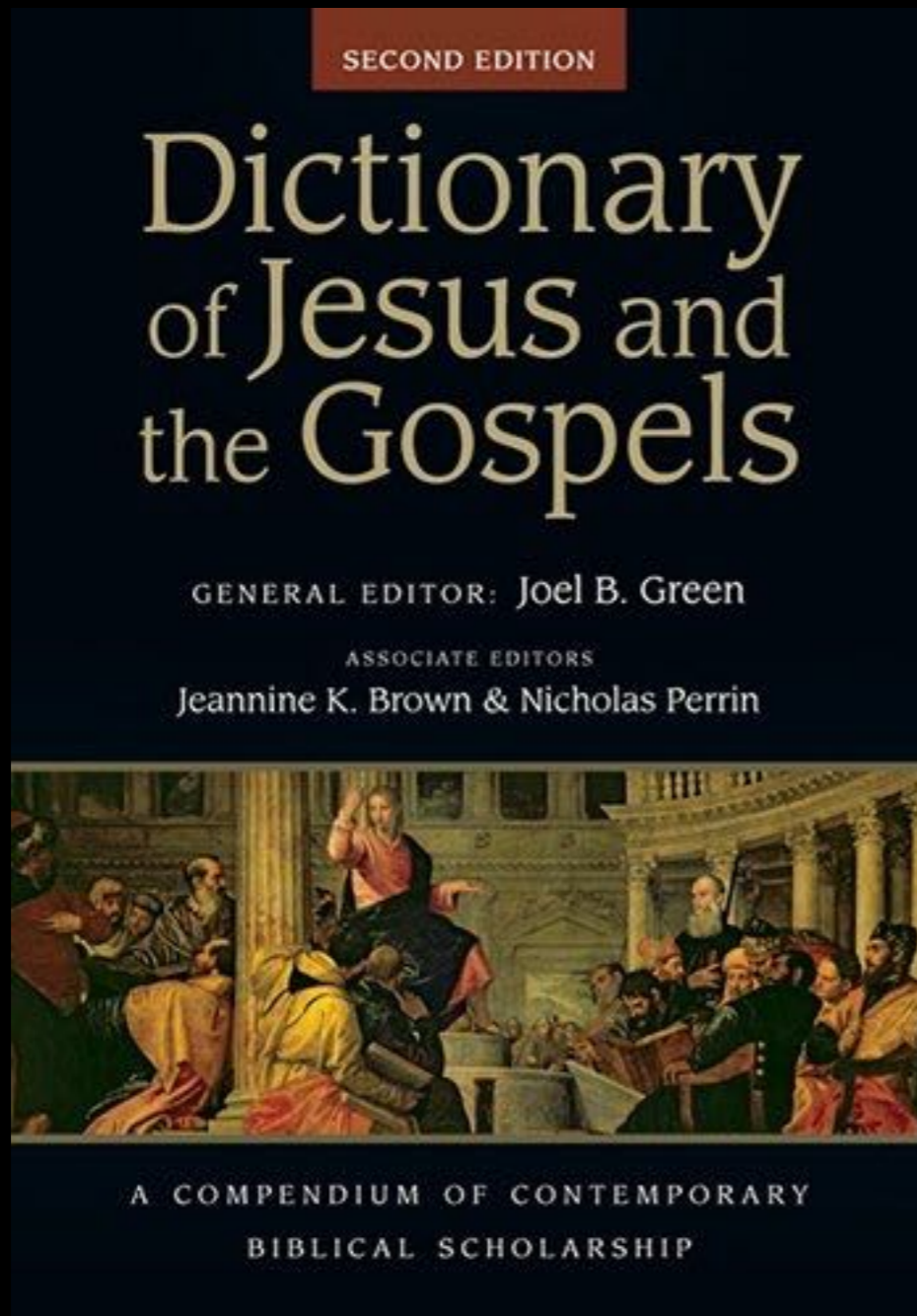
# exegetical process

- 1. What does the text say? Big picture
- 2. What do the words mean? Small picture
- 3. The genre
- 4. The historical/geographical setting
- 5. The cultural setting
- 6. The OT significance
- 7. What does it mean for me?

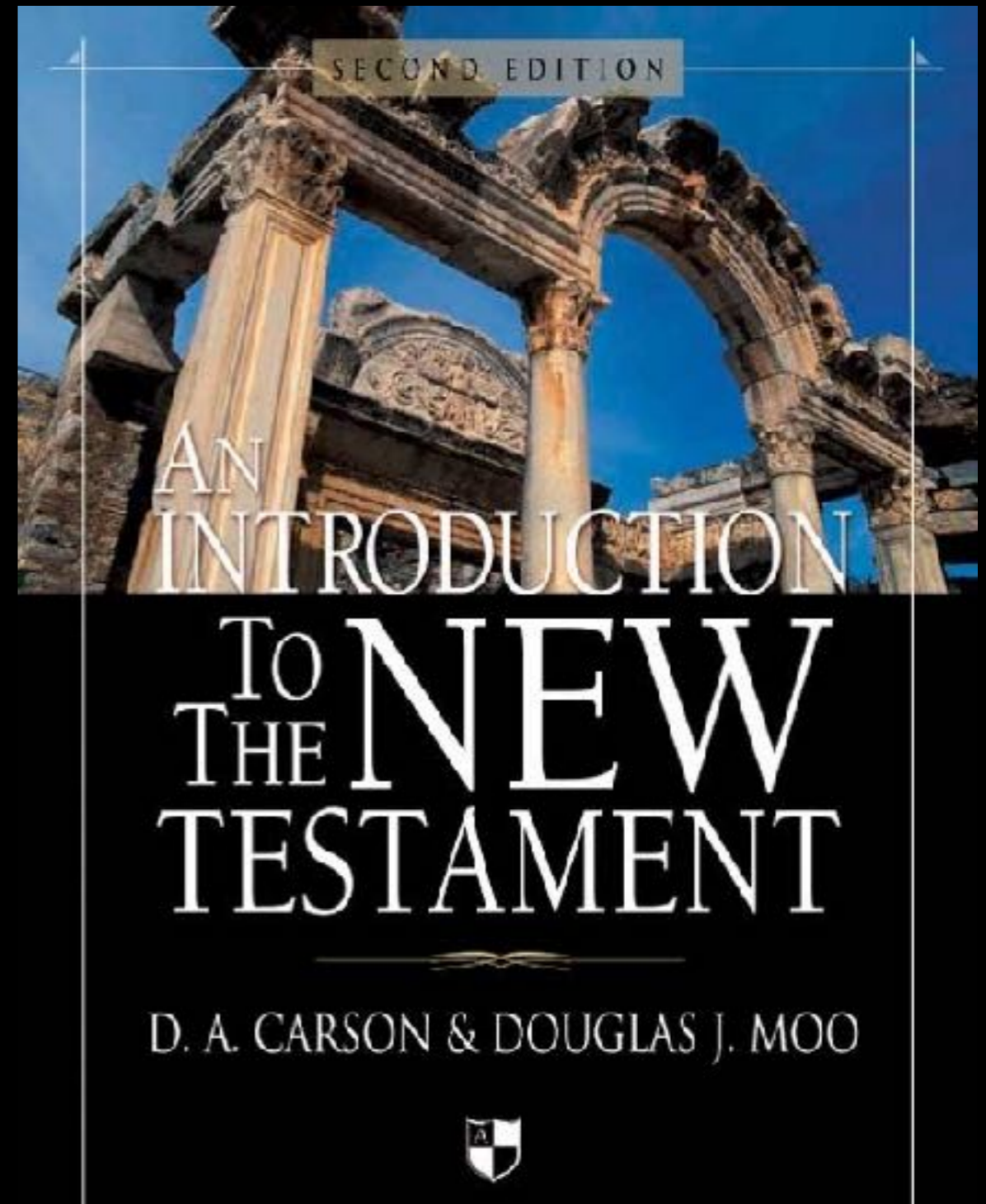
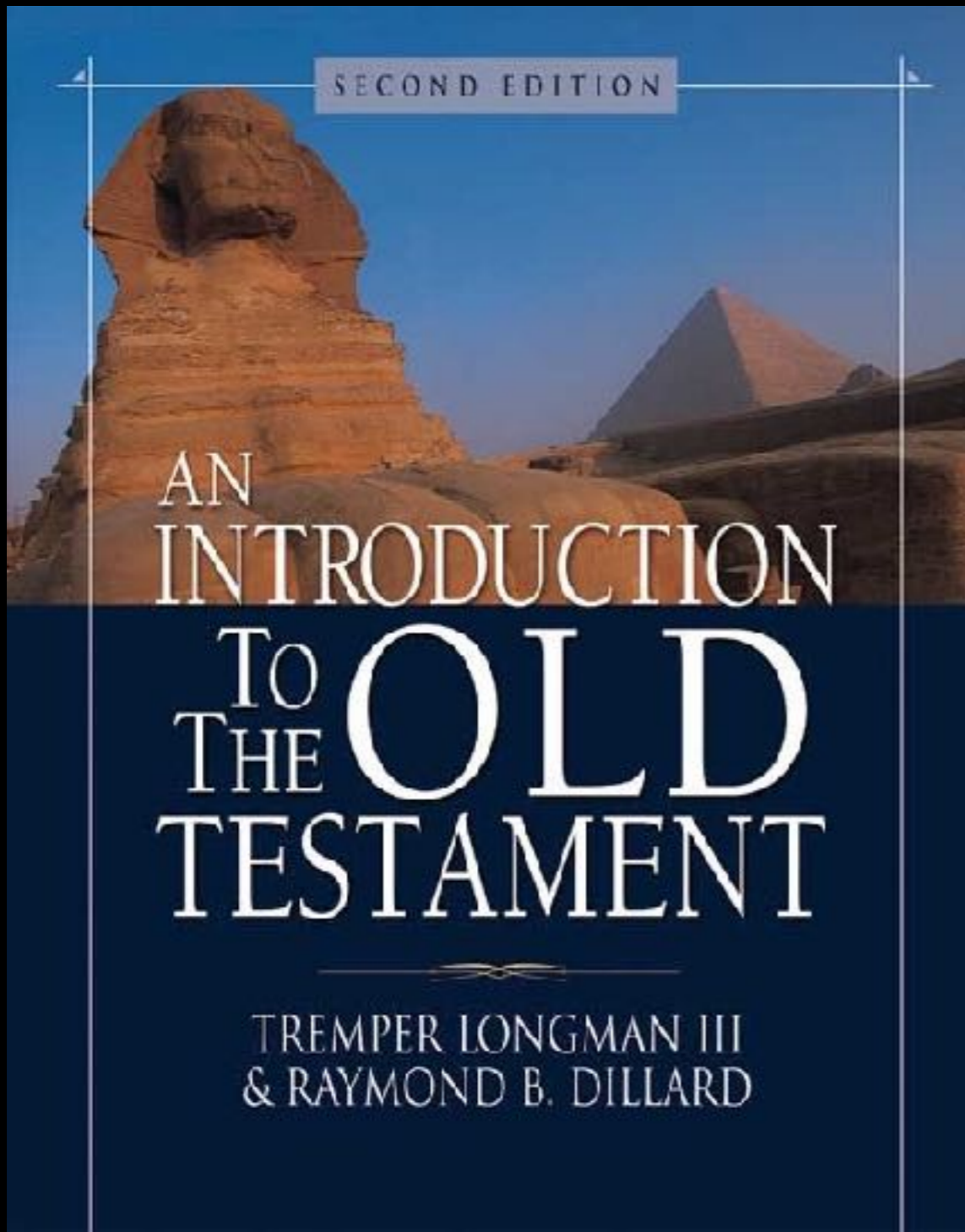
# Tools: Commentary



# Tools: Bible Dictionary



# Tools - Bible Survey





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# Presuppositions

- a thing assumed beforehand at the beginning of a line of argument or course of action





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# Basics of exegesis

- What does it say?
  - What did it mean in its original context?
  - How does this apply to us?
- Never read A Bible verse
- Understanding scripture in light of Jesus



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# First Temple

- First Temple period
  - Solomon's Temple
- Constructed in the 10th century (960) BC by King Solomon
- Destroyed by the Babylonians in 587/586 BCE

# First Temple

A structure was built around the walls of the temple containing three levels. The lower chamber was 7.5 feet (2.3 m) wide, the middle chamber was 9 feet (2.7 m) wide, and the upper chamber was 10.5 feet (3.2 m) wide (1 Kings 6:5-6, 8, 10).

Two ornate wooden doors, overlaid with gold, separated the inner sanctuary from the nave (1 Kings 6:31-32).

The nave had clerestory windows with recessed frames (1 Kings 6:4).

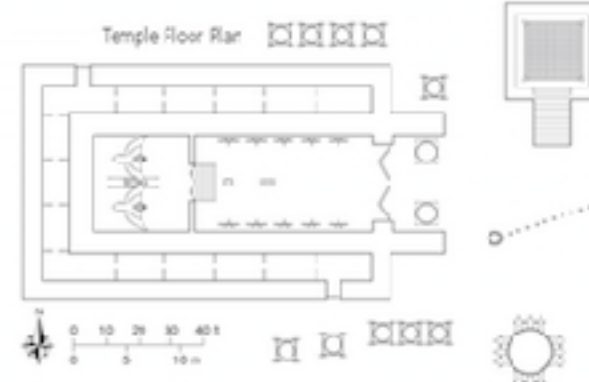


The inner sanctuary (or Most Holy Place) was a 30-foot (9.1 m) cube (1 Kings 6:15-29; 2 Chron. 3:8-14). Such rooms were often elevated in temples of the ancient Near East. Two massive golden cherubim were on either side of the ark, each 15 feet (4.6 m) tall with 15-foot (4.6 m) wingspans (1 Kings 6:23-28). The ark of the covenant was between the two cherubim (1 Kings 8:1-11, cf. 2 Chron. 5:2-14).

The nave (or Holy Place) was 50 feet (15.3 m) long and 30 feet (9.1 m) wide (1 Kings 6:15, 17-18; cf. 2 Chron. 3:5-7). It contained the golden altar for incense, the golden table for the bread of the Presence, and ten golden lampstands, five on the north and five on the south (1 Kings 7:48-49; cf. 2 Chron. 4:7).

Ten bronze wheeled stands and basins held water for rinsing off what was used for the burnt offerings (1 Kings 7:27-38; cf. 2 Chron. 4:6).

The vestibule was 30 feet (9.1 m) wide and 15 feet (4.6 m) deep (1 Kings 6:3; cf. 2 Chron. 3:4).



The hollow bronze pillar on the north was called "Boaz," and the one on the south was called "Jachin" (1 Kings 7:21, cf. 2 Chron. 3:17).

Two ornate wooden, folding doors, overlaid with gold, separated the nave from the vestibule (1 Kings 6:33-35).

The bronze altar for burnt offerings was 15 feet (4.6 m) high and 30 feet (9.1 m) long and wide (cf. 2 Chron. 4:1).



The "Sea" was a metal basin 7.5 feet (2.3 m) tall and 15 feet (4.6 m) in diameter. It held 12,000 gallons (44,000 liters) of water for the priests to wash in. It was supported by twelve bronze oxen in sets of three, facing in each direction (1 Kings 7:23-26, cf. 2 Chron. 4:2-5).

## SOLOMON'S TEMPLE

Solomon began to build "the house of the LORD" in Jerusalem on Mount Moriah in the spring of 967 or 966 B.C. (1 Kings 6:1; 2 Chron. 3:1-2) and completed it seven years later, in the fall of 960 or 959 B.C. (1 Kings 6:38). The temple itself, not including the surrounding chambers on three sides, was 90 feet (27.4 m) long, 30 feet (9.1 m) wide, and 45 feet (13.7 m) high. It resided in the middle of a court with boundary walls.

# Second Temple (ST)

- 515 BCE to 70 AD
- Return to faithfulness to Torah/  
monotheism
- GET IT RIGHT THIS TIME!

