

# How Many Divine Beings? - Nader Mansour

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This study on “How Many Divine Beings” is to answer the question of who do we really worship? Our textbook for our study will be the Holy Bible, and inspiration as it is found in the Spirit of Prophecy. If you are a Seventh-day Adventist, you will appreciate the message as contained in the Spirit of Prophecy.

Before continuing I encourage you to pray for divine enlightenment to understand the answer to the question in the title of what we will be studying.

This important question needs to be answered accurately and decisively, and the only way we can do that is by consulting the only accurate and decisive source of this information, which is the Scriptures. We are going to be looking at a significant number of Scriptures, so I pray that you will pay careful attention as we look and see how we can rightly divide the word of truth, as we seek the answers to this question.

The importance of this aspect is brought out to us in the book of Revelation. This tells us what the final conflict and issue will be all about. We read about it in the first angel’s message found in Revelation 14:6 & 7. **“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people, (7) Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.”** In verse 6 we see an angel flying in the midst of heaven having a message for the whole world and speaks in verse 7. This first message is about worship and who it is that we must worship. The identity of who we worship will determine whether we pass or fail in the final conflict.

Not only in the first angel’s message is this brought out, but it continues in the second and third angel’s messages as well. This is of particular importance, especially as we understand that this is the last message of mercy to the world.

Let’s look at the third angel’s message and see how the issue of worship is again the emphasis and the issue of these verses. Revelation 14:9-11, **“And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive [his] mark in his forehead, or in his hand, (10) The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb: (!! ) And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.”**

This fearful warning is regarding the worship of the beast and his image and is a message that everyone should be paying attention to. It is about the wrath of God that will be poured out without mercy mixed with it. It is poured out on the worshippers of the beast and his image and that is why it is important to know who it is that we worship. The issue is of vital importance to our salvation and makes it necessary for us to know who the beast is from Scripture and how it is confirmed by the Spirit of Prophecy.

For hundreds of years, it has been understood by Bible believing Protestant Christians, to be the identity of the Papal system. This system is the Roman Catholic Church which has been used by the enemy to bring in deceptions on the world. We will not do a Bible study here to prove this, however we want to build on the fact and see how the conflict plays out in the last days.

We read about this description in Revelation 13:4. **“And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who [is] like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?”**

Here we see that the conflict of worship is brought out to a point where the whole world will be led to worship the dragon and this false system referred to as the beast. In fact, it is referred to as many titles in the Scriptures such as the Great Whore, Babylon the great, the mother of harlots, the little horn and the anti-Christ power. This system, as we'll see, is used by Satan, to confuse the issue of worship for God's people, and for the world in the last days. We read about that further in Revelation 13:8, **“And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”**

This scripture reveals what the issue is all about, and that is worship. It is important for us to have the Bible answers as to who we should worship. It is an issue of contest and contention in the last days. We are going to consult the Scriptures now with the purpose of finding out what instruction it gives us in regard to worship, that is, who we can safely worship. We are going to see examples of people carrying out this instruction. This will confirm for us that it is instruction that we need to follow. In addition telling us who we can safely worship, it tells us who we are not to worship.

Let us read John chapter 4, the story of the woman at the well. Jesus was speaking with this woman and He deals with this issue of worship. John 4:21, 22. **“Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. (22) Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.”**

Jesus was not commending ignorance when it comes to worship. He said to the woman at the well, ye know not what you worship. God wants us to have an intelligent knowledge about who we worship, so that we may worship Him aright, which the true worshippers will do. Next verse, John 4:23 says, **“But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.”** Here we see plainly, instruction given by the highest authority on earth, Jesus Christ, about who we can safely worship, that being the Father. It says the true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. This is vital to us because we want the Scriptures to reveal to us plainly, everything pertaining to this point.

It would not be fair of the Father to give such serious and dire warnings in the book of Revelation, without giving us where the truth really lies. So far, this is what we have found; that God has revealed to us about who we worship, and not only that He gives us in the Scriptures, examples of those who carry out this instruction and we will look at a few of them. Philippians 3:3. **“For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.”**

Here the apostle Paul is carrying out the instruction Jesus gave; he worshipped the Father in the Spirit. We read about it again in Ephesians 3:14, **“For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of**

**our Lord Jesus Christ.**” This is a double testimony of Paul, assuring us that it is safe to worship the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

There are also heavenly beings that also follow this instruction. God wants the beings in heaven and beings on earth, to be in harmony in their worship. An example is in Revelation 5:14, **“And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four [and] twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.** Here we see a plain example that heavenly beings worship Him that lives forever and ever, which is none other than the Father Himself. This is important to note that Heavenly Beings know who is to be worshipped; the Father. Keep this in mind because this is an issue that will be confused by the deceptions of Satan.

