

is answered by the Holy Spirit in Acts 13:1-4 and Isaiah 48:16, which action even the Watch Tower admits belongs only to God.

The Holy Spirit speaks as God and is called "The God of Israel" in an Old Testament passage (2 Samuel 23:2-3). We have seen that He is God in Acts 4:5, He is "God in you" (1 Cor. 6:19-20), and He wrote Scripture as God (2 Pet. 1:21). The Bible indeed teaches that the Holy Spirit is a Person and that He is God. In this analysis by Scripture alone, an honest seeker should conclude that the Bible teaches that these three Persons are identified as God (Isa. 45:22).

#### **"LORDS MANY AND GODS MANY"**

Jehovah's Witnesses claim that because the Bible designates some beings or even idols as "gods," then it justifies them calling Jesus "a god." This is fallacious reasoning and must be answered.

In Exodus 7:1, God made Moses appear as "a god" (KJV) or "like God" (NKJV) in Pharaoh's eyes. Moreover, Satan, pagan idols, and certain judges of Israel are described as so-called "gods" in the Bible (John 14:30; Psalm 82:6; 1 Cor. 8:5, 10:19; 2 Cor. 4:4).

However, none of these have the attributes of deity (omnipotence, omniscience, or omnipresence) and they are *not* deity by *nature*, as the Apostle Paul flatly states (Gal. 4:8). God addresses the judges in the context of a figure of speech, a metaphor, where they are so-called "gods" because they judged as God's representatives (Ps. 82:6). Worshiping anything makes it a so-called god; but it is not God, for there is only one God who has that nature (1 Cor. 8:4-6; 1 Tim. 2:5). This distinction in Scripture refutes the Watch Tower's doctrine and the problem of misusing the terms "a god" or "gods" is resolved.

#### **COMPOSITE UNITY AND TRI-UNITY**

"How is it possible," the Jehovah's Witnesses inquire, "for Jehovah to be *three* and *one* both at the same time?" They add, "It is illogical, unreasonable and confusing!" Their confusion is answered with the proper understanding of the word "one," which has two meanings, either *composite* unity or solitary existence. The Hebrew word "*echod*" (one) is used to affirm the monotheistic God, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one (*echod*) Lord" (Deut. 6:4).

One, here, is used as "composite unity," as is also seen with the use of *echod* with Adam and Eve being two, yet "*one* flesh" (*bosor echod*) in Gen. 2:24. Jesus recognized this composite unity in Mark 10:8. Composite oneness is used in Num. 13:23-24, where the spies returning from the land of Canaan carried "one cluster of grapes" (*eschol echod*). We can see that the word "one" may refer to a composite unity rather than merely to a solitary "one," which is a different Hebrew word, "*yachid*." Other instances of composite unity (*echod*) are found in Joshua 9:2; Judges 10:1; 2 Chronicles 30:12; Isa. 65:25; and Ezra 6:20.

*Finally, let us illustrate how it is both logically and rationally possible for three to be one, since Jehovah's Witnesses do not believe this is possible.* No analogy can perfectly describe God's nature because He is uncreated. Yet there is a logical and rational mathematical equation that helps our understanding. God is not a triplex of three gods (1 + 1 + 1 = 3). God is triune in His Persons but One in His essence. A tri-unity can be demonstrated mathematically without contradiction (1 x 1 x 1 = 1). We interchangeably use Triune, Tri-unity, and Trinity to describe what is taught in Scripture about God.

A prayerful reading of the following passages will help strengthen your faith in this great and truly divine revelation of God's Nature. It will promote faith in Christ our Savior who is able to "save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him" (Heb. 7:25; John 14:6; Acts 16:31, Rom. 10:9-10).

Allow God to speak to your heart and mind as you study these texts: Old Testament hints with Us and Our—Gen. 1:26, 3:22, 11:7; Isa. 6:8. All three Persons in one verse—Isa. 48:12; Zech. 12:9-10; Matt. 28:19. All three Persons in Creation—Gen. 1:1-2; John 1:3; Col. 1:16; Job 33:4. In the incarnation—Luke 1:35. In Christ's Baptism—Matt. 3:16-17. In the Resurrection—Acts 2:32; John 2:18-22, 10:17-18; 1 Peter 3:18. And In the benediction—2 Cor. 13:14.

—Walter R. Martin

Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version. Each book is spelled out and then abbreviated. This Jude 3 Missions edition is published by permission of Walter R. Martin in 1983. Design © 2017 Jude 3 Missions. Updated in 2017 by Kurt Van Gorden, a former missionary, researcher and coauthor with Walter R. Martin. To reprint, write MissionEditor @ Hotmail.com.

<sup>1</sup> The a-logical argument is adapted from Walter R. Martin, *Essential Christianity* (Santa Ana: Vision House, 1980).

<sup>2</sup> Joseph F. Rutherford, *Let God Be True* (New York: Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, 1948 edition) 81, 82, 87. See also J. F. Rutherford, *Reconciliation* (New York: Watchtower) 115.

<sup>3</sup> *Let God Be True* (op. cit., p. 87).

<sup>4</sup> Anonymous, *The Truth Shall Make You Free* (New York: WT B & T, 1943) 49. See also, J. F. Rutherford, *The Harp of God* (New York: WT B & T, 1921) 101, 123.

<sup>5</sup> Anonymous, *The Kingdom is At Hand* (New York: WTB & T, 1944) 46-47.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.jw.org/en/publications/books/bible-teach/who-is-michael-the-archangel-jesus/> Their official website states, "it is logical to conclude that Michael is none other than Jesus Christ."

<sup>7</sup> *Let God Be True* (op. cit., pp. 34-35).

# Jehovah's Witnesses and the TRINITY

The doctrine of the Holy Trinity has been consistently misunderstood probably more than any other biblical doctrine. Investigation into the Trinity is frequently met with dismissive assertions—"It's a great mystery" or "It is incomprehensible"—thus discouraging many from examining the scriptural basis for the doctrine.

God is not subservient to human reasoning or logic. His Divine Nature and His personal attributes are a-logical, that is, beyond human logic. Scripture cannot be replaced by man's reasoning and it is in God's revelation that we find the remarkable evidence for the Trinity.<sup>1</sup> God's self-declaration is that, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). Therefore, it should be no surprise that He describes His Divine Nature in terms beyond our comprehension, but what He states about Himself is assuredly true, since "it is impossible for God to lie" (Hebrews 6:18).

The Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society (Jehovah's Witnesses) is one of several anti-Trinitarian groups that have emerged in the past two centuries. The Jehovah's Witnesses falsely define the Trinity as a Satanic dogma of apostate Christianity that prevents people from knowing the true God, Jehovah. The Watch Tower erroneously stated:

The doctrine in brief is that there are three gods in one: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost . . . the Holy Spirit is not a person and is therefore not one of the gods of the Trinity . . . the Trinity doctrine was not conceived by Jesus or the early Christians . . . the obvious conclusion therefore is that Satan is the originator of the Trinity doctrine.<sup>2</sup>

Since the Watch Tower denies that the Trinity is biblical and they incorrectly define it — the task of true Christians is twofold: First, we must correctly define it in accord with historic Christianity. Second, we must show that the doctrine of the Trinity is both biblical and essential to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

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