

Did Jesus Teach a Trinity?

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The title of this brief, is a question that needs to be answered with indisputable evidence from the Bible and the Testimony of Jesus

The Old Testament asks the following intriguing question in Proverbs 30:4.

30:4 **“Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what [is] his name, and what [is] his son's name, if thou canst tell?**

The New Testament Answers:

Matthew 3:17 **“And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”**

Matthew 16:16 **“And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”**

Where else does the Old Testament speak of God's Son? - Proverbs 8:22-30

Proverbs 8:22, 23 **“The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. 23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning*, or ever the earth was.**

*John 1:1,2 **“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.”**

Note – The eternal Father had no beginning, however when Jesus was begotten, He had beginning of days.

8:24, 25 **When [there were] no depths, I was brought forth**; when [there were] no fountains abounding with water. 25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth**:**

** John 16:27, 28 **“... I came out from God. I came forth from the Father, ...”**

** Psalm 2:7 **“I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou [art] my Son; this day have I begotten thee.**

Note – Jesus was begotten in eternity, long before the creation of the world. Question: Does the Spirit of Prophecy confirm Jesus was born in heaven?

“The dedication of the first-born had its origin in the earliest times. God had promised to give the First-born of heaven to save the sinner. This gift was to be acknowledged in

every household by the consecration of the first-born son. He was to be devoted to the priesthood, as a representative of Christ among men. {DA 51.1}

Note – Although the SDA Church today, teaches that Jesus was not begotten until Bethlehem, the S.O.P. agrees with the Bible regarding the birth of Jesus in heaven.

Continuing with Proverbs 8:26-30 **“While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. 27 When he prepared the heavens, I [was] there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: 28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: 29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: 30 Then I was by him, [as] one brought up [with him]: and I was daily [his] delight, rejoicing always before him;”**

Note - Long after Christ was begotten, He was with the Father in the creation of Earth and the human race.

Question: Was there a third being involved in creation, called God the Holy Spirit?

Genesis 1:2 **“... And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”**

Note – This is the Spirit of the Father God Almighty, and not a third being called god the holy spirit.

Study what Ellen G. White is saying in the quote that follows:

“If men would but take the Bible as it reads, if there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad, and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error.” {GC88 598.3}”

Note – As long as there are no symbols used, as in a prophetic sense, we are to, as the prophet instructs, “take the Bible as it reads” and not put a fanciful spin on a text to support a deceptive doctrine. All biblical references stating “Spirit of God” is referencing the Father God Almighty.

And now to the subject of this study, **“Did Jesus Teach a Trinity?”**

First, let us understand what the current Seventh-day Adventist Church teaches about the Trinity as it is defined in the Fundamental Belief Number 2: **“God is a Trinity, a unity of three co-eternal persons.”**

Note - **Can the Bible prove there is a trinity composed of three co-eternal, co-equal gods?** To that question, we would have to assume a negative response is necessary for the following factual reasons. #1. The trinity doctrine never became a doctrine of the Christian

Church until the fourth century, in 325 A.D. at the Council of Nicea. 2. None of the 40 or more authors of the Bible were trinitarian. 3. The pioneers of the Adventist movement were non-trinitarian with unanimity for more than 50 years. That is an amazing fact since most of the pioneers came out of churches who taught the trinity. So, if the trinity were a true doctrine, why did they become non-trinitarian? The answer is quite simple, God was leading them away from erroneous and non-biblical doctrines.. Sadly, the SDA Church today says the pioneers were in error. So, who was leading them if not God?

Evidence to support the above note – In a book titled “The Trinity” which was written by three Andrews University Professors, Woodrow Whidden, Jerry Moon and John W. Reeve; which was published by the Review and Herald Publishing Association, the following is noted: #1. Page 190, Par. 2: **“That most of the leading SDA pioneers were non-Trinitarian in their theology has become accepted Adventist history, ...”** #2. Same page, same paragraph: **“As one line of reasoning goes, either the pioneers were wrong and the present church is right, or the pioneers were right and the present Seventh-day Adventist Church has apostatized from biblical truth.”** With the help of the Scriptures and the testimony of Jesus, we must determine from the evidence , who is right.

So far there is evidence that the early pioneers were non-Trinitarian. We are now searching for biblical or SOP evidence of three co-eternal gods.

Matthew 11:27 **“ All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and [he] to whomsoever the Son will reveal [him].”**

Hebrews 1:1, 2 **“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2. Hath in these last days spoken unto us by [his] Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;”**

Note – In Old Testament times, God communicated with man through His prophets. Since the advent of Christ, God speaks to humanity through His Son. So, did Jesus teach that there are THREE co-eternal, co-equal gods?

