

The Doctrine Of The Trinity In The Old Testament

The doctrine of the Trinity was not clearly formulated until after the New Testament was written. However there are anticipations of the doctrine in the Old Testament.

The Doctrine Is Not Plainly Revealed

The doctrine of the Trinity is not plainly revealed in the Old Testament. Without the teaching of the New Testament we would not be aware of this truth. Although not explicitly mentioned, the basis of the doctrine can be detected when exploring the Old Testament.

There Is A Plural Noun Used With A Singular Verb

A hint of the doctrine of the Trinity can be found in the first verse of the Bible.

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1).

The Hebrew word for God is *Elohim*. *Elohim* is a plural noun but it is used here with a singular verb *bara*. In the remainder of the Old Testament, when *Elohim* speaks of the true God, it is always used with a singular verb. The conclusion to be drawn is that in some sense God is both singular and plural. The doctrine of the Trinity states this – within the nature of the one God there are three eternal persons.

God Says “Let Us”

We find a further hint of the Trinity in Genesis 1.

Then God said, “Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth” (Genesis 1:26).

The phrase “let us” again gives the idea of plurality. The word “us” cannot refer to angels because angels do not create.

Therefore, in the first chapter of the Bible we have a hint of the Trinity with the plural title *Elohim* used with a singular verb and God speaking and saying, “Let us.”

More References To God Being Referred To As “Us”

The words “let us” is used elsewhere of God speaking in Genesis. After Adam and Eve sinned the Bible records.

Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever (Genesis 3:22).

At the incident at the Tower of Babel we read God saying.

Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand

one another's speech (Genesis 11:7).

Isaiah the prophet recorded God saying.

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I. Send me" (Isaiah 6:8).

Another Plural Name For God - Maker

There is another instance in the Isaiah where there is a second plural name for God.

For your Maker is your husband, the LORD of hosts is his name; the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer, the God of the whole earth he is called (Isaiah 54:5).

The word translated, "Maker" is plural in Hebrew. Therefore we have a second Hebrew word that is plural that is used of God.

The Clearest Old Testament Statement

There is one statement in the Old Testament that gives a fairly clear indication of the Trinity.

Come near me and listen to this: "From the first announcement I have not spoken in secret; at the time it happens, I am there. "And now the Sovereign LORD has sent me, with his Spirit. This is what the LORD says - your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you what is best for you, who directs you in the way you should go (Isaiah 48:16,17).

In verse sixteen, God the Son is speaking. He identifies the Father [the Sovereign Lord] and His Spirit as having sent Him. In the next verse, the Son is clearly spoken of as the Lord. Consequently these verses identify three distinct Persons who are God without denying the fact there is only one God.

There Is A Distinction Between The Lord In Heaven And The One On Earth

The Old Testament also makes a distinction between the Lord who is in heaven and the one on earth.

Then the LORD rained down burning sulfur on Sodom and Gomorrah - from the LORD out of the heavens. Thus He overthrew those cities and the entire plain, including all those living in the cities - and also the vegetation in the land (Genesis 19:24).

Each Member Is Specifically Mentioned In The Old Testament

In addition, each member of the Trinity is mentioned in the Old Testament.

God The Father

There are Old Testament passages that refer to God the Father.

For you are our father, though Abraham does not know us and Israel does not acknowledge us; you, O LORD, are our father; our Redeemer from of old is your name (Isaiah 63:16).

Malachi wrote.

Have we not all one father? Has not one God created us? Why then are we faithless to one another, profaning the covenant of our ancestors? (Malachi 2:10).

The Son Is Found In The Old Testament

The Son finds mention in the Old Testament. The Psalmist wrote.

Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity; you love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions (Psalm 45:6,7).

In the Second Psalm we read.

I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill. I will tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you (Psalm 2:6,7)

Later, in that same Psalm, it says.

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all those who put their trust in him (Psalm 2:12)

In the Book of Proverbs it says.

Who has gone up to heaven and come down? Who has gathered up the wind in the hollow of his hands? Who has wrapped up the waters in his cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and the name of his son? Tell me if you know! (Proverbs 30:4).