Does the Bible stop there in the area of worship? Or does the Bible tell us of anyone else that we are to worship and honor as we do the Father? The answer is yes, and the Scriptures gives us the answer. This is vital, that God has given us clear instruction over this issue. We read about this in John 5:23, **“That all [men] should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.”** Here we read the words of Christ, revealing to us, the instruction given to Him by the Father, that we are to honor Christ in the same way that we honor the Father. This is due to the fact, that He is the only begotten Son of God, an inheritor of the divine nature, and as such, worthy of our praise, worship and thanksgiving. You see, only a divine Being can be worthy of our worship and praise. Only a divine Being can be worthy of our adoration and to receive our prayers and our loyalty and our supreme worship. It is also important to recognize how many Beings we are to worship according to the Scriptures and inspiration.

Now let us look at some examples of people telling us how they honored the Son in the same way as the Father, even to the extent of worship. We read about the story of a blind man that Jesus healed and the Pharisees cast him out of the Synagogue, We read in John 9:35-38, **“Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? (36) He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? (37) And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee. (38) And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.”** Here we see instruction being carried out. The man worshipped Jesus. This is a vital point. Of all the questions Christ could have asked the man, He asked, Do you believe on the Son of God? You see there is a link between the Sonship of Christ and Him receiving worship and praise.

It is His Sonship that qualifies Him to be all that He really is as the only begotten Son of the Father. When the man recognized that it was Christ speaking to Him as the Son of God, he worshipped Him. Here we see it is safe and needful for us to follow this example in the instruction given to us.

Let us look at another example given in scripture of a person carrying out this instruction. Matthew 14:31, 33. **“And immediately Jesus stretched forth [his] hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?” (33) “Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.”** Here we see another evidence of the Sonship of Christ and the worship that goes to Him. These are examples of people who believed and followed the instructions of Jesus Christ. The wonderful thing is that God has not given us only such examples, He also gives us examples of heavenly beings that were given such instruction. We read about it in Hebrews 1:6, **“And again, when he bringeth in the first begotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.”** This instruction occurs to none other than Christ Jesus. Once again, we see the link in that He is the only begotten or first begotten, and the fact

that He deserves worship. In the same way we are seeing a double worship of beings on earth and beings in heaven, who recognize the position of the Son, and they worship Him as they worship the Father.

In some people's minds. they may wonder, are we worshipping two Gods? The answer must be clarified from the Scriptures. It is important to understand the position Christ holds and the relationship to the Father. Once again, the answer must be clarified from the Scriptures, as it is important to both see the position Christ holds and His relationship to the Father. Also, according to scripture, the Father is the One who is the great source of all that there is, as we read in 1 Cor. 8:6, **"But to us [there is but] one God, the Father, of whom [are] all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom [are] all things, and we by him."** Everything is of the Father, and ultimately, everything returns to the Father, even praise, worship and adoration. You see, Jesus is the only way to the Father and all praise, honor and worship of Jesus, glorifies the Father Himself, the One true God of the Scriptures. It is important for us to understand this principle, that when we worship and honor Jesus, we honor the Father. This is the highest and best way that we can honor the Father by recognizing that Jesus is the truly begotten Son of God, thus inheriting His divine nature.

We read about this in Philippians 2:10 & 11, **"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth; (11) And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father."** Isn't that plain? When we recognize and worship Christ and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, it brings glory to God the Father, the great Head of all. This is how we can truly obey and follow the first commandment and this is how we can truly follow and obey the instruction of the first angel's message that says "Fear God and give glory to Him and worship Him." This is the correct way to worship God.

God has plainly revealed in scripture that He is the only true God, so, we worship Him. His Son is to be treated in the same way and honored in the same way.

The Bible does not give us any instruction as to anyone else we are called upon to worship. This is important because it means only the Father and the Son are worthy to receive our adoration and praise and **no one else**. There are no other divine beings, else the Scriptures would have given us instruction to recognize them as well. This is a vital point and it is upon this point that Satan is causing confusion. We must remember that Satan's desire and purpose is to get the worship of people. Satan has always been desiring worship that does not belong to him and Satan is the only other being that has stood up in a rebellious manner to the government of God. He desires to be like the Father and the Son in receiving worship. We know this because he requested Jesus to worship him in the temptation in the wilderness.