Mark 12:29 **“And Jesus answered him, (a scribe who had asked Jesus “What is the first commandment?”) The first of all the commandments [is], Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:”** Note – Jesus was quoting Deuteronomy 6:4.

Deuteronomy 6:4 **“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God [is] one LORD:”**

Note – In the Old Testament, when Lord is spelled in all caps, LORD, it is referring to Yahweh (Hebrew); Jehovah (English), the one true eternal Father God. (SINGULAR).

John 10:30 Jesus said, **“I and [my] Father are one.”** Consider this: If the Trinity was taught by Christ why are only two mentioned?

Note – Surely, God and Jesus are two separate and distinct Beings, so, how are they one? Ponder the following scriptural example.

Genesis 2:24, **“Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”**

Matthew 19:5 **“And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?”**

Note – The marriage relationship illustrates the Father and Son relationship. A husband and wife have a common bond, and both strive as a unit for the good of the marriage. The Father and Son are one in thought and purpose.

Deuteronomy 4:35 **“Unto thee it was showed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he [is] God; [there is] none else beside him.”** Note – This would be the reason that the first commandment is singular.

John 8:54 **“Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God”**

John 17:3 **“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”**

Note – From the mouth of Jesus, eternal life is based on the knowledge that the eternal Almighty Father God Jehovah is the ONLY true God and not three co-eternal gods. Paul confirms Christ’s one true God statement in 1 Cor. 8:6.

1 Corinthians 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.”**

Dealing now with a most important truth, the Sonship of Christ.

John 10:36 **“Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God?”**

Note – The Jews knew full well that God had a Son, as we have seen in Proverbs 30:4 and Proverbs 8:22-30 at the beginning of this study. Even in the book of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar thought he saw the Son of God with the three Hebrew boys in the fiery furnace. The Jews were looking for the Son of God (Messiah), to be a conquering king, so as to free them from the dominant rule of the Roman power. Jesus did not fill their requirements and therefore they rejected His Divine Sonship. However, they were faithful seventh day Sabbath-keepers. As a matter of fact, more, than a million Jews perished in

Jerusalem at the hands of the Romans in 70 A.D., while faithfully keeping the Sabbath. There is an important lesson in this for the Seventh-day Adventist Church today. The Trinity doctrine rejects the true Sonship of Christ and says that because the Father and Son are co-eternal, meaning one did not come before or after the other, which made it impossible that they could have a real Father/Son relationship. The Biblical Research Institute (BRI) says they are role playing and their relationship is only a metaphor. Therefore, the church rejects the true Sonship of Christ, like the Jews, and they are dutifully keeping the seventh day Sabbath, like the Jews were in 70 A.D. We had just read John 17:3 “And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” Not having the correct understanding of the Father and the Son can be eternally fatal.

John 17:21, 22 “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, [art] in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. 22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:”

Note – The Father and the Son share the same omnipresent Spirit, which is the Holy Spirit, not a third being. It is by that Spirit the Father and the Son can abide in us and is how Christ will never leave us nor forsake us.

John 5:37 “And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.”

Note – The setting for this discourse with the Jews is in Jerusalem, where Jesus had healed a man. The Jews were ready to kill Jesus because He had healed the man on the Sabbath day. Jesus was telling them that because they were not present at His baptism, they did not hear the voice of the Father, nor did they see the shape of the Father’s Spirit.

Luke 3:22 “And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.” (He did not say metaphorical Son)

Note – What the Jews were too blind to see, was the fact that their only way to the Father and eternal life was through Jesus, whom they were persecuting.

John 14:6 “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”

John 14:16,17, “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; *for he dwelleth with you, and **shall be in you.”

Note – This is where many say that vs. 16 and 17. proves the Trinity, (another comforter). Context says otherwise. All the while Jesus was with the disciples, (*for he dwelleth with you” - present tense) He was a great comfort to them while He was with them. Then still in verse 17 (**and shall be in you.” – future tense). Here is what the testimony of Jesus said through His end-time prophet regarding these two verses:

“[John 14:16, 17]. This refers to the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ, called the Comforter. {14MR 179.2}

Now notice verse 18 of John 14.

John 14:18, “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”

Jesus promised them that He would come to them. They knew He would come to them, but how? Now read 22&23.

John 14:22, 23 “Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? 23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”

Note – Jesus explains to them that He will come in a Spiritual manifestation. That would happen after He went back to heaven and was to be glorified. When He left heaven to become a human, He set aside His special attributes, such as omnipresence. When He would return to heaven, He would be glorified, and His special attributes would be restored.

John 14:26 “But the Comforter, [which is] the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, ...”

Note – The Father would send the Comforter in the name of Jesus, because the Comforter is the omnipresent Holy Spirit of Christ. The Testimony of Jesus, through Ellen White, wrote the following:

“CHRIST is to be known by the blessed name of COMFORTER.” {Ms7-1902.10}

“The SAVIOUR IS OUR COMFORTER. This I have proved Him to be.” {8MR 49.3}

“There is no comforter like Christ, so tender and so true. He is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. His Spirit speaks to the heart.” {RH, October 26, 1897 par. 15}

Doesn't Matthew 28:19 prove a trinity?

Matthew 28:19, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”

Note – Although this verse is said to support a trinity, most Bible scholars agree that the original verse was to baptize in the name of Jesus, and the verse was later changed to its present form. All the baptisms in the book of acts were in the name of Jesus only. Finally, Joseph Ratzinger, (Pope Benedict XVI) is a church historian, and he said that the church changed the verse from baptizing in Jesus name, to adding the trinity formula, in the second century.

Ephesians 2:18, **“For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.”**

Ephesians 4:4-6, **“[There is] one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 One God and Father of all, who [is] above all, and through all, and in you all.”**

Note – Ephesians 2:18 makes it clear that we have access to the Father through the Lord Jesus by ONE Spirit. (Not a third being). Then, in Ephesians 4:4-6, Paul makes it very clear that there is One Holy Spirit, One Lord Jesus and One true God the Father. It is by that One Spirit that Jesus is the only mediator between man and the Father.

! Timothy 2:5, **“For [there is] ONE God, and ONE mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”**

“They have ONE GOD and ONE SAVIOUR; and ONE SPIRIT--THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST--is to bring unity into their ranks.” {9T 189.3}

“The HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST; it is His representative. Here is the divine agency that carries conviction to hearts. When the power of HIS SPIRIT is revealed through the servants of God, we behold divinity flashing through humanity.” {13MR 313.3}

“Lift up CHRIST in His POWER in the PERSON of the HOLY SPIRIT. He is waiting for them to OPEN THE DOOR and admit HIM.” {Lt 59 March 29, 1899}

Note – The end-time church of Laodicea, has opened the door to another spirit, and Jesus is left standing outside the door knocking. Who will let the Spirit of Truth in? Soon it will be too late.

“The Lord is soon to come. We want that complete and perfect understanding which the LORD ALONE can give. IT IS NOT SAFE TO CATCH THE SPIRIT FROM ANOTHER. We want the HOLY SPIRIT, which is JESUS CHRIST. {Lt66 April 10, 1894}

“There is NO POWER in you apart from Christ, but it is your privilege to have Christ abiding in your heart by faith, and he can overcome sin in you, when you

cooperate with his efforts, putting your will on the side of God's will. {YI, June 29, 1893 par. 8}

“With HIS SPIRIT CHRIST sends a reconciling influence and a POWER that takes away sin.” {RH, May 19, 1904 par. 1}

“Jesus is ministering in the heavenly sanctuary, but He is with His workers also; for He declares, “Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:20). He is spiritual director of His church on earth,” {YRP 210.2}

Note – While Jesus is physically ministering in the Most Holy Place of the heavenly sanctuary, He is by His omnipresent Spirit, directing His church on earth.

“Christ has left HIS HOLY SPIRIT to be His representative in the world, to give celestial aid to every hungering, thirsting soul. ... We are living in a most solemn period of this world's history, but light is shining for those who will walk in the light.” {TMK 217.2}

John 1:4, 5 **“In him (Christ) was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in DARKNESS; and the DARKNESS COMPREHENDED IT NOT.”**

Note – God is NOW shining the light of truth about the Godhead, as it pertains to the Father, and to His only, truly begotten Son and to their shared Holy Spirit, just as He did with our early pioneers. Those who choose to teach and defend a trinity with either a triune god or three separate and distinct gods, and deny the real Father-Son relationship as the church now teaches,

will remain in darkness, because they do not comprehend the truth. Men who we have admired so much for their intellect, have become the chief defenders of the false, dark doctrine of the trinity. Sister White said, regarding such men,

“Many a star that we have admired for its brilliance will then go out in darkness.” {Prophets and Kings, p. 188. ChS 157.2}

Note – Sadly the followers of these admired men, who do not investigate for their own soul's salvation, are in the same deep darkness. The current trinity god of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, is the same god of the anti-Christ beast power. The belief in that god breaks God's first, second and third commandments. What a terrible way for anyone to end their probationary time.