The Messiah Has Divine Titles

God's Son, the Messiah is described with divine titles.

"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David Or up from David's line} a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land" (Jeremiah 23:5,6).

Isaiah wrote.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

The Angel Of The Lord

The Angel of the Lord has the power to forgive sins

"See, I am sending an angel ahead of you to guard you along the way and to bring you to the place I have prepared. Pay attention to him and listen to what he says. Do not rebel against him; he will not forgive your rebellion, since my Name is in him (Exodus 23:20,21).

The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit, or the “Spirit of the Lord,” is also mentioned in the Old Testament. In the Book of Genesis we read.

Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters (Genesis 1:2).

Isaiah recorded the following.

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him - the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD - and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears (Isaiah 11:2,3).

Isaiah also wrote.

The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners (Isaiah 61:1).

Later Isaiah wrote.

Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them (Isaiah 63:10).

The Spirit of God is distinguished from the Lord in the account leading up to the Flood.

Then the LORD said, “My spirit shall not abide in mortals forever, for they are flesh; their days shall be one hundred twenty years” (Genesis 6:3)

The Trinity Is Foreshadowed In Benedictions

The Trinity is also foreshadowed in the triple benediction of Numbers 6:24-27.

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace. So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

The doxology of Isaiah 6:3 also gives hint of the Trinity.

And they were calling to one another: Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory (Isaiah 6:3).

Jacob Blessed Joseph Three Times

When Jacob blessed his son Joseph, he used the name of God three times. Each time God’s name was identified differently.

Then he blessed Joseph and said, “May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, the Angel who has delivered me from all harm may he bless these boys. May they be called by my name and the

names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac, and may they increase greatly upon the earth (Genesis 48:15,16).

While this is not conclusive, the triple benedictions are consistent with the doctrine of the Trinity.

Why Is There Not More Said?

If the doctrine of the Trinity is true, then why don't we find more explicit references in the Old Testament? Part of the answer may lie in the culture in which the Old Testament was written. Israel was surrounded by nations who were all polytheistic – they believed in many gods. It was important for Israel to realize that the God of the Bible is the only God who existed. Consequently the oneness of God was stressed. After this truth was firmly understood by Israel then the Lord revealed further truth about His basic nature – that He is a Trinity.

Summary

Although the Trinity is not explicitly taught in the Old Testament, the basis of this doctrine is certainly found there. First there is the use of the plural noun for God *Elohim* that is used with a singular verb. This gives a hint of the Trinity. The Hebrew word for Maker, which describes God, is also in the plural.

There are also passages where God speaks of himself with the words, "Let us." This is another possible reference to the Trinity.

There are also specific passages where the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are mentioned. Add to this passages that foreshadow the Trinity with the triple benediction. These passages, however, do not reveal the doctrine of the Trinity. This was left for the New Testament to accomplish. The Old Testament does not have a developed doctrine of the Trinity. However truths about the Trinity are foreshadowed in the Old Testament.

Jesus Christ: 100% God And 100% Man (Hypostatic Union)

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ was the eternal God who became a human being – He did not possess a human nature until His birth in Bethlehem. This doctrine that Jesus Christ was both God and man simultaneously is known as the "hypostatic union." "Hypostatic" is derived from two Greek words, *huper* which means, "under" and *histayme* which means, "to stand."

The Hypostatic Union Defined

The hypostatic union can be defined as God the Son, the Second Person of the Trinity, came to earth and took human nature upon himself. Thus Jesus was fully God and fully human. He will remain this way forever.

Consequently when Jesus came to earth he took to himself an additional nature – one that is human. The result was that Jesus was God and humanity simultaneously – the God man.

Jesus Was The God-Man (Theanthropic Man)

A phrase that is often used to describe Jesus is a *theanthropic* man. *Theanthropic* comes from two Greek words, *theos*, which means God and *anthropos* which mean man or human being.

This Is A Difficult Doctrine

The hypostatic union is a difficult doctrine to comprehend. There are many questions that arise concerning Jesus' divine and human nature. How are we to understand His two natures in the one body? Did each of them work separately? Were they independent of one another?

God Became Human In Jesus Christ

The Bible says that Jesus came in human flesh

This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God (1 John 4:2).

John wrote.

The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14).

These passages tell us that Jesus came in human nature - human nature became an element in His one personality.

The Unity Of Jesus' Two Natures

The attributes of Christ, as well as his titles, are ascribed to the one Person. This can only be understood if his nature is understood as one single person who united with both the human and the divine nature. Both natures are highlighted in the New Testament. Paul wrote.

Regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David (Romans 1:3).

Peter spoke of his body that died.

For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit (1 Peter 3:18).

The writer to the Hebrews stated.

But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the majesty in heaven (Hebrews 1:2,3).

Jesus Is One Person With Two Natures

Jesus had no human personality before He was born in Bethlehem. Once He became a human being, His human nature was never separate from the divine nature. Jesus was one person with two natures. He did not cease being God when He became a human, neither was He any less human because He was God. In one body He was God and humanity united. Jesus was the God-man. Thus He remained God when He became a human.

The Two Natures Are Complete

The union of the two natures was complete. Jesus did not act as God on some occasions and then as a human at other times. Therefore we cannot divide events in His life into the category of human or divine. He lived and suffered as a human being, yet all the while He was God. It is not correct to say that He performed miracles as God but died on the cross as a human. Jesus was both divine and human at all times. He is a single, undivided personality. The two natures are inseparably united. Thus He is not merely God and man but rather the God-man.

Jesus Was A Singular Person

Jesus spoke of Himself as a single person. There is no conversation back and forth between the human and divine nature as we find the members of the Trinity addressing each other. For example, in His prayer to the Father, Jesus said.

I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me (John 17:23).

Jesus never spoke of Himself in the plural – us. The only possible exception to this is found in John's gospel.

I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony (John 3:11).

However this is not necessarily Jesus speaking. It could be John's commentary. If it was Jesus speaking he was probably referring to John the Baptist.

Isaiah's Prediction Of The Messiah

The prophet Isaiah predicted the Messiah would be both human and divine.

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on his shoulders; and his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

The Two Natures Are Necessary To Save Humanity

The two natures of Christ are necessary for the salvation of the human race. As a human being, Jesus could represent humanity and die as a human being. As Deity, his death would have infinite value. Peter wrote.

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers (1 Peter 1:18).

The Two Natures Are Necessary For Jesus To Be A High Priest

The union of the two natures in one Person is essential for Jesus to be the Mediator between God and humanity.

For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and humanity, the man Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 2:5).

His dual nature allows him to be involved with both God and humanity.

Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers in all things, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since he himself was tempted in that which he has suffered, he is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted (Hebrews 2:17,18).

The writer to the Hebrews also said.

For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:15,16).

He also wrote.

Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them (Hebrews 7:25).

Summary

The biblical account of Jesus' life demonstrates that Jesus Christ was God and man simultaneously. This is known as the "hypostatic union." Though He possessed two natures, they were unified in one body. Christ had only one personality, one thought pattern. He lived His life as both God and man. It is not possible to divide His actions into categories of human or divine. He remains the God-man and forever will be. He suffered this humility because of His great love for us. For all eternity we will be reminded of that as we see Him in that body that was sacrificed on our behalf.

Indirect Teaching That Jesus Is God

Not only does the New Testament give direct evidence that Jesus is God, it also provides indirect evidence. There are many indirect references that could be cited. Some of these include.

1. Jesus Possesses The Attributes Of Deity

According to Scripture, Jesus possessed certain attributes that belong to God alone.

Jesus Is All-Knowing

Jesus is said to have been all-knowing. He knew the thoughts of people.

But Jesus knew what they were thinking and said to the man with the shriveled hand (Luke 6:8).

Jesus was able to tell the Samaritan woman her past history without having previously met her.

The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true (John 4:18).

She later testified.

Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Christ? (John 4:29)

The disciples of Jesus recognized this fact.

Now we can see that you know all things and that you do not even need to have anyone ask you questions. This makes us believe that you came from God (John 16:30).

We also read in John

He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep" (John 21:17).

In Acts we read.

