

# Understanding the Trinity

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Despite what some of our Christian and Messianic brothers and sisters are teaching, the term "Trinity" is not heretical. Though the word "Trinity" is not found in the Bible, the triune nature of God that this term identifies has strong biblical support. In this article, I will explore some of the best Scriptures that define the concept of the Trinity. In the process, it will be shown that the term "Trinity" identifies a very enlightened biblical concept that helps us to understand the triune nature of our holy God.

As a good introduction to the subject of the Trinity, here is a detailed and lengthy excerpt from Chapter Three of my book, "The Language of God in Humanity":

## ***"Male and Female Both Created in the Image of God"***

In the beginning, Yahweh decided that He wanted one part of His Creation to resemble Him in nature more than any other. That is partly why He created human beings. To clarify this, let's look at a familiar passage from the Bible:

*"Then God (Elohim) said, 'Let us make man in our own image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So God (Elohim) created man in His own image, in the image of God (Elohim) He created him, male and female He created them."* - Genesis 1:26-27

When Yahweh created human beings, He created them all ***in His image***. Both male and female human beings therefore represent who Yahