

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory.” (Is 6:3)

✠ Lecture IV: Biblical Foundations for the Trinity of God ✠

Some critiques of the doctrine of the Holy Trinity say that it is really teaching 3 gods, not one. They say that God the Father + the Son + the Holy Spirit = 3 gods. Yet this is not a logical necessity. Instead of adding, why not multiply? God the Father x the Son x the Holy Spirit = 1 God. Why must addition be the criterion by which the doctrine is judged? It needs not be. Rather, the doctrine should stand or fall upon the Biblical revelation and proof, not human logic.

Because the word *Trinity* is never found in the Holy Bible some wonder about whether this is a Biblical doctrine or not, but the absence of a term used to describe a doctrine does not necessarily mean that it is not Biblical. The issue is, does the term accurately reflect what Holy Scripture teaches or not?

For instance, the terms *Omniscient* (All-knowing), *Omnipotent* (All-powerful), *Omnipresent* (Present everywhere) are not found in the Holy Bible either. Yet we use these words to describe the Attributes of God and no one can argue that God, for example, is not All-knowing because the term “Omniscient” was not mentioned in Holy Scripture. So, to say that the doctrine of the Holy Trinity is not true because the term is not found in the Holy Bible is an invalid argument.

✠ Holy Scriptures on The Oneness of God:

→ From The Old Testament:

- “The Lord Himself is God; there is none other besides Him.” **(Deut 4:35)**
- “The Lord Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.” **(Deut 4:39)**
- “The Lord our God, the Lord is one.” **(Deut 6:4)**
- “I, even I, am He, and there is no god besides Me.” **(Deut 32:39)**
- “There is none holy like the Lord, for there is none besides You.” **(1 Sam 2:2)**
- “There is none like You, nor is there any god besides You.” **(2 Sam 7:22)**
- “For who is God, except the Lord?” **(2 Sam 22:32)**
- “The Lord is God; there is no other.” **(1 Kgs 8:60)**
- “O Lord God ... You are God, You alone.” **(2 Kgs 19:15)**
- “You are the Lord God, You alone.” **(2 Kgs 19:19)**
- “O Lord, there is none like You, nor is there any God besides You.” **(1 Ch 17:20)**
- “You alone are the Lord.” **(Neh 9:6)**
- “He alone spreads out the heavens.” **(Job 9:8)**
- “You are great, and do wondrous things; You alone are God.” **(Ps 86:10)**
- “Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted.” **(Ps 148:13)**
- “I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another.” **(Is 42:8)**
- “I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me.” **(Is 43:10)**
- “I, even I, am the Lord, and besides Me there is no savior.” **(Is 43:11)**
- “I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no god.” **(Is 44:6)**
- “There is none besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other.” **(Is 45:5)**
- “I am the Lord, and there is no other” **(Is 45:18)**
- “There is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; there is none besides Me.” **(Is 45:21)**
- “I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me.” **(Is 46:9)**
- “I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last.” **(Is 48:12)**
- “And you shall know no God but Me; for there is no savior besides Me.” **(Hos 13:4)**
- “Has not one God created us?” **(Mal 2:10)**

→ From The New Testament:

- “No one is good but One, that is, God.” (Mt 19:17; Mk 10:18; Lk 18:19)
- “The Lord our God, the Lord is one.” (Mt 22:37; Mk 12:39; Lk 10:27)
- “You have spoken the truth, for there is one God and there is no other but He.” (Mk 12:32)
- “How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God?” (Jn 5:44)
- “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God.” (Jn 17:3)
- “...since there is one God...” (Rom 3:30)
- “There is no other God but one.” (1 Cor 8:4)
- “For us there is only one God.” (1 Cor 8:6)
- “God is one.” (Gal 3:20)
- “One God and Father of all, who is above all.” (Eph 4:6)
- “To God who alone is wise, be honor and glory.” (1 Tim 1:17)
- “For there is one God.” (1 Tim 2:5)
- “You believe that there is one God. You do well.” (Jam 2:19)
- “There is one Lawgiver, who is able to save and to destroy.” (Jam 4:12)
- “To God our Savior, who alone is wise, be glory and majesty.” (Jude 25)
- “‘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; 22:13)
- “I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead.” (Rev 1:17)

✚ Holy Scriptures on the Holy Trinity:

→ From the Old Testament:

“The most usual appellation of the Deity in the original Scriptures of the Old Testament is *Elohim*, which is constantly translated “God;” but it is the regular plural of *Eloah*, which also occurs, though much less frequently than in the plural form, and is always translated in the same manner. This plural appellative is generally put in agreement with singular verbs, pronouns, and adjectives:

- “In the beginning Elohim [God] created the heavens and the earth.” (Gen 1:1)

This is the ordinary construction through the whole Hebrew Bible. But sometimes the apposition is made with verbs, pronouns, and adjectives, in the plural number likewise and sometimes singulars and plurals are put together in the same agreement:

- “... God [plural] caused me to wander.” (Gen 20:13)
- “... heard the voice of the living God [plural].” (Deut 5:26)

To these may be added the similar expressions, though without the word Elohim:

- “Let Israel rejoice in his Maker [plural].” (Ps 149:2)
- “For your Maker [plural] is your husband [plural].” (Is 54:5)
- “Remember now your Creator [plural]...” (Eccl 12:1)

The fact that principally requires our attention is the constant use of *Elohim*, to designate the one and only God. It is not a little remarkable that in the sacred books of a people who were separated from all other nations for this express object, viz. that they should bear a public and continual protest against polytheism – the ordinary name and style of the only living and true God should be in plural form. Did some strange and insuperable necessity lie in the way? Was the language so poor that it could furnish no other term?

Or, if so, could not the wisdom of inspiration have suggested a new appellative, and forever abolish the hazardous word (Elohim)? None of these reasons existed. The language was rich and copious. Besides “that glorious and fearful name, Jehovah,” the appropriated and unique style of the true God, there was the singular form *Eloah* of the very word in question.

“Hear, O Israel, Jehovah, our Elohim, one Jehovah!” (**Deut 6:4**) This sentence was proclaimed as a kind of oracular, a solemn and authoritative principle to the Israelites. Had it been intended to assert such a unity in the Divine Nature, as is absolutely solitary, and exclusive of every modification of plurality, would not the expression of necessity have been this, “Hear, O Israel, Jehovah, our Elohim, one *Eloah*?” But as the words actually stand, they appear to be in the most definite and expressive manner designed to convey the idea, that, *notwithstanding* a real plurality intimated in the form Elohim, Jehovah is still ONE.”
(By Dr. P. Smith)

- “Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness.” (**Gen 1:26**)
- “Behold, the man has become like one of **Us**, to now good and evil.” (**Gen 3:22**)
- “Let **Us** go down and there confuse their language ...” (**Gen 11:7**)
- “Whom shall **I** send, and who will go for **Us**?” (**Is 6:8**)
- “The Lord God and His Spirit Have [the Hebrew verb is singular] sent **Me**.” (**Is 48:16**)
- “The Lord said to my Lord ...” (**Ps 110:1**)
- “**The Lord said** to him: ...Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, will save them **by the Lord their God**.” (**Hos 1:6,7**)
- “From the time that it was, **I** was there. And now the **Lord God** and **His Spirit** have [singular] sent **Me**.” (**Is 48:16**)
- “**The Spirit** of the **Lord God** is upon **Me**.” (**Is 61:1**)

→ From The New Testament:

- “Go Therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the **name** [singular] of the **Father** and of the **Son** and of the **Holy Spirit**.” (**Mt 28:19**)
- “There are diversities of gifts, but the **same Spirit**. There are differences of ministries, but the **same Lord** [Jesus Christ]. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the **same God** [the Father] who works all in all.” (**1 Cor 12:4-6**)
- “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God [the Father], and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.” (**2 Cor 13:14**)
- “God has sent forth the **Spirit** of His **Son** into your hearts, crying out, ‘Abba, **Father**’.” (**Gal 4:6**)
- “For through **Him** [the Son] we both have access by one **Spirit** to the **Father**.” (**Eph 2:18**)
- “Elect according the foreknowledge of God the **Father**, in sanctification of the **Spirit**, for obedience and sprinkling of the blood of **Jesus Christ**.” (**1 Pet 1:2**)
- “For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and **these three are one**.” (**1 Jn 5:7**)

✠ Brief Biblical Testimonies ✠

1. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are Eternal.

- **The Father** → “I am the First, and I am the Last” (**Is 44:6**). – “The everlasting God” (**Rom 16:26**).
- **The Son** → “I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold I am alive forevermore” (**Rev 1:17**).
- **The Holy Spirit** → “The eternal Spirit” (**Heb 9:14**).

2. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit created all things.

- **The Father** → “One God, the Father, of whom are all things” (1 Cor 8:6). – “Know that the Lord, He is God; it is He who made us” (Ps 100:3).
- **The Son** → “All things were made through Him” (Jn 1:3; Col 1:16).
- **The Holy Spirit** → “The Spirit of God has made me” (Job 33:4). – “ You send forth Your Spirit, they are created” (Ps 104:30).

3. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are Omnipresent (All-Present).

- **The Father** → ““Do I not fill heaven and earth?” says the Lord” (Jer 23:24).
- **The Son** → “No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is the Son of Man who is in heaven [as we speak]” (Jn 3:13). – “Where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them” (Mt 18:20).
- **The Holy Spirit** → “Where can I go from Your Spirit? ...” (Ps 139:7-10)

4. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are Omniscient (All-knowing).

- **The Father** → “Known to God from eternity are all His works” (Acts 15:18).
- **The Son** → “Lord, You know all things” (Jn 21:17).
- **The Holy Spirit** → “The Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God” (1 Cor 2:10).

5. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are True, Holy, and Good.

- **The Father** → “He who sent Me is true” (Jn 7:28). – “Holy Father ... Righteous Father” (Jn 17:11,25). – “The Lord is good” (Ps 34:8).
- **The Son** → “I am ... the truth” (Jn 14:6). – “I am the good shepherd” (Jn 10:11). – “the Holy One and the Just” (Acts 3:14).
- **The Holy Spirit** → “the Spirit is truth” (1 Jn 5:6). – “the Holy Spirit” (Jn 14:26). – “Your Spirit is good” (Ps 143:10).

6. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit have each a Self-regulating will.

- **The Father** → “Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will” (Eph 1:11).
- **The Son** → “Father, I desire [will] that they also ... be with Me” (Jn 17:24). – “Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him” (Mt 11:27).
- **The Holy Spirit** → “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills” (1 Cor 12:11). – “The wind blows where it wishes” (Jn 3:8).

7. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are the fountain of life.

- **The Father** → “With You is the fountain of life” (Ps 36:9).
- **The Son** → “I am ... the life” (Jn 14:6).
- **The Holy Spirit** → “the Spirit is life” (Rom 8:10).

8. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit strengthen, comfort, and sanctify us.

- **The Father** → “You made me bold with strength in my soul” (Ps 138:3). – “I will comfort you” (Is 66:13). – “Sanctified by God the Father” (Jude 1).
- **The Son** → “I can do all things through Christ who strengthen me” (Phil 4:18). – “consolation in Christ” (Phil 2:1). – “Sanctified in Christ Jesus” (1 Cor 1:2).
- **The Holy Spirit** → “Strengthened with might through His Spirit” (Eph 3:16). – “The Comforter, the Holy Spirit” (Jn 14:26). – “Sanctified by the Holy Spirit” (Rom 15:16).

9. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit fill the soul with Divine love.

- **The Father** → “If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” (1 Jn 2:15).
- **The Son** → “For the love of Christ compels us...” (2 Cor 5:14)
- **The Holy Spirit** → “I beg you brethren ... through the love of the Spirit” (Rom 15:30).

10. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave the Divine Law.

- **The Father** → “The law of the Lord is perfect” (Ps 19:7). – “Thus says the Lord God” (Ezek 2:4).
- **The Son** → “The law of Christ” (Gal 6:2). – “These things says the Son of God” (Rev 2:18).
- **The Holy Spirit** → “The law of the Spirit” (Rom 8:2). – “The Holy Spirit said” (Acts 13:2).

11. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit dwell in the hearts of believers.

- **The Father** → “I will dwell in them ... I will be their God” (Ezek 37:26).
- **The Son** → “... that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith” (Eph 3:17). – (Jn 14:23; Rev 3:20)
- **The Holy Spirit** → “... the Spirit of truth ... dwells with you and will be in you” (Jn 14:17). – (1 Cor 6:19)

12. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are, each by Himself, the Supreme Jehovah and God.

- **The Father** → “I am the Lord [Jehovah] your God” (Ex 20:2).
- **The Son** → “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord [Jehovah], make straight in the desert a highway for our God’” (Is 40:3) and “John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea ... For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah saying ...” (Mt 3:1-3) Now the voice of St. John The Baptist, without controversy, was heard in the wilderness, preparing the way for Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, Lord Jesus Christ is Himself Jehovah, our God.
- **The Holy Spirit** → “The Lord [Jehovah] said to Moses: ‘How long will these people reject Me?’” (Num 14:11) and “They rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit ... Where is He who put His Holy Spirit within them ... the Spirit of the Lord [Jehovah] caused him to rest” (Is 63:10-14). Here we learn that the One provoked and rejected was the Holy Spirit, and was Jehovah. Therefore, the Holy Spirit is Himself Jehovah, our God.

The One Supreme Lord God is our God forever and ever.
“The Lord [Jehovah], our God [Elohim], one Lord [Jehovah]”
(Deut 6:4)

* This lecture is adapted from “*The Trinity*” by Edward Henry Bickersteth.