And they prayed, and said, "You, Lord, who knows the hearts of all men, show which one of these two you have chosen (Acts 1:24).

He demonstrated knowledge about things that only someone all knowing could know such as the future.

From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life (Matthew 16:21).

Jesus Is Everywhere Present

Jesus said that He is present with believers everywhere.

For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them (Matthew 18:20).

At the end of Matthew's Gospel it says.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:20).

Paul wrote.

Which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way (Ephesians 1:23).

He also wrote to the Ephesians.

He who descended is himself also he who ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things (Ephesians 4:10).

Paul wrote to the Colossians.

Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all (Colossians 3:11).

Jesus' Nature Is Unchangeable

The character of Jesus does not change:

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

James wrote.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows (James 1:17).

Jesus Has Life In Himself

Jesus had life in Himself.

In him was life, and that life was the light of men (John 1:4).

Later in John we read.

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

All other creation, humans, animals, and plants, are alive because someone or something else has given it to them. Jesus has life in Himself – it is not derived from any other source.

The fact that Jesus is all knowing, everywhere present, unchangeable, has life in Himself demonstrates that He is God. Being unchangeable is an attribute of Deity.

Jesus Is All-Powerful

Jesus is also said to be all-powerful or omnipotent.

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me" (Matthew 28:18).

2. Jesus Has Existed For All Eternity

The Scripture teaches the eternity of Jesus. The Bible says that Jesus existed prior to the creation of the universe.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God (John 1:1).

Jesus Himself prayed.

And now, glorify me together with yourself, Father, with the glory which I had with you before the world was (John 17:5).

The Testimony Of John The Baptist

Although John the Baptist was born before Jesus John testified that Jesus existed before him.

John testifies concerning him. He cries out, saying,

“This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me’ (John 1:15).

John the Baptist also said.

This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me’ (John 1:30).

While strictly speaking this does not mean that Christ was eternal, it is an indication of His eternal existence.

The Testimony Of The Writer To The Hebrews

The writer to the Hebrews said.

In these last days has spoken to us in his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the world (Hebrews 1:2).

Isaiah saw Jesus’ glory:

These things Isaiah said, because he saw his glory, and he spoke of him (John 12:41).

The reference to Isaiah seeing the glory of Jesus is found in Isaiah 6:1-3.

In the year of King Uzziah’s death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of his robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above him, each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, “Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of his glory” (Isaiah 6:1-3).

The fact that Jesus has existed for all eternity is known as the doctrine of eternality. It is sometimes equated with the doctrine of pre-existence. However, the pre-existence of Christ merely means that He existed before He was born. It does not necessarily mean that He existed eternally but it could mean that.

3. Jesus Is A Member Of The Trinity

Jesus Christ is the Second Person of the Trinity. What is true about God is true about every Person in the Trinity. The Bible says that God has existed for all eternity.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God (Psalm 90:2).

Since eternal existence is an attribute of God alone, it logically follows that Jesus is God. Jesus, therefore, being God has existed for all eternity - there was no point when He came into existence. Since He had no beginning He will have no end. He is not limited by time in any sense.

4. Jesus Is Equal To God In His Names

Jesus is also spoken of as an equal with God. They both possess the same names.

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Jesus Is The I Am

The God of the Bible told Moses that He was the, "I am."

God said to Moses, "*I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you'*" (Exodus 3:14).

Jesus applied this same title to Himself.

Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad. "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to him, "and you have seen Abraham!" "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!" (John 8:56-58).

Jesus Is Lord

The God of the Bible is called the LORD in the Old Testament.

God also said to Moses, "*I am the LORD. I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty*" (Exodus 6:2,3).

Jesus is also addressed as LORD.

Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:36).

Paul wrote.

Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:3).

Jesus Is The Lord Of Lords

The God of the Old Testament is called LORD OF LORDS.

For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes (Deuteronomy 10:17).

Jesus is the LORD OF LORDS.

They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings - and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers (Revelation 17:14).

Jesus Is The Shepherd

The Lord is the shepherd of His people

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want (Psalm 23:1).

Jesus is the good shepherd

I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me - just as the Father knows me and I know the Father - and I lay down my life for the sheep (John 10:14,15).