Let's read about it in Matthew 4:8 & 9. **"Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; (9) And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me."** What a preposterous request he was making. Christ was the creator of Lucifer (the light bearer), who turned into Satan (the adversary and enemy of God and man). Here we can see clearly that Satan is craving worship. This is why it is important that we understand who is to be worshipped. Let us read the answer Christ gave to Satan in Matthew 4:10, **"Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve."** This answer that Jesus gave to Satan, confirms the truth, that there is one God and Him only shall we serve. Jesus was referring to His Father. As said before, all the glory, worship and praise that Jesus receives, ultimately

glorifies the Father. He is who the first angel's message is all about and it is vital for us to understand this, so that we may not be deceived into worshipping Satan, as he still desires worship. It is important to keep in mind that the absence of instruction, outside the Father and the Son, means that when we presumptuously step over that line and give worship to anyone besides the Father and the Son, then that worship will be claimed by the one desiring worship, the enemy of souls, Satan himself. The issue in the last days is over worship and the great deception in the last days is also over worship. That is why the Bible tells us who we are to worship and that would be the Father and the Son alone.

Let us read the words of Jesus in John 14:1, "**Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.**" Here Christ was comforting His disciples. How many do we need to believe in, to keep from being troubled? Two, the Father and the Son. Jesus confirms this in John 17:3, "**And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.**" What is eternal life all about? Knowing the Father and Jesus Christ whom the Father sent. This is a life and death issue. Our eternal salvation depends on us having a relationship with only two Divine Beings.

John 8:17 & 18 "**It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. (18) I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.**" Here we see that Jesus is speaking plainly, that He and the Father are two individual Beings, both possessing the Divine nature and both worthy of our worship, praise and thanksgiving. This instruction given in the Scriptures, is also confirmed in the the following Spirit of Prophecy quotation. We will examine even more statements when we get near the end of this study, and they will confirm all that we have studied so far. These statements may be a revelation to you, but if you understand the import of these messages through the Spirit of Prophecy, you will take heed and give ear to the instructions contained therein.

From the Youth Instructor, Dec. 16, 1897, par. 5, we read the following. "**From eternity there was a complete unity between the Father and the Son. They were two, yet little short of being identical; two in individuality, yet one in spirit, and heart, and character.**" What a beautiful statement. The Father and the Son are two individuals who are united in one Spirit, which is the Spirit of God. The Bible and the SOP reveal no other divine beings. This point is brought out time and again throughout scripture.

Now we will look in the Old Testament at a scripture that deals primarily with the formulation of the plan of salvation, and how many were involved in the formulation of that plan. We read about it in Zechariah 6:12 & 13. "**And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD; (13) Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.**"

What a beautiful prophecy about Christ, referred to as the branch in this prophecy. He is the one that will bear the glory, He will build the temple of the Lord, and He's the one that will be a high priest in that temple, and He is doing just that today.

The Bible talks about something called the counsel of peace. This counsel of peace is the plan of salvation that was formulated to restore peace between us and heaven, after we fell. The Bible says

this counsel of peace was between them both. Two individuals were involved in this counsel, the Father and the Son, the only two Beings that we are to worship and praise.

Once again, this fact is confirmed in the Spirit of Prophecy. Let's read a few statements that will shed an important light on this counsel of peace. From Patriarchs and Prophets - page 63, we read the following: ***"Before the Father He pleaded in the sinner's behalf, while the host of heaven awaited the result with an intensity of interest that words cannot express. Long continued was that mysterious communing—the counsel of peace" (Zechariah 6:13) for the fallen sons of men.***" PP63.3 And here is another quote saying the same thing. Desire of Ages, page 834, ***"Before the foundations of the earth were laid, the Father and the Son had united in a covenant to redeem man if he should be overcome by Satan. They had clasped Their hands in a solemn pledge that Christ should become the surety for the human race."*** DA 834.2

This is what the scripture was talking about when it said the counsel of peace was between them both. This covenant, this clasping of hands between the Father and the Son, that Christ should become the surety, if man was overcome by Satan. This is really the plan of salvation, and the credit honor and praise go to the Father and the Son. There is more. Signs of the Times – Dec. 23, 1897, page 2, ***"In the plan to save a lost world, the counsel was between them both; the covenant of peace was between the Father and the Son."*** Once again SOP confirms that the plan of salvation, formed in their counsel of peace was between the Father and the Son alone. Still there is more. ***"The plan of redemption was arranged in the counsels between the Father and the Son."*** (HP 12.5) Again, the same counsel confirmed through the Spirit of Prophecy.

The reason we are giving so many statements, time and again, is so that we will understand that we need to go by the weight of evidence. We are not using a single solitary statement, rather, we are seeing a consistent chain of evidence that supports the same truth that we have found in the scriptures. Let's read one more and see how this consistent chain carries on. ***"Even the angels were not permitted to share the counsels between the Father and the Son when the plan of salvation was laid."*** (MH 429.4) The angels are not Divine Beings, they are created, finite beings and therefore could not be in the counsels between the Father and the Son.

Here is another description of this wonderful event, ***"Father and Son are pledged to fulfill the terms of the everlasting covenant."*** (YI - 6/14/1900 par.5) You see the everlasting covenant is between the Father and the Son and both are pledged to fulfill the terms of that covenant. This is ample proof from the Scriptures and the SOP regarding how many beings were involved in the plan of our salvation. They formulated it and carried it out, and this truth will be recognized by those who will be redeemed in heaven. The redeemed ones will recognize that the credit, praise and glory, as a result of the plan of salvation, will go to the Father and the Son alone.

Let's look at Revelation 7:9, 10. ***"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; (10) And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb."*** The multitude of redeemed ones, that no man could number, are seen crying with a loud voice, "Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb." They fully understand that it was only two Divine Beings, the Father and the Son, that crafted the plan for their eternal salvation. God's people today must understand this truth and be kept from the great deception in these last days.

It is Satan's goal to deceive and confuse God's people, so that they will give honor, worship and praise to more than the two Divine Beings that the Bible and SOP has confirmed to be the only two. This recognition of the Father and the Son is a universal recognition of all the creatures of heaven and earth. We read a wonderful description of this in Revelation 5:13, 14. **"And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. 14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever."** This scripture confirms the fact that the Father and Christ are the only two Beings worthy of praise, honor and worship by all created beings. Him that sits on the throne and the Lamb, forever and ever. Even the four living creatures say Amen to what all of heaven knows; that only the Father and Son are worthy to receive worship and praise. That is because they are the only two Divine Beings, for the Father had an only begotten Son. There are other scriptures in Revelation that confirm the fact of the only two Beings worthy of worship and we need to be in harmony with what is given in the Bible.

Here is one such: Revelation 21:22-23 **"And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. (22) And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof."** This is a wonderful picture of all the redeemed throughout all of eternity, worshipping only the Father and the Son. We need to recognize the fact that the Scriptures instruct that the Father and the Son alone are to be exalted and worshipped. There are no other divine beings that we are instructed to recognize, honor, praise and worship. On this very point, Satan has sought to bring in deception.

Many of us who are familiar with the Spirit of Prophecy and the writings of Ellen G. White, may also be familiar with the history of the Millerites and the Advent movement, and how God was behind that movement, and finally how God through revelation, instructed His people on certain aspects as to what He would like them to do and revealing to them vital truths pertaining to their salvation and their preparation to meet Jesus.

Before Ellen G. White was called to the prophetic office, God revealed His instructions to other persons. Many today are not familiar with the fact that this instruction given is in harmony with the instruction regarding worship, and in particular about how many Divine Beings there are. William Foy was picked by God to receive visions before Mrs. White and his visions were printed and shared. Sister White wrote about him in 17MR 95.4. **"Then another time, there was Foy that had visions, he had four visions .... They were written out and published, and it is queer that I cannot find them in any of my books. But we had moved so many times. He had four."** So, Mrs. White told us that Foy had four visions that were published. A lot of people today think that William Foy, like Hazen Foss, rejected the prophetic message and then it moved on to Ellen White. The fact is that Foy published his visions and was obedient to the heavenly visions God gave him.

Sister White continues in the same book on page 96 on William E. Foy. Question: Did you ever have an interview with him? **"I had an interview with him. He wanted to see me and I talked with him a little. They had appointed me to speak that night, and I did not know that he was there. I did not know at first that he was there. While I was talking, I heard a shout, and he is a great, tall man, and the roof was rather low, and he jumped right up and down, and oh, he praised the Lord, praised the Lord. It was just what he had seen, just what he had seen. But they extolled him so I think it hurt him, and I do not know what became of him."** (17MR p. 96)

What an interesting description as the servant of the Lord was relaying what God had given her and right there in the congregation, right there while Mrs. White was speaking, William Foy started jumping up and down and saying this is what God had shown me as well. Then she tells us as to why he was no longer receiving visions. He was extolled and ridiculed so much that it hurt him, and in order to save him, God removed the visions from him. The important point is that he had these visions and published them and it's interesting to read one of those visions where God revealed to William Foy, before he revealed to His servant Ellen White. We read from William Foy's own account in the (Christian Experience, Page 1, par. 11.) It says, ***"At the right side of the mountain appeared a mighty angel, with raiment like unto burnished gold, his legs were like pillars of flaming fire, his countenance was like the lightning and his crown gave light to the boundless place, and those who had not pass through death, could not look upon his countenance. I then beheld upon the side of this mount, letters like pure gold that said, "THE FATHER AND THE SON." Directly under these letters stood the mighty angel, whose crown lighted up the place, and all the heavenly host worshipped at his feet, round about the mountain."***

In this vision of heaven that William Foy was given, reveals to us vital information. He saw the mountain of God, and he saw a mighty angel with a crown that lit up the place. This angel is worshipped so we know that this angel is referring to none other than Christ Jesus our Lord. He is a Divine Being worthy of worship. Not just a mere angel, but the position of Him being angel, as the messenger of God, is confirmed many times in scripture. Foy's vision gives us something that was written on the mount. It says the Father and the Son. Isn't that interesting that the Father has confirmed the same truth through William Foy, that there are only two Divine Beings, the Father and the Son, and only They are to be worshipped.

This mount we are familiar with because it is the same mount that Lucifer wanted to sit in as we read in Isaiah 14:13, ***"For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:"*** This mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north is none other than where the Father and the Son sit, where they alone are worshipped. Lucifer wanted to sit there and receive worship along with the Father and the Son.

This mount is also the same place where the redeemed will worship the Father and the Son. We read about it in Revelation 14:1, ***"And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads."***

Now we will turn to the writings of Ellen White and see how she confirms these findings and is in perfect harmony with the Scriptures. How many Divine Beings are revealed in the Spirit of Prophecy? We are going to travel from the beginning of the revelation God gave, before sin entered the world, and we will move quickly and see what God has revealed through His servant, right down to the end, and how it has been a consistent revelation.

Patriarchs and Prophets page 36, ***"The Son of God shared the Father's throne, and the glory of the eternal, self-existent One encircled both. ... Before the assembled inhabitants of heaven the King declared that none but Christ, the Only Begotten of God, could fully enter into His purposes, and to Him it was committed to execute the mighty counsels of His will. The Son of God had wrought the Father's will in the creation of all the hosts of heaven; and to Him, as well as to God, their homage and allegiance were due."*** (PP 36.1 - 36.2) This is a time before creation



of the world and the entrance of sin. Only two Beings, the Father and the only begotten Son of God, were to receive from the created beings, the homage and allegiance, the worship and the praise.

Continuing in the same time period, Great Controversy page 493, par. 1 ***“Christ the Word, the Only Begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father,—one in nature, in character, and in purpose,—the only being in all the universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.”*** What a revelation this is, before the creation of the world and the entrance of sin, Christ, the Only Begotten of the Father, was the ONLY Being in the entire universe that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God. We already saw that one such counsel was the counsel of peace.

There is more so that we can see how God has not left us in doubt as to the question, “How Many Divine Beings?” The Story of Redemption - page 15: ***“Lucifer in heaven, before his rebellion, was a high and exalted angel, next in honor to God’s dear Son.”*** This is very interesting in that it tells us before his rebellion, he was the third highest ranked being in heaven. The Father is first and Lucifer came after God’s Son Jesus. The Father, the sovereign of the universe who is the source of all that there is, and Christ His begotten Son, are the only two Divine Beings worthy of worship. After Christ is Lucifer, a created being who wanted to be worshipped, but was not worthy, because he is not a divine being.

Let us look even further and see what was revealed about this question, Review and Herald, Oct. 22, 1895 – par. 1. ***“Speaking of Satan, our Lord says, “that he abode not in the truth.” He was once the covering cherub, glorious in beauty and holiness. He was next to Christ in exaltation and character.”***

This confirms to us that Lucifer, a created being, was third in line in heaven; therefore, there was no third divine being. The third highest being in heaven was a created angel, Lucifer by name. In the war in heaven, Lucifer rebelled against the order of God. He wanted to reform the government of God, particularly to insert himself in a position to receive worship, on the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north where the throne of God and His Son are.

Testimonies Volume 5, page 291. ***“When Satan became disaffected in heaven, he did not lay his complaint before God and Christ; but he went among the angels who thought him perfect and represented that God had done him injustice in preferring Christ to himself.”*** So, Lucifer did not lay his complaint before the two Divine Beings above him, who receive worship and praise from the angels and all the heavenly host.

Testimonies Volume 3, page 328 ***“Satan had sympathizers in heaven, and took large numbers of the angels with him. God and Christ and heavenly angels were on one side, and Satan on the other. Notwithstanding the infinite power of God and Christ, angels became disaffected. Then insinuations of Satan took effect, and they really came to believe that the Father and the Son were their enemies and that Satan was their benefactor.”*** What an amazing statement. It tells us all the parties that were involved in the war in heaven. The Father and the Son and all the holy angels on one side; Satan and his angels on the other. Satan was at war with the only two Divine Beings who deserve worship and praise.

Testimonies Volume 3, page 115, ***“Satan in his rebellion took a third part of the angels. They turned from the Father and His Son, and united with the instigator of rebellion.”*** More confirmation that hardly needs a statement.

Let's read further on the progression of the war. Review and Herald 1895 tells us, ***"It was with Satan that self-exaltation had its origin. He became jealous of Christ, and falsely accused Him, and then laid blame upon the Father. He was envious of the position that was held by Christ and the Father, and he turned from his allegiance to the Commander of heaven and lost his high and holy estate. Though the angels had a knowledge of God and of Jesus Christ, though they were happy in the glorious service which they did for the King of heaven, yet, through his crooked representations of Christ and the Father, the evil one deceived a great company of the angels, drew them into sympathy with himself, and associated them with himself in rebellion."*** (RH 10/22/1895 par.1)

So successful was Satan in his deceptions against God and Jesus Christ, that he turned a third of all the angels and convinced them to join him. So successful will be his deception in the last days, that all who do not heed God's instruction, will be deceived and will follow him, thinking they are following truth. That is why God has given us ample instruction in the Bible and has confirmed it in the Spirit of Prophecy.

Now we will look at a time after the rebellion in heaven, after the creation of earth and before the fall of man. We will look at how many Divine Beings there were before man fell into sin. We read about it in Desire of Ages, ***"In the beginning the Father and the Son had rested on the Sabbath after their work of Creation."*** (DA 769) 1898. Two Beings rested on the Sabbath after creation, the Father and the Son, and no one else. It is these two Beings that will be recognized all the way until the end. Reading further, Story of Redemption, page 22, ***"The holy pair [Adam and Eve] united with them [angels] and raised their voices in harmonious songs of love, praise, and adoration to the Father and His dear Son for the tokens of love that surrounded them."*** So Adam and Eve sang songs of love, praise and adoration only to the Father and the Son, two Divine Beings. Their worship was in harmony with the worshippers in heaven. When Satan deceived them, he caused confusion over worship, and that is why there is confusion today over who we worship, as we shall see.

Let's keep reading, Signs of the Times – January 16, 1879, par.22. ***"Adam and Eve assured the angels that they would never transgress the express command of God; for it was their highest pleasure to do His will. The angels united with them in holy strains of harmonious music; and as their song pealed forth from blissful Eden, Satan heard their joyful adoration of the Father and the Son."*** So, Satan was listening to those songs of adoration that went to the Father and the Son and no one else. Man, in his perfect condition worshipped only the Father and the Son. This is important for us to keep in mind.

Signs of the Times – May 12, 1890, par.2, ***"With what intense interest the whole universe watched the conflict that was to decide the position of Adam and Eve. How attentively the angels listened to the words of Satan [...] They asked themselves, Will the holy pair transfer their faith from the Father and Son to Satan? Will they accept his falsehoods as truth?"*** Here was the contest: Would Adam and Eve abandon their loyalty to the only two Divine Beings and give it to Satan? We all know the sad answer to that question and yet God had not hidden the truth about who He really is. As we shall see in even more statements after the fall, confirmation of the fact that there are still only two Divine Beings.

Signs of the Times – December 12, 1895, par. 7, ***"But in the transgression of man both the Father and the Son were dishonored."***

Special Testimonies on Education, page 21. ***“The human family cost God and His Son Jesus Christ an infinite price.”*** We saw in the Counsel of Peace the pact made between the Father and the Son, that a plan of love would be paid to redeem man if he should fall. It is a consistent testimony that there are two Divine Beings. Continuing on with what God has given us, so that we may not be deceived, The Bible Echo, October 28, 1895, par. 4. ***“No man, not even the highest angel, can estimate the great cost; it is known only to the Father and the Son.”*** No other being in heaven or on earth, knows fully what it cost for our salvation; but the Father and the Son. It’s an infinite cost and only infinite Beings can comprehend it. The Divine Beings of the Father and the Son and no one else.

Youth Instructor, June 14, 1900, par. 5. ***“Father and Son are pledged to fulfill the terms of the everlasting covenant.”*** We read that earlier and this confirms the same truth once again. Now we will see if anything has changed and if Father has given us new light here, in the last days, about anymore divine beings. The answer is NO. It is the same truth because truth does not change. To the remnant of His people, God gives the following instructions: Testimonies Volume 8, page 157. ***“In the Bible, every duty is made plain. Every lesson given is comprehensible. Every lesson reveals to us the Father and the Son. The Word is able to make all wise unto salvation.”*** Every lesson reveals to us the Father and the Son.

Continuing on: 1888 Messages, page 886.3. ***“Let the missionaries of the cross proclaim that there is one God and one Mediator between God and man, who is Jesus Christ the Son of the Infinite God. This needs to be proclaimed throughout every church in our land. Christians need to know this and not put man where God should be, that they may no longer be worshippers of idols, but of the living God. Idolatry exists in our churches.”*** Here is even more confirmation of the fact that there are only two Divine Beings. It is revealed even further as we move on in the Spirit of Prophecy.

In Youth’s Instructor, July 7, 1898, par. 2, we have a very plain statement. ***“The Father and the Sone alone are to be exalted.”*** This is in harmony with what we found in the scriptures. The Father and the Son and no one else is to be exalted.

It is Satan’s purpose and deception for us to misunderstand certain aspects about God, so that we may worship more than the Father and the Son in Spirit and in truth. This he has accomplished through a system of apostasy called Babylon in scripture. This apostate system, which is papal Rome, has brought in deception about worship; in particular, who God is.

We read this from the Athanasian Creed, New Catechism, pages 67, 68. ***“Now this is the Catholic faith; We worship one God in the Trinity and the Trinity in unity, without either confusing the persons or dividing the substance; for the person of the Father is one, the Son is another, the Holy Spirit is another; but the Godhead of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is one, their glory equal, their majesty co-eternal.”***

Did you catch that? The worship in the Roman Catholic system is given to three persons; the Father and the Son and someone else. The Holy Spirit is recognized as a different person to the Father and the Son, but the Bible does not reveal that to us. A correct understanding of the Holy Spirit is so simple that a young child can understand it. The Spirit of God is none other than the very Person and presence of God Himself. It is not another being to Him. But Satan has this clever deception of

separating the Spirit from God and making him another god besides the Father and the Son. We have to be careful that we are not confused by the use of biblical terms without the use of biblical concepts. It's important that our terms match our concepts.

This deception is revealed in the fact that Rome actually worships and prays to the Holy Spirit, recognizing him as a different person to the Father and the Son. The following is from "The Documents of Vatican II, page 793. ***"Prayer of Pope John XXIII to the Holy Spirit for the success of the ecumenical council."*** ***"O Holy Spirit, sent by the Father in the name of Jesus, who art present in the church and dost infallibly guide it, pour forth we pray, the fulness of Thy gifts upon the Ecumenical Council. ... We pray also for those sheep who are not now of the one fold of Jesus Christ, that even as they glory in the name of Christian, they may come at last to unity under the governance of the one Shepherd. ... Amen."***

Isn't that amazing! The Vatican II Council, which is famous for bringing in the plan to make all the Protestant churches, back under the governance of Mother Rome. Here we see while the Council was in session, the highest authority in the Roman Catholic faith, prays to and worships the Holy Spirit, with no Bible instruction whatsoever. Now we know which spirit is operating through the system. We know which spirit is going about to unite the kings of the earth together into one place for the final battle. This spirit is being prayed to and worshipped, using biblical names, but deforming and changing the truth of God into a lie, thereby deceiving people.

Any worship that goes outside the Father and the Son will be claimed by Satan, no matter what name you give to it. The scripture has spoken about this matter and therefore must not be taken lightly. The spirit that is attempting to unite the world is of course, the dragon. The dragon is appearing behind a mask and is showing himself by the biblical name, Holy Spirit. We need to have the correct understanding of the Holy Spirit, and that is the Spirit of God and the Spirit of Christ. Also, we must understand the false teaching that Satan has introduced about the Holy Spirit and making him a different person from the Father and the Son, where he can receive worship. This is instruction that is not recognized in the scripture. We cannot presume with the question of worship.

The dangerous thing is, that even among us today, we have followed in the footsteps of Rome in adopting the same activity and the same worship that is not given by the Scriptures. Instruction that is not in the scriptures, yet we presume in doing it anyway. We read about it in the book titled, "The Trinity," by three Andrews University professors. On page 273 of this book we find this alarming statement, ***"The oneness of the character and nature of the three persons of the Godhead raises the very useful question of prayer, praise and worship. ... But what about prayer to the Holy Spirit? While we have no clear example of or direct command to pray to the Spirit in Scripture, doing so does have, in principle, some implicit biblical support. ... it only seems logical that God's people can pray directly to and worship the Holy Spirit."***

Isn't that alarming? If you listen very carefully to that statement, you will hear a very apparent contradiction. The contradiction is the admission that the Bible does not support praying to the Holy Spirit, but we think it's Biblical. Well this contradiction results from the fact that their concept of God is the same as many believe today, but such a concept is foreign to the Scriptures. It is a concept of God which recognizes three co-equal, co-eternal persons who all should receive worship and praise, even prayer. It is in this practice that they are following in the footsteps of Rome. The Bible gives no authority

to give praise, adoration and worship to anyone outside of the Father and the Son, because they are the only two Divine Beings. The Holy Spirit of God is NOT a different Being to God, rather it's His very own Person, it's His very own presence. It is for this reason that the Scriptures NEVER reveal to us that we are to worship or pray to the Holy Spirit. The instruction we just read in this book is in direct violation of the Scriptures. This is dangerous because when we presume on the question of worship, we then become dangerously confused on the question of worship. This is exactly what has happened, but praise be to God for the revelation that He has given in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Let us see how the Spirit of Prophecy has revealed this to be stark error and let us read together of the restoration of all things.

Great Controversy page 676. ***“The people of God are privileged to hold open communion with the Father and the Son.”*** Only two Divine Beings and we can commune with them openly. No more barriers, nothing hidden, no veil of separation. We are not to recognize anyone else but the Father and the Son when it comes to worship and praise. Let us read some more inspiring messages as we begin to close this study.

Review and Herald, February 17, 1891, par. 5. ***“A sinner is not raised a saint, neither is a saint raised a sinner. The sinner could not be happy in the companionship of saints in light, with Jesus, with the Lord of hosts; for on every side will be heard the song of praise and thanksgiving; and honor will be ascribed to the Father and the Son.”*** This is in heaven when all things are finished, it is only the Father and the Son who are praised and worshipped.

Desire of Ages, page 769 tells us, ***“Heaven and earth unite in praise, as “from one Sabbath to another,” (Isaiah 66:23) the nations of the saved, shall bow in joyful worship to God and the Lamb.”*** In heaven, every Sabbath, we will unite in worshipping the Father and the Son. These are the only two Beings that the Bible has revealed to us that we are to worship. We will do this in heaven; shouldn't we be doing this now, here on earth? When we pray for God's will to be done here on earth, as it is in heaven, we should recognize that it is God's will that we are to be in harmony with the worshippers in heaven. In order to be safe from the deceptions of the enemy, it is vital for us to follow God's instructions, especially as we worship on the Sabbath day. Let's continue.

Australasian Union Conference Record, January 15, 1903, par. 14. ***“In your hands will be placed a golden harp, and touching its strings, you will join with the redeemed host in filling all heaven with songs of praise to God and His Son.”*** What a wonderful promise to those who are faithful. You are given a harp which you will play while singing songs of praise and adoration along with all the redeemed, to the Father and the Son. The final statement gives a beautiful picture of heaven.

Child Guidance, page 568. ***“The years will move on in gladness. Over the scene the morning stars will sing together, and the sons of God will shout for joy, while God and Christ will unite in proclaiming, “There shall be no more sin, neither shall there be no more death.””*** What a wonderful statement. The Father and the Son, the only Divine Beings of heaven, will proclaim that there will be no more sin and no more death. This is the promise of the Scriptures to all those who are faithful. God wants us to understand all these things, here on earth, before we get to heaven, because here is where the battle will be, here is where the deceptive challenge will be, and it is here where God has revealed all this information to us, so that we can be true worshippers so as to worship Him in Spirit and in truth.

You are urged to study this matter out and see if these things are so, so that you can avoid the pitfalls of Satan. This study is only a small amount of the material available on this subject, so you are encouraged to study this matter in depth, for yourself and for your loved ones, because the time is at hand. Satan's falsehoods have deceived the whole world and has even come into our beloved church.

Friends, you cannot afford to presume when it comes to worship and you cannot afford to delay. You cannot afford to say I will use what I know now, and when I get to heaven, I will find out. But this is an insult to God because He has revealed to us what we need to know to escape the deceptions. He has revealed to us what heaven is like so that we can be in harmony with the worship in heaven. May the Spirit of God guide you into a correct understanding so that you will be a worshipper in Spirit and in Truth.