# Second Temple (ST)



# Name of God

Bless the Lord O my soul, O my soul,  
worship His holy name  
Sing like never before, O my soul,  
I worship Your holy name

“10,000 Reasons”



# Name of God

- I. El/Elohim (God)
  - Gen 1:1
  - Gen 1:26

# Name of God

- 2. Exodus 3:14
  - the Tetragrammaton יהוה
  - The self-existent one
    - (i am/was/will be)
  - The verb "to be" (imperfect tense)

# Name of God

- 3. Taking God's name in vain
- "Don't take the NAME of YHWH in vain!" (Ex 20:7)
  - Acts 19:11-20 (seven sons of Sceva)
  - Adonai (lord)
  - HaShem, G-d, - - - -

# Name of God

- 4. The Name in Greek
- OT translation (Hebrew to Greek)
  - Septuagint (LXX)
  - 300s BC - 132 BC
- "Before Abraham was, I am" (Jn 8:58)
  - The LXX of Ex 3:14 identifies Yahweh as "Εγώ ειμι"

# Name of God

- Tetragrammaton designated as κυριος (LORD)
  - NT use of κυριος/ יהוה
- God (*theos*) becomes the name for the Father, Lord (*kurios*) becomes the name for the Son/Jesus

# Jesus is Yahweh

- "For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth - as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords" - yet for us there is **one God**, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and **one Lord, Jesus Christ**, through whom are all things and for whom we exist." (1 Cor 8:5-6)
- reworking the Shema in Christological language!!!
- "Hear O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one"
  - "Israel, pay attention to this: Yawheh, our God, Yahweh is the only God!

# Jesus is Yahweh

- Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, the voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord (*kurios*), make his paths straight.” (Mark 1:2-3)
- “In the wilderness prepare the way of Yahweh (LORD), make straight in the desert a highway for our God.” (Is 40:3)



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Week 5



# Name of God

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  - Gen 1:26

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# I. Expressions of Deity

- John 1:1

- In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- John 20:28

- Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!”

- Romans 9:5

- To them belong the patriarchs, and from their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ who is God over all...

- Titus 2:13

- waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ

# I. Expressions of Deity

- Matt 1:23 (Is 7:14; 8:8)
- “...and they shall call his name Immanuel”
  - (which means, God with us)



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# Yahweh is Creator

- 1. Genesis 1:1-2 (Elohim/YHWH)
  - In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.
- 2. Isaiah 44:24
  - Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: “I am the Lord, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself”

# Jesus is Creator

- 3. 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 was not any thing made that was made...

- 4. Col 1:15-20

- He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

# Jesus is Creator

- 5. Hebrews 1:1-14
- Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. For to which of the angels did God ever say...“You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

# Jesus is Creator

- 6. Acts 3:15
- "and you killed the Author of Life, whom God raised from the dead."



# Jesus is Creator

- “Chapter I Trifecta”
  - John 1, Col 1, Hebrews 1
  - Jesus on the God side of the equation  
(as Creator)

# Jesus is Creator



Everything that's  
been created

Anything that's  
not created



Jesus

# Angel of the LORD

- Gen 18:1-3, 22, the lord appeared to Jacob (three men), Jacob stood before the lord
- 33:24, Jacob wrestled a man/have seen God face to face
- Daniel 3:25 fourth man in the furnace
- Judges 13:15-25
- 13:22 (we've seen God)

# OT scriptures of יהוה

- John 12:41-43

- They still did not believe...He has blinded their eyes and hardened their heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I would heal them.
- Isaiah said these things because he saw his [Yahweh's] glory and spoke of him [Yahweh].

- Isaiah 6:1-10

- I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne...Holy Holy Holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!
- For my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!
- ...blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.

# OT scriptures of יהוה

- Hebrews 1:10-12

- “You, Lord, laid the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment, like a robe you will roll them up, like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will have no end.”

- Psalm 102:25-26

- “Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away

# OT scriptures of יהוה

- Romans 10:13
  - “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved”
- Joel 2:32
  - “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.”

# Attributes of God

- Col. 2:9 For in him the ***whole fullness of deity*** dwells bodily
- Heb 1:3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the ***exact imprint of his nature...***
- Matt. 28:20 I am ***with you always,*** to the end of the age
- 2 Cor 4:4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of ***the glory of Christ, who is the image of God***



# Attributes of God

- Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ is ***the same*** yesterday and today and forever
- Phil. 2:4-6 ...Christ Jesus, who, though he was ***in the form of God***, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.
- Col. 1:15, 19 He is the ***image of the invisible God***... For in him all the ***fullness of God*** was pleased to dwell.

# Worship of Jesus

- Matt 28:17 And when they saw him they **worshipped** him
- Matt. 2:11 And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and **worshipped him**
- Matt. 14:33 And those in the boat **worshipped him**, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God”
- Matt. 28:9 And behold, Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came up and took hold of his feet and **worshipped him**
- Mark 3:1 And whenever the unclean spirits saw him, they **fell down before him** and cried out, “You are the Son of God”
- Jn 9:38 He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he **worshipped him**

# Prayer to Jesus

- John 14:14 If you **ask me** anything in my name, I will do it
- Acts 7:59 And as they were stoning Stephen, **he called out**, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit”
- Rom. 10:9 because, if you **confess** with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and **believe in your heart** that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved
- 1 Cor. 1:2 To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place **call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ**, both their Lord and ours

# Equality statements

- Rev 4: To the Father/One on the throne
  - Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!
  - Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.

# Equality statements

- Rev 5: To the Son/Lamb
  - Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.
  - Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!

# Equality statements

- Rev 5 (duel worship to Father & Son)
  - To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!
    - And the four living creatures said, AMEN! and the elders fell down and **worshipped**.
- Rev 7
  - Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence...
  - For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd



THE

# TRINITY

GOD IN 3 PERSONS

# Lord of the Sabbath

- Exodus 20:9 "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is *a Sabbath to the LORD your God*...Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."
- 31:12-17 "...You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, '*Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths*, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you. You shall *keep the Sabbath*, because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death... Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death. Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as *a covenant forever*.'



# Lord of the Sabbath

- Mark 2:25-28 (Luke 6:1-5; Matthew 12:1-8)
- “Have you never read what David did, when he was in need and was hungry, he and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God, in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and also gave it to those who were with him?” And he [Jesus] said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So *the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath.*”

# Son of Man

- 1. General humanity (Psalm 8:3-4)
  - When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, and the *son of man* that you care for him?
- 2. As prophet (Ezekiel 2)
- 3. In Messianic/Divine terms (Dan 7:13)
  - behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a *son of man*, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him...

# Clouds

- Image for God's presence: Ex 13:21; 19:9
- God's presence in the Tabernacle: Ex 40:35
- God Riding on cloud: Is 19:1
- God's Judgment Is 30:30

# Son of Man

- 7:9 Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the *hair of his head like pure wool*
- Rev 1:13-14 in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed in a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. The *hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow*
- Son of Man is referring to:
  - Jesus' humanity, role as prophet, Messianic rule and equality with God

# Son of God

- "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."
  - Mark 1:1
- "the beginning of the gospel of the birth of Cesar Augustus, a son of a god"



# Son of God

- "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God."
  - Mark 1:1
- "the beginning of the gospel of the birth of Cesar Augustus, a son of a god"
- **HE IS THE SON OF THE GOD!**



THE

# TRINITY

GOD IN 3 PERSONS



# Humanity of the Son

- Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but *made himself nothing*, taking the *form of a servant*, being born in the **likeness of men**. And being found in **human form**, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- Phil 2:5-8

# Human Attributes

- Human birth and a human genealogy (Gal. 4:4–5)
- Human body that experienced
  - growth (Luke 2:40, 52)
  - hunger (Matt. 4:2)
  - thirst (John 19:28)
  - tiredness (John 4:6)
  - death (Luke 23:46)

# Human Attributes

- Physical body in resurrected state (John 20:17, 25–27)
- Human mind that had limitations in knowledge (Mark 13:32)
- Increased in wisdom (Luke 2:52)
- Learned obedience (Heb. 5:8–9)

# Human Attributes

- Experienced human temptation
  - “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Heb. 4:15; cf. Luke 4:1–2)
- Every kind of human temptation, he never succumbed to sin (John 8:29, 46; 15:10; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 7:26; 1 Pet. 2:22; 1 John 3:5)

# Human Attributes

- Jesus practiced spiritual disciplines:
- Regularly prayed (Mark 14:36; Luke 10:21; Heb. 5:7)
- Worshiped at the synagogue (Luke 4:16)
- Read & memorized Scripture (Matt. 4:4–10)
- Practiced solitude (Mark 1:35; 6:46)
- Observed the Sabbath (Luke 4:16)
- Obeyed OT ceremonial laws (John 8:29, 46; 15:10; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 4:15)
- Received the fullness of the Spirit (Luke 3:22; 4:1)



THE

# TRINITY

GOD IN 3 PERSONS

# Implications Humanity

- Jesus' humanity enables his representative obedience for us (Rom. 5:18–19)
- Jesus' humanity makes him the only effective mediator between God and man: (1 Tim. 2:5)
- Jesus' divine and human natures enable him to stand in the gap between fallen humans and a holy God

# Personhood

- 1. Jesus Christ is fully and completely divine
- 2. Jesus Christ is fully and completely human
- 3. The divine and human natures of Christ are distinct
- 4. The divine and human natures of Christ are completely united in one person
  - 100% Man
  - 100% God



# Dual Nature

- Jesus is clearly portrayed as a real human AND as the God of Israel
  - If Jesus is God, then He has an unchangeable (immutable) nature
  - He is always God, and cannot-not be God

# Resurrection

- 1. God/Theos
  - Acts 3:14-15 - 1 Corinthians 6:14
- 2. God the Father
  - Galatians 1:1 - 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10
- 3. The Son/Jesus
  - John 2:18-22 - John 10:17-18
- 4. The Spirit
  - 1 Peter 3:18

# Therefore

- Jesus was 100% man and 100% God
  - Jesus the man died (Flesh)
  - The eternal Son of God did not die (Spirit)
- Yahweh (Father, Son, Holy Spirit- The Triune Godhead) raised Jesus, the dead flesh/man, from the dead

# Jesus in the Apocalypse

- 1. The Alpha & Omega (1:8; 21:6; 22:13)
  - 1st & last letters of Greek alphabet
  - "I am the first and the last" (1:17; 2:8; 22:13)
- 2. The Lord God Almighty (1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7; 16:4; 19:6; 19:15; 21:22)
  - Sovereignty
- 3. The One who is and who was and who is to come (1:4; 1:8; 4:8)
  - A Greek way of saying the divine name, YHWH

# Jesus/God Equality

- God: I am the Alpha and the Omega (1:8)
- Christ: I am the first and the last (1:17)
- God: I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end (21:6)
- Christ: I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end (22:13)

# Equality statements

- Rev 4: To the Father/One on the throne
  - Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!
  - Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.

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  - Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.
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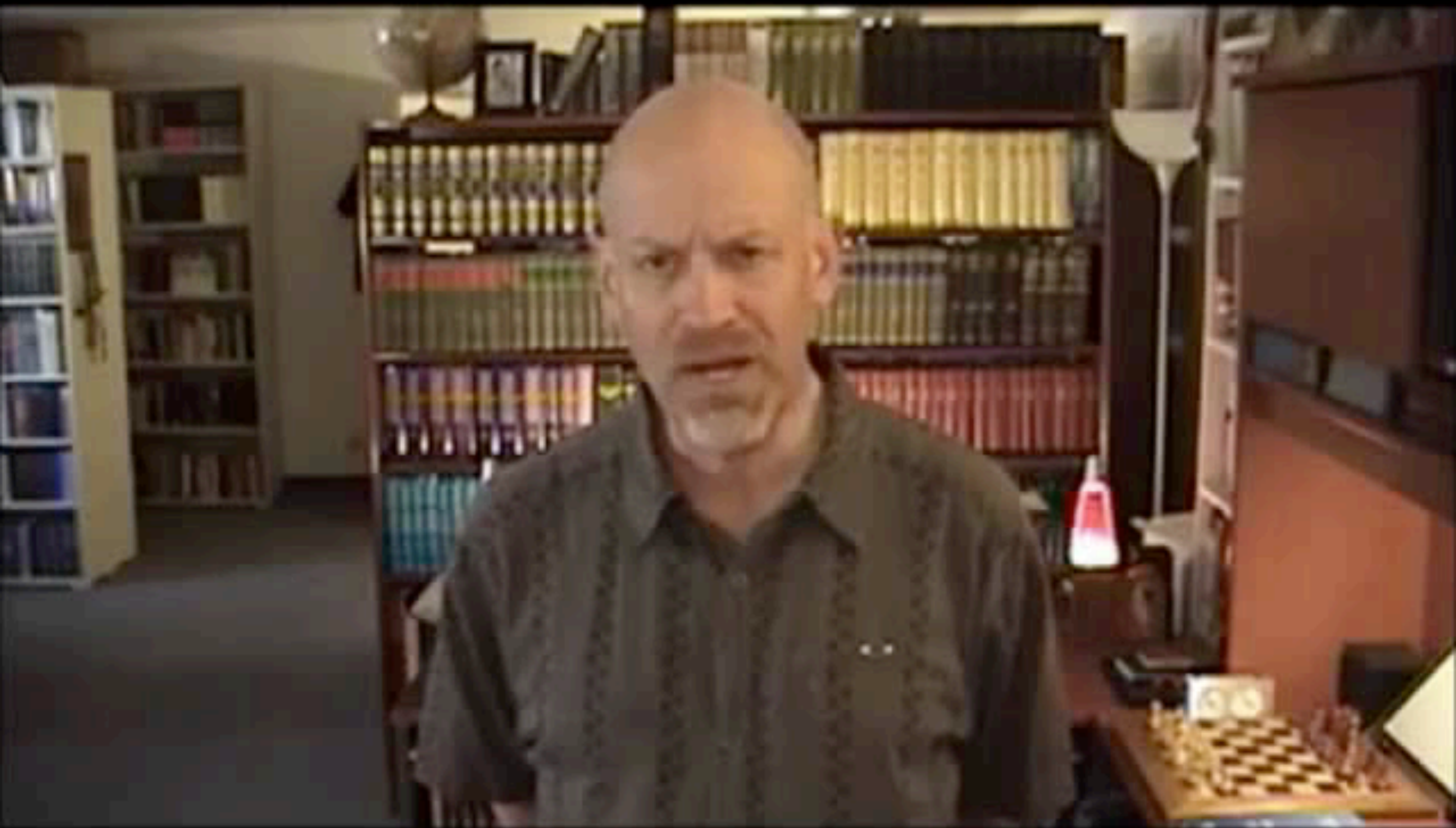
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# Conclusion

- The Bible proclaims that only one God exists (Deut 6:4)
- The Bible clearly identifies Jesus as having the nature of the God of Israel (Col. 2:9)
- Therefore: Jesus is the God of Israel who stepped into His creation to redeem it (John 1:1)





THE

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GOD IN 3 PERSONS

Week 7

# Jesus is Yahweh

- "For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth - as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords" - yet for us there is **one God**, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and **one Lord, Jesus Christ**, through whom are all things and for whom we exist." (1 Cor 8:5-6)
- reworking the Shema in Christological language!!!
- "Hear O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one"
  - "Israel, pay attention to this: Yawheh, our God, Yahweh is the only God!

# Jesus in the Apocalypse

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  - 1st & last letters of Greek alphabet
  - "I am the first and the last" (1:17; 2:8; 22:13)
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Week 7

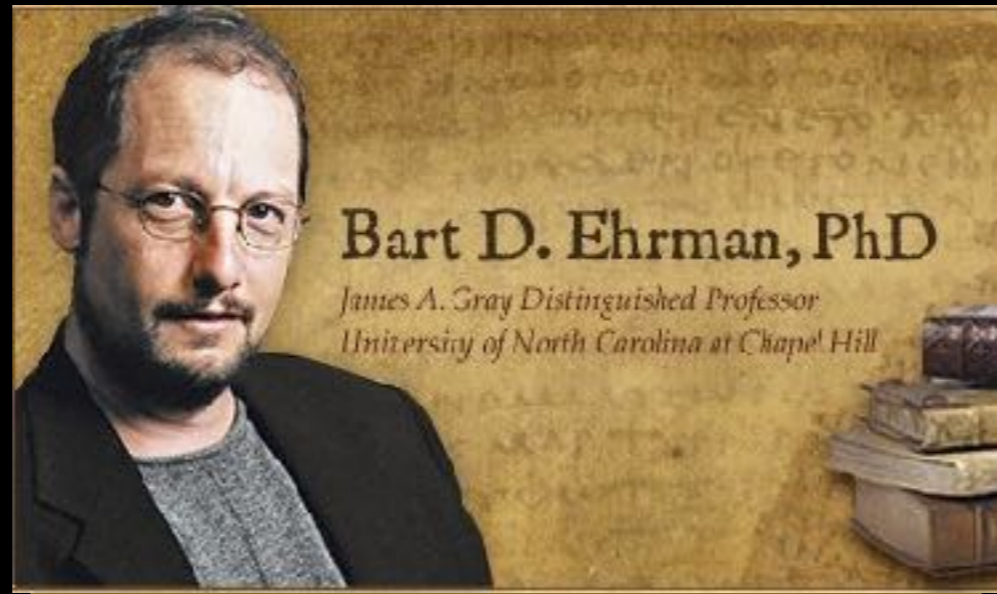
New York Times Bestselling Author of MISQUOTING JESUS

# GOD'S PROBLEM

How the Bible Fails to Answer Our Most Important Question—Why We Suffer



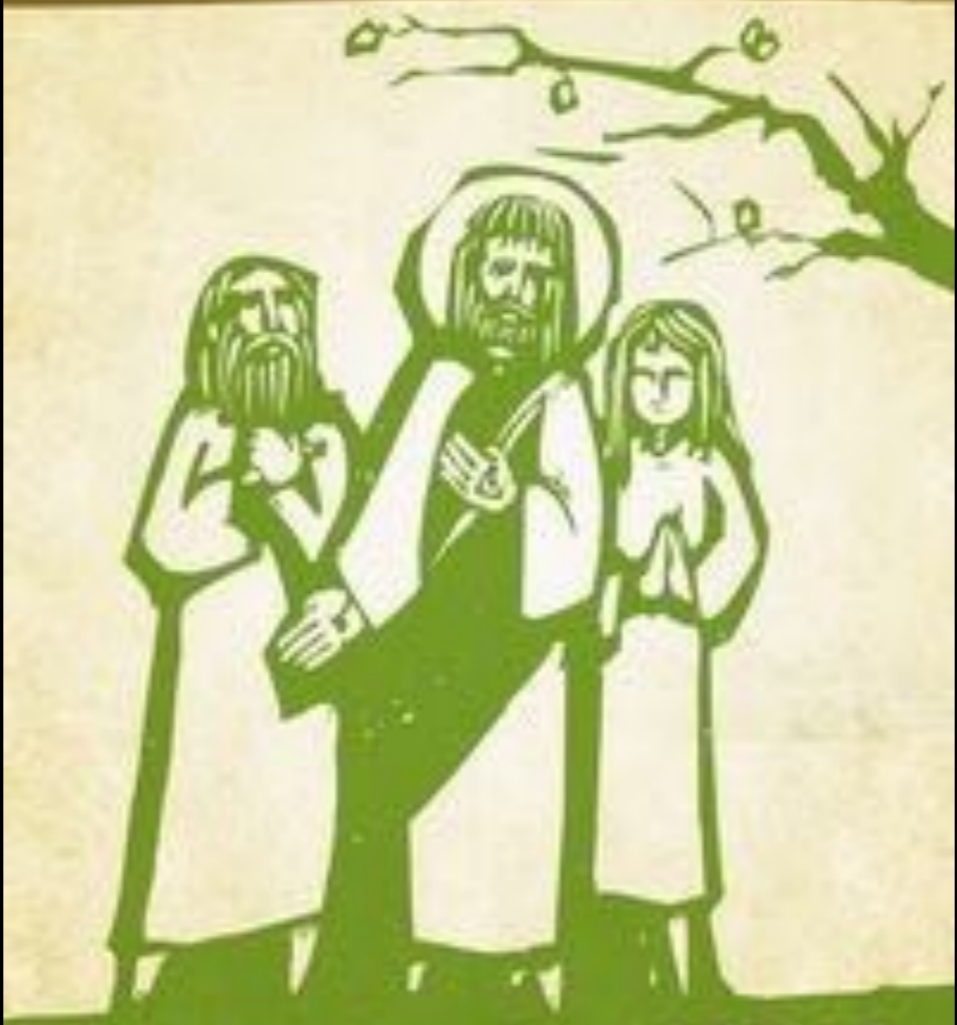
BART D. EHRMAN



Bart D. Ehrman, PhD

James A. Gray Distinguished Professor  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

A RESPONSE TO BART D. EHRMAN  
MICHAEL F. BIRD + CRAIG A. EVANS + SIMON J. GATHERCOLE  
CHARLES E. HILL + CHRIS TILLING



# HOW GOD BECAME JESUS

THE REAL ORIGINS OF BELIEF IN JESUS' DIVINE NATURE

From the New York Times Bestselling Author of MISQUOTING JESUS



# Jesus, Interrupted

Revealing the Hidden Contradictions in the Bible  
(and Why We Don't Know About Them)

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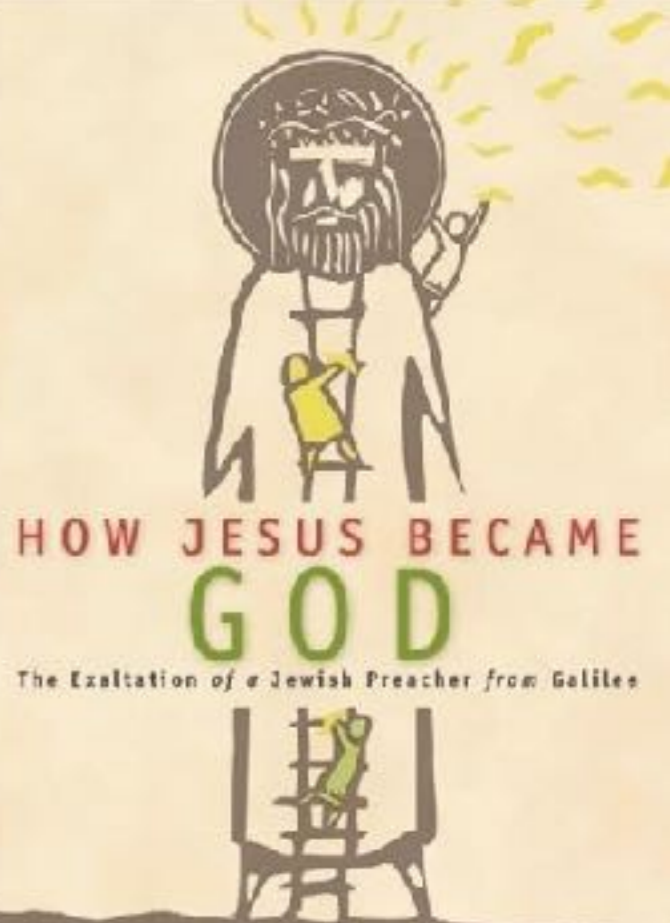
# MISQUOTING JESUS

The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why



BART D. EHRMAN

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The Exaltation of a Jewish Preacher from Galilee

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# Apostolic Fathers

- I. Ignatius (c. 35–c. 107)
- "God Himself was manifested in human form for the renewal of eternal life." (c. 105)
- "There is only one physician, who is both flesh and spirit, born and unborn, God in man, true life in death, both from Mary and from God, first subject to suffering and then beyond it, Jesus Christ our Lord."
  - (Letter to the Ephesians 7:2)

# Apostolic Fathers

- 2. Polycarp, St. (c. 69–c. 155)
- "Now may the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the eternal High Priest himself, the Son of God Jesus Christ, build you up in faith and truth...and to all those under heaven who will yet believe in our Lord and God Jesus Christ and in his Father who raised him from the dead."
  - (Letter to the Philippians 12:2)

# Apostolic Fathers

- 3. Clement of Rome (late first cent.)
- "For Christ is with those who are humble, not with those who exalt themselves over his flock. The majestic scepter of God, our Lord Christ Jesus, did not come with the pomp of arrogance or pride (though he could have done so), but in humility, just as the Holy Spirit spoke concerning him."
  - (First Clement of Rome to the Corinthians 16:1-2)



# The Apologists

- 1. Theophilus (c 180)
  - "trias" or (the three)
- 2. Tertullian (c. 160–c. 225)
  - "trinitas"

# The Apologists

- "We pray at a minimum not less than three time in the day. For we are debtors to Three: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." (c. 198)
- "I testify that the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are inseparable from each other...My assertion is that the Father is one, the Son is one, and the Spirit is one - and that they are all distinct from each other...The Father is not the same as the Son, for they differ one from the other in the mode of their being. For the Father is the entire substance, but the Son is a derivation and portion of the whole, as He Himself acknowledges: 'My Father is greater than I.'" (c. 212)

# The Apologists

- "When a ray is projected from the sun it is a portion of the whole sun; but the sun will be in the ray because it is a ray of the sun; the substance is not separated but extended. So from spirit comes spirit, and God from God, as light is kindled from light...This ray of God...glided down into a virgin, in her womb was fashioned as flesh, is born as man mixed with God. The flesh was built up by the spirit, was nourished, grew up, spoke, taught, worked, and was Christ."

# The Apologists

- Monarchianism
- Denying the personal reality of the Son and the Spirit as separate from the Father
- Two forms of monarchianism developed:
- **Adoptionist:** Jesus as merely a prophet filled with the Spirit & “adopted” by God
- **Modalism:** Heresy that does not view Father, Son & Spirit as three particular “persons in relation” but merely as three modes of the one divine person of God

# II. Nicene Period



# Council of Nicaea (325)

- I. Constantine the Great (272–337)
- (324) Constantine's Christian church torn by a doctrinal disputation (the teaching of Arius of Alexandria)
- Constantine's goals:
  - 1. To unite the Roman Empire
  - 2. To resolve the Arian controversy

# Council of Nicaea (325)

- 2. Arianism
- Arius (b. don't know when. d. 336 AD)
- Argued that Christ was created by God out of nothing (an exalted creature)
- Christ was to be the instrument through which all subsequent creation would occur
- "There was when he (Jesus) was not."



# Council of Nicaea (325)

- 3. Council of Nicaea (325 AD)
  - **Issue:** Eternal Deity/Nature of the Son
  - **Heretical proponent:**
    - Arius (Jesus is created)
  - **Orthodox proponent:**
    - Athanasius (Jesus has the same nature as God - uncreated)

# Council of Nicaea (325)

- 4. Athanasius (c. 296–373) [SLIDE 24]
- Deacon and secretary to Alexander (the bishop of Alexandria). Later became bishop of Alexandria
- **Orthodox view:** "Christ was homoousios: of the same '*substance*' as the Father."
  - Eternal, not created
  - Arius: "There was a time when the Son was not."

# Council of Nicaea (325)

- **1st creed** (Arius): contained the term: "heteroousios"
  - "different substance"
- **2nd creed** (Compromise party): homoiousios
  - "similar or like substance"
- **3rd creed** (Athanasius): homoousios
  - "same substance"

"We believe in one God the Father All-sovereign, maker of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, begotten of the Father, only-begotten that is, of the substance of the Father, God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of one substance with the Father, through whom all things were made, things in heaven and things on the earth; who for us men and for our salvation came down and was made flesh, and became man, suffered, and rose on the third day, ascended into the heavens, is coming to judge the living and the dead."

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made; who for us men, and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And we believe one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins. And we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.



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GOD IN 3 PERSONS

# Constantinople (381)

- Issue: Person of Christ (Is He fully human?)
  - Did he have a completely human nature?
  - If not could he really die in our place/be our savior?
- *Heretical* proponent: Apollinarius (Christ is divine logos, but not human spirit)
- *Orthodox* proponent: Basil, Gregory of Nazianzus, and Gregory of Nyssa (complete humanity of Jesus affirmed)

# Constantinople (381)

- I. Apollinarius
- Apollinarius became bishop of Laodicea in 360
- Strongly anti-Arian, emphasized the full & complete divinity of Christ
- Argued that, as a man, he did not need moral development because the divine Logos replaced his human soul
- "Christ is fully divine, but not fully human"



# Constantinople (381)

- Basil, Gregory, Gregory
  - "To be a full redeemer, Christ had to be fully human. The whole sinner needs to be renewed."
- It confirmed earlier decisions:
  - 1. Acceptance of the Creed of Nicaea and the homoousia of the Holy Spirit
  - 2. Nicaea affirmed the full deity of Jesus, Constantinople affirmed the full humanity of Jesus

# Ephesus (431 AD)

- **Issue:** Person of Christ: the union of the human and divine natures in Christ
- **Orthodox** proponent: Cyril of Alexandria  
(Complete deity of Jesus & Nicene Creed affirmed)
- **Heretical** proponent: Nestorius, against the full deity & humanity of Christ. Mary should NOT be called the "Mother of God" (theotokos, God-bearer)

# Ephesus (431 AD)

- 1. It is counted as the Third Ecumenical Council
- 2. Nestorius (bishop of Constantinople)
- Emphasized the two natures of Christ (with a division)
- The human and divine natures were joined, but not merged

# Ephesus (431 AD)

- Nestorius taught:
- Jesus was not a "God-man," but a "God-bearing man"
  - the temple in which the Logos dwelled
  - the human and the divine lived in him
- Mary should be called Christotokos (Christ-bearer) & NOT Theotokos (God-bearer)

# Ephesus (431 AD)

- 3. the Council denounced Nestorius' teaching
  - decreed that Jesus was one person, not two separate people
- "We do not mean that the nature of the Word was changed and made flesh or, on the other hand, that he was transformed into a complete man consisting of soul and body, but instead we affirm this: that the Word personally united to himself flesh, endowed with life and reason, in a manner mysterious and inconceivable, and became man."
- "There is a union of persons, without confusion"

# Chalcedon (451 AD)

- Issue: Person of Christ
  - How do the divine and human interact?
- **Orthodox** proponent: Flavian of Constantinople & Leo of Rome
  - Two natures of Jesus affirmed - human & divine
- **Heretical** proponent: Eutyches
  - Jesus is a third unique nature

# Chalcedon (451 AD)

- I. Eutyches
  - A monk, and presbyter at Constantinople
  - Strongly anti-Nestorian
  - “Christ had only ONE nature”
- The divine nature absorbed the human nature, so there no longer exists the human

# Chalcedon (451 AD)

- 1. The Lord Christ is one Person
  - His two natures, permanently distinct, human & divine, united in one person, with each nature performing its own function
- 2. it states that both natures, God and man, are unimpaired, “perfect,”
- 3. The distinct natures are fully God AND man,
  - Securing salvation by a saving God and a man identified with men



# Chalcedon Conclusion

- If God were to step into His creation & become human, he would have a dual nature (cannot shed his deity)
  - 1). 100% God (as God, he is unchangeable, and therefore, keeps His Divine Nature)
  - 2). 100% Man (he takes on the nature of Man, completely)
- Jesus has a dual nature (100% God and 100% Man)
  - 3). Trying to use language for something completely unique in history



THE

# TRINITY

GOD IN 3 PERSONS

Week 9

# I. Presuppositions

- To assume something prior to arguing/  
believing it
- **Atheists/materialists** = miracles are impossible - the supernatural does not exist
- **Christians/theists** = supernatural exists - a miraculous event occurs, a supernatural means is possible

# Non-Trinitarian presuppositions

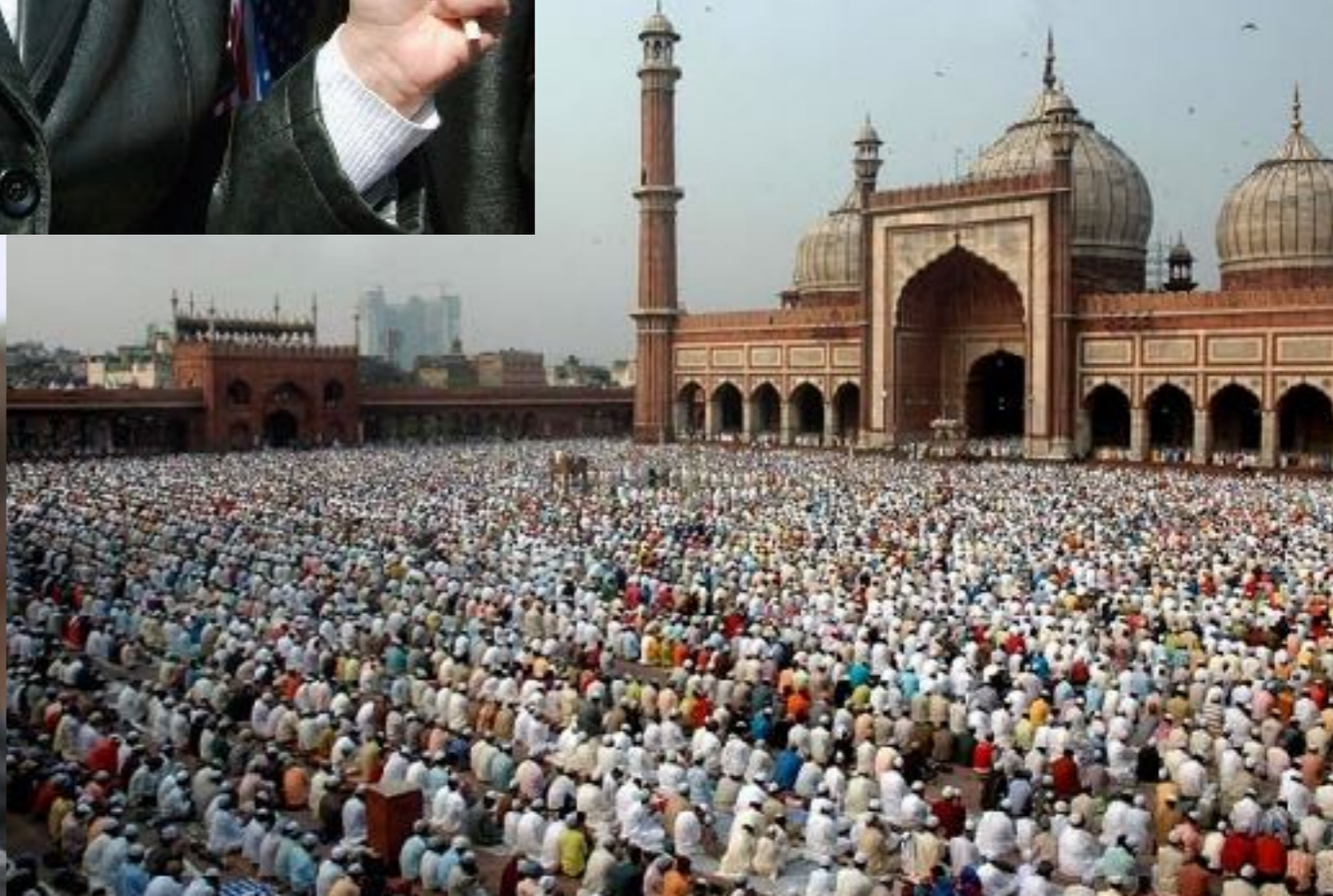
- Unitarianism:
  - the I Being of God can only be shared by I Person
- Identifying one's presuppositions will open up a new way of conversing about truth



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GOD IN 3 PERSONS



# II. Islam (Muslims)

- Jesus (Isa)
- A messenger of Allah to guide the Children of Israel with new scripture
- A great prophet
- Was born to Virgin Mary
- Performed miracles to aid in his ministry to the Jews
- Only appeared to die on cross
- Judgment: Will return for the Day of Judgment

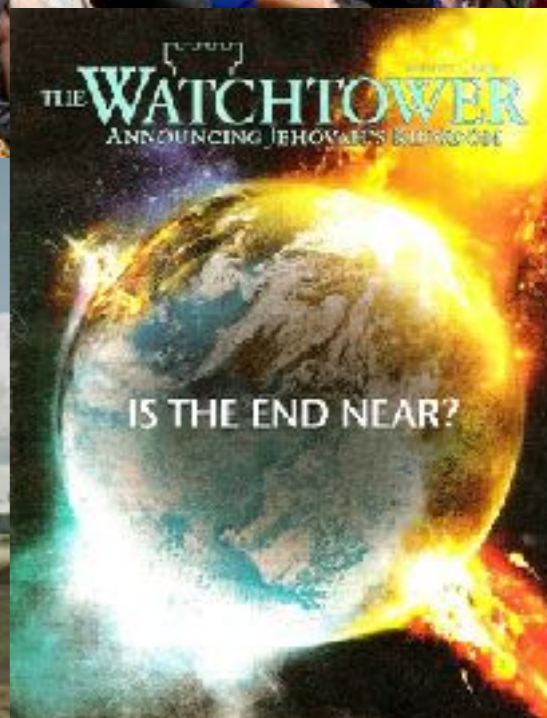
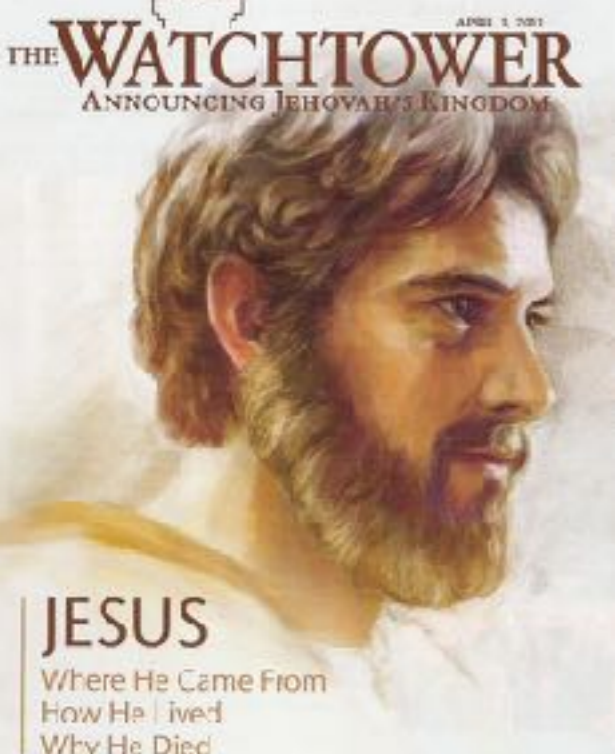
# II. Islam (Muslims)

- 5. Shirk (to share)
  - Practicing idolatry or Polytheism
- 6. Trinity (from the Qur'an)
  - "People of the Book, do not go to excess in your religion, and do not say anything about God except the truth: the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, was nothing more than a messenger of God, his word, directed to Mary, a spirit from Him. So believe in God and His messengers and *do not speak of three* - stop, that is better for you - *God is only one God*, He is far above having a son, everything in the heavens and earth belongs to Him and He is the best one to trust. (Sura 4:171)



# II. Islam (Muslims)

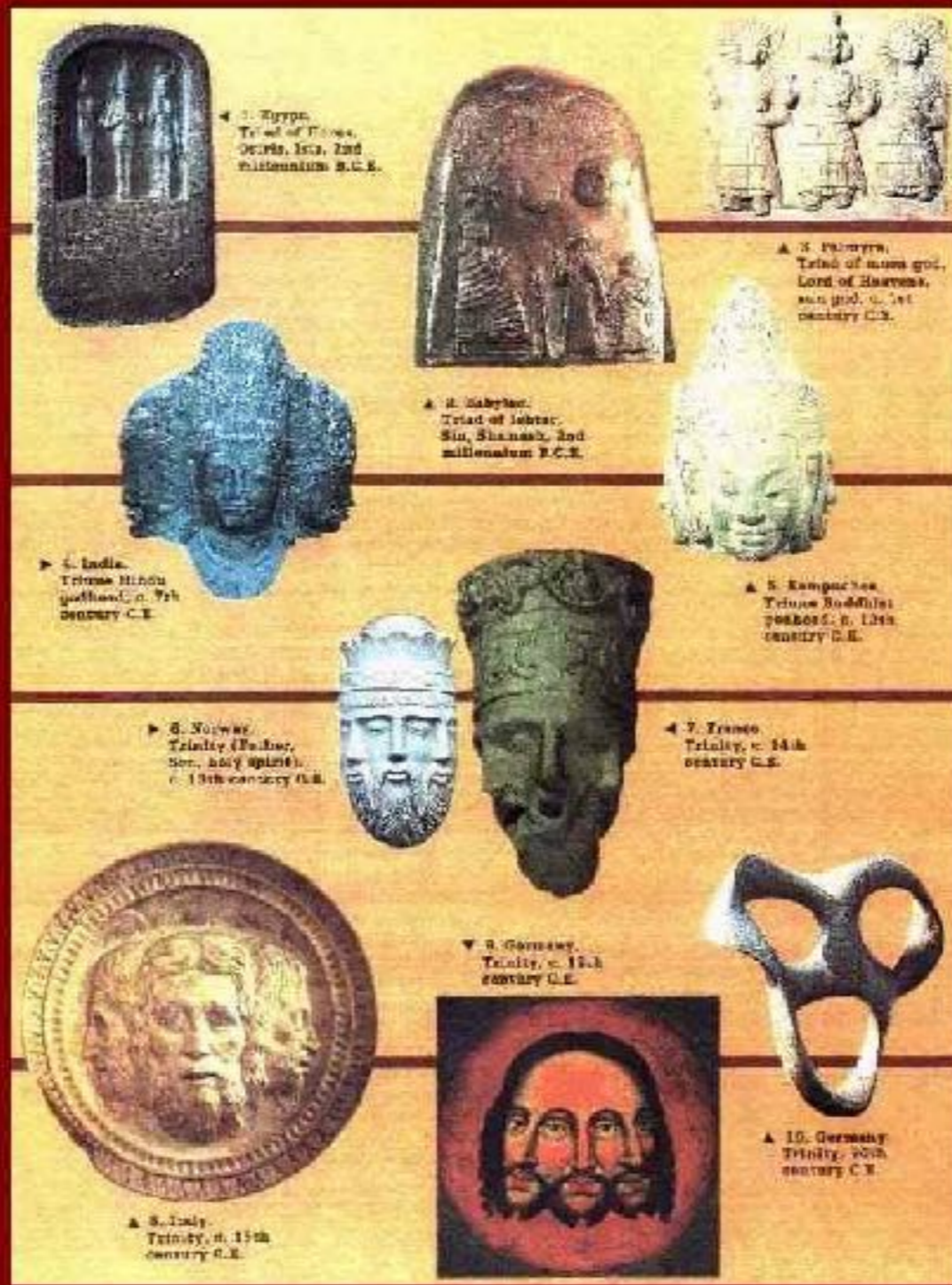
- 1. Jesus never claims "I am God, worship me"
- 2. Jesus always says that the "Father is greater than I"
- 3. God could never have a Son, since God is not a human (and is incapable of reproduction)
- 4. Jesus wasn't crucified, therefore couldn't have risen from the dead
- 5. Jesus (or any man) cannot atone for sin
- 6. The Bible is full of contradictions, cannot be trusted



# III. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses)

- Jehovah's special creation, and is the master worker
- Preexisted as Michael the Archangel
- Jesus is a "mighty god"
- Was not born Messiah, became Messiah at baptism
- Lived a perfect and sinless life (unlike Adam)
- Died on a torture steak (not a cross)
- Was raised from the dead (by Jehovah) in the form of a spirit, not a physical body
- Is ruling God's kingdom (since 1914)

# III. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses)



Trinity. Norway, 14 Century, CE

# III. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses)

- B. Jehovah's Witnesses opposition/arguments for Christians:
  - 1. Jesus is a created being
  - 2. Jesus prayed to God (therefore, is not himself God)
  - 3. Jesus never claimed to be Almighty God
  - 4. The Bible never explains (or defines) the Trinity
  - 5. The Roman church invented the Trinity

# III. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses)

- 1. John 1:1
- JW Interpretation:
- the Word should be identified as "**a god**" since there is no definite article before the second "God"
- The Greek (literally) reads:
- "In beginning was the Word, and the Word was with the God, and God was the Word."

# III. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses)

- "In the beginning **was** the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- **was**: imperfect form of "to be"
- imperfects are indefinite
- push "the beginning" (the time before creation) back as far as you want, and the Word was already in existence
- The key to John's intro
  - 1:1a (**was**)
  - 1:3 (**nothing has been created** that wasn't created by the Word)

# III. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses)

- **2. Prov 8:22-30**

- “The Lord **possessed** me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. Ages ago **I was set up**, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was **brought forth**, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was **brought forth**...then I was beside him, **like a master workman**”
- **JW Interpretation:** Wisdom is the one speaking (wisdom-personified), and is the one who was



# III. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses)

- Christian Interpretation:
  - Genre = poetry
  - “Literal interp” then Jesus is:
    - a woman (8:2, 11)
    - my sister (7:4)
- Col 2:3? (in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge)
- Ancient world = attributes of a deity were often personified

# III. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses)

- 3. Col 1:15
  - "He is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn** of all creation."
- JW Interpretation:
  - Jesus is called the firstborn of God's creation, therefore, he is the first of Jehovah's creation

# III. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses)

- **firstborn**: prototokos
  - 1. Birth order (Ex 13:15)
  - 2. Special status (associated w/ being the firstborn/preeminence)
    - Ex 4:22; Rm 8:29; Hb 12:23; Col 1:18

# III. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses)

- 4. John 17:3
  - "And this is eternal life, that they know you **the only true God**, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent."
- JW Interpretation:
  - Jehovah is the only true God, and Jesus calls Him (Jehovah) greater, therefore, Jesus also can't be God.

# III. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses)

- CONTEXT!
- 17:5 "And now, Father, **glorify me** in your own presence **with the glory** that I had with you before the world existed."

# III. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses)

- cf. Jn 12:36-45
- ...Isaiah said these things because **he saw his glory** and spoke of him... for they loved the **glory** that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God. ..**And whoever sees me sees him who sent me.**
- cf. Is 6:1-3
- I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple... And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is **full of his glory!**"

# III. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses)

- 5. Rev 3:14
  - "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the **beginning** of God's creation.'"
- JW Interpretation:
  - "Jesus was the first thing created by God"

# III. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses)

- Christian Interpretation
- **beginning** = arche
- A. Time period: Gen 1:1; Jn 1:1 (in the beginning)
- B. Beginning/Origin: Ps 110:10; Mk 10:6
- C. Political:
  - Gen 40:13; Luke 20:20; Col 1:16
- The Amen is the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation



# III. Watchtower Bible & Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses)

- 6. John 14:28
  - "You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, ***for the Father is greater than I.***"
- JW Interpretation:
  - "How can Jesus be God when he says that the Father is great than he is?"



THE  
BOOK  
OF  
MORMON

ANOTHER TESTAMENT  
OF JESUS CHRIST



# IV. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)

- 2. Jesus:
  - Jesus' birth was as natural as are the births of children
  - Is the literal spirit-brother of Lucifer
  - After crucifixion he came to the Americas, bringing another testimony/gospel
  - Jesus is 'Jehovah' (in the OT)

# IV. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)

- “The Father of Jesus Christ is our Father also...Jesus, however, is the first born among all the sons of God—the first begotten in the spirit, and the only begotten in the flesh. He is our elder brother...All men and women are in the similitude of the universal Father and Mother, and are literally sons and daughters of Deity.”
- “Two of our brothers offered to help. Our oldest brother, Jesus Christ, who was then called Jehovah, said, ‘Here am I, send me’ (Abraham 3:27)...Satan, who was called Lucifer, also came, saying, ‘Behold, here am I, send me...Satan wanted to force us all to do his will. Under his plan, we would not be allowed to choose. He would take away the freedom of choice that our Father had given us...After hearing both sons speak, Heavenly Father said, ‘I will send the first’ (Abraham 3:27). Jesus Christ was chosen and ordained to be our Savior.”

# IV. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)

- “God the Father is a perfected, glorified, holy Man, an immortal Personage. And Christ was born into the world as the literal Son of this Holy Being..There is nothing figurative about his paternity; he was begotten, conceived and born in the normal and natural course of events...”
- Bruce R. McConkie, Mormon Doctrine, p.742

# IV. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)

- 4. The Trinity
  - Three separate Gods
  - “I will preach on the plurality of Gods...I have always declared God to be a distinct personage, Jesus Christ a separate and distinct personage from God the Father, and that the Holy Ghost was a distinct personage and a Spirit: and these three constitute three distinct personages and three Gods.”
  - Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, compiled by Joseph Fielding Smith, 1976, p. 370

# IV. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)

- B. Mormon opposition/arguments for Christians:
- Focus on their own testimony - knowing that Joseph is Heavenly Father's prophet, restoring the lost gospel
- Modern Bibles can only be trusted "as so far as its been accurately translated"
- God's revelation is progressive; other writings are authoritative (BoM; Pearl, D&C)

# IV. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)

- C. Problematic proof texts
  - James 2:24, 26
  - a person is justified by works and not by faith alone...faith apart from works is dead.
- 1:22, 27 Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves...Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.
- "If you say you're a Christian but you don't live in any way that looks like Jesus, are you really a Christian?"



# IV. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)

- Focus on Monotheism
- Deut 6:4
- **Is 43:10** Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me.
- **Is 44:6** Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.
- **Is 44:24** Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, who formed you from the womb: "I am the LORD, who made all things, who alone stretched out the heavens, who spread out the earth by myself
- **Is 45:5** I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God



THE

# TRINITY

GOD IN 3 PERSONS