Jesus Is The Alpha And Omega

God alone is the Alpha and Omega.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty (Revelation 1:8).

Jesus is the Alpha and Omega. Jesus said.

Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End Revelation 22:12,13).

Therefore we see that a number of names that belong to God alone also belong to Jesus.

5. Jesus Is Immanuel: God With Us

Jesus was to be called “Immanuel – God with us.”

Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, and they shall call his name Immanuel,” which translated means, “God with us” (Matthew 1:22,23).

The fact that Jesus is called, “God with us,” is another indication of His Deity.

6. Jesus Has A Unique Relationship With God The Father

Jesus has a unique relationship with God the Father. He called God “My Father.”

Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me (John 8:49).

He never equated His relationship with the Father with the relationship that His disciples had. He never referred to the Father as “Our Father” when referring to His relationship with God. It was always “Your Father” and “My Father.” At His resurrection He said to Mary Magdalene.

Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God” (John 20:17).

He said to the religious rulers.

The Father and I are one (John 10:30).

The religious leaders wanted to kill Him for making this statement because they knew He was claiming equality with God. When they brought Him before Pontius Pilate they made clear their reason for wanting Jesus dead.

The Jews insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he

claimed to be the Son of God” (John 19:7).

7. Jesus Is Put On An Equal Level With God

On a number of occasions Jesus is associated with God in an equal manner. For example, the baptismal formula put Jesus on an equal level with God the Father.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

This is also true of the apostolic benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all (2 Corinthians 13:14).

8. Jesus Has A Heavenly Origin

Scripture says that the origin of Jesus was not from earth but rather from heaven. The writer to the Hebrews compared the Old Testament character Melchizedek with Jesus.

Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually (Hebrews 7:3).

The Bible says that Christ came from heaven. John the Baptist said of Jesus.

He who comes from above is above all he who is of the earth is from the earth and speaks of the earth. He who comes from heaven is above all (John 3:31).

Jesus Himself said.

For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me (John 6:38).

9. Jesus Allowed Himself To Be Worshipped

The God who reveals Himself in the Bible has made it clear that He is the only One deserving worship. In the Ten Commandments He said:

You shall have no other gods before me (Exodus 20:3).

When Satan wanted Jesus to worship him, Jesus refused by saying:

Away with you, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve’ (Matthew 4:10).

Jesus Was Worshipped By The People

Jesus testified that worship is something that is reserved for God alone. Yet, Jesus allowed Himself to be worshiped.

And as they went to tell his disciples, behold Jesus met them, saying, ‘Rejoice!’ And they came and held him by the feet and worshipped him (Matthew 28:9).

On another occasion, Scripture records someone saying to Jesus.

'Lord, I believe!' And he worshiped him (John 9:38).

Jesus allowed Himself to be worshipped on this occasion. If only God is to be worshiped, as the Bible testifies, and Jesus allowed Himself to be worshiped, then the natural conclusion is that Jesus believed Himself to be God. On another occasion He said.

That all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father, who sent him (John 5:23).

Jesus said people were to honor Him "just as" they honor God the Father. If Jesus were not God then for people to honor Him as they honored God would be blasphemous.

The Angels Were Commanded To Worship Jesus

The first chapter of Hebrews tells us that God commanded the angels to worship Jesus.

For to which of the angels did he ever say, "You are my son, today I have begotten you"? And again, "I will be a Father to him and he shall be a son to me"? And when he again brings the first-born into the world, he says, "And let all the angels of God worship him" (Hebrews 1:5,6).

All Creation Is To Worship Jesus

We are told that all creation will worship Jesus.

Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped (Revelation 5:13,14).

10. Jesus Was Addressed In Prayer

Jesus was also addressed in prayer. The Apostles asked Jesus who should replace Jesus.

Then they prayed, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs" (Acts 1:24).

Stephen, the first recorded martyr of the church, prayed to Jesus as he was being killed.

And they went on stoning Stephen as he called upon the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!" And falling on his knees, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them!" And having said this, he fell asleep (Acts 7:59,60).

11. Jesus Forgave Sins

Another indirect testimony to Jesus being God is His forgiving sins. In the presence of the religious leaders, Jesus told a sinful woman:

Your sins are forgiven (Luke 7:48).

On another occasion he said to a paralyzed man, “*Son, your sins are forgiven you*” (Mark 2:5).

The religious rulers on both occasions were indignant. They demanded an explanation asking the question, “*Why does this man speak blasphemies like this?*” (Mark 2:7).

No doubt the rulers were remembering when God said:

I, even I, am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake (Isaiah 43:25).

If only God has the ability to forgive sins, and Jesus claimed the ability to forgive sins, then Jesus is claiming to be God. Humans may temporarily forgive sins committed against other humans, but only God can eternally forgive sins. By claiming to forgive sins Jesus demonstrated His Deity.

12. Jesus Will Judge The World

Judgment of the world is something that only God can do.

Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the Lord. For he is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples with his truth (Psalm 96:12,13).

Jesus claimed that He would judge the world.

For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the son (John 5:22).

The Apostle Paul said.

For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead (Acts 17:31).

The Bible says that only God has the right to judge the world but it also says that Jesus claimed that He would be that judge. This is more indirect evidence that Jesus is God.

13. Jesus Is The Creator

Among the many deeds attributed to Jesus is the creation of the universe. The Scripture expressly states that Jesus was involved as Creator. The Gospel of John, in speaking of Jesus, said:

All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made that was made (John 1:3).

Here we have the statement that Jesus created everything. Not one thing has been created apart from Him. The Apostle Paul also testified to Jesus being the Creator:

For by him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through him and for him (Colossians 1:16).

This statement makes it abundantly clear that Jesus created all things in the universe.

Jesus Was Not Recognized By The People

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Though Jesus was the Creator of all things, this world did not recognize Him as such. One of the saddest verses in the Bible testifies to that fact:

He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world did not know him (John 1:10).

Jesus created the world but when He visited His creation the people did not receive Him for who He truly was.

14. Jesus Sustains All Things

Not only did Jesus create everything in the beginning, he also sustains his creation. The Apostle Paul, after testifying to the creative work of Jesus, wrote:

And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together (Colossians 1:17).

The writer to the Hebrews noted.

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven (Hebrews 1:3).

Jesus is the one who holds the universe together—the person who keeps it running in an orderly fashion.

Jesus Upholds Everything By His Spoken Word

The Book of Hebrews takes this a step further. It teaches that Christ is “*upholding all things by the word of His power*” (Hebrews 1:3). The idea is that Jesus is keeping all things together by His spoken word. Thus, it is the spoken word of Jesus that now upholds the universe.

15. Jesus Is The Ruler Over All Things

The Apostle Paul testified that Christ is the ruler over all things.

And you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority. (Colossians 2:10).

Jesus rules the universe, and all that is in it. He is the One who created the universe.

16. Jesus Will Raise The Dead

Scripture teaches that Jesus will raise the dead and transform the bodies of believers.

Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out - those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned (John 5:28,29).

Paul wrote.

Who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform

our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body (Philippians 3:21).

Paul wrote to Timothy.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge (2 Timothy 4:1).

Since only God has the power to raise the dead, this is another indication that Jesus is God.

17. Jesus Gives Spiritual Life To Believers

Jesus has the authority to grant spiritual life to whomever He pleases.

For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the son gives life to whom he is pleased to give it (John 5:21).

18. Jesus Will Give Eternal Life To Believers

Jesus said that He will give eternal life to those who believe in Him.

I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand (John 10:28).

Jesus also said.

For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him (John 17:2).

19. Jesus Will Bring About The Renewal Of The Heavens And The Earth

Scripture says that Jesus, the Creator, will renew the heavens and earth. He also says, *“In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end” (Hebrews 1:10-12).*

Jesus said.

Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel (Matthew 19:28).

20. Everyone Will Confess That Jesus Is Lord

The Scripture says that everything in heaven, earth, and under the earth will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-12).

The fact that everything in the universe will confess Jesus is Lord (Yahweh, or Jehovah) proves that He indeed is almighty God.

21. Jesus Has Equal Glory With God The Father

Jesus claimed equal glory with God the Father

And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began (John 17:5).

Only God could claim that.

22. He Has The Same Nature As God

Scripture says that Jesus has the same nature as God.

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing (Philippians 2:6).

The writer to the Hebrews said.

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word (Hebrews 1:3).

The Claims Are Not Enough

If God did reveal Himself to humanity then we would expect Him to identify Himself as God. However we would expect more than mere claims. They would have to be backed up with a demonstration of His power and knowledge. Jesus realized that claiming to be God does not, by itself, make the claims true.

If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true (John 5:31).

This is why Jesus did more than make claims about Himself. He backed it up with His works. He said.

But I have a testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent. John (5:36-38).

He backed up His claims with convincing evidence. These evidences include miracles, fulfilled prophecy, and His resurrection from the dead.

Summary

From the description of Jesus as recorded in Scripture, we find that He is the eternal God. We have the following indirect evidences that Jesus is called God. Jesus possesses attributes of Deity. Jesus has existed from all eternity. Jesus is a member of the Trinity. Jesus is equal to God in certain names. Jesus had a unique relationship with God the Father. Jesus is Immanuel – God with us. Jesus is put on an equal level with God. Jesus had a heavenly origin. He also allowed Himself

to be worshiped. Jesus was addressed in prayer. Jesus and the One who would forgive sins. Jesus claimed to be the judge of the world. The Bible also says that He is the Creator of the universe. He sustains the universe by His spoken word. Jesus also presently rules the universe. Jesus will raise the dead. Jesus gives spiritual life to believers. Jesus will give eternal life to believers. Jesus will bring about the renewal of the heavens and the earth. Everyone will confess Jesus as Lord. Jesus has equal glory with God the Father. Jesus is the same essence as God.

According to Scripture, what is true about God is true about Jesus. Jesus performs work that only God can perform. These abilities cannot be delegated because they are characteristic of God alone.

We conclude that the Bible teaches that Jesus Christ is God – the Second Person of the Trinity.

Divine Attributes Attributed To Each Member Of The Trinity

Not only are the various members of the Trinity called God, each of them has divine attributes attributed to them.

1. God Is Everywhere Present

Each member of the Trinity is said to be omni-present, or everywhere present.

God The Father

The Father is everywhere present.

Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them says the LORD? Do I not fill heaven and earth says the LORD? (Jeremiah 23:24).

God The Son

The Son is also everywhere present. Jesus said.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age (Matthew 28:20).

God The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is present everywhere.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? (Psalm 139:7).

2. They Are All-Knowing

All knowledge is attributed to the Trinity.

God The Father

God the Father knows all.

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out (Romans 11:33).

God The Son

The Son has all knowledge.

He [Peter] said, "Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you" (John 21:17).

God The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is all-knowing.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you (John 14:26).

3. They Are All-Powerful

The members of the Trinity are all-powerful.

God The Father

The Father is omnipotent.

Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for me? (Jeremiah 32:27).

God The Son

The Son is all-powerful.

And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18).

God The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is all-powerful. Paul said that preached in the power of the Holy Spirit.

In the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ (Romans 15:19).

4. They Are Unchanging

God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit do not change.

God The Father

God the Father does not change.

For I, the Lord, do not change; therefore you, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed (Malachi 3:6).

God The Son

Jesus Christ remains the same always.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

God The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is also unchanging.

This is what I covenanted with you when you came out of Egypt. And my Spirit remains among you. Do not fear (Haggai 2:5).

5. They Are Eternal

All three members of the Trinity are eternal.

God The Father

God the Father has existed for all eternity.

Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God (Psalm 90:2)

God The Son

God the Son did not have a beginning.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John 1:1).

God The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is also eternal.

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God (Hebrews 9:14).

Summary

The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are each called God in Scripture. In addition, divine attributes are attributed to all three of them. Only God is all-powerful, all-knowing, eternal, everywhere present, and unchanging. Yet the Scripture says these attributes belong to each member of the Trinity. This is another proof that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are the one God. All three of them possess attributes that only God can possess. Therefore the three of them must be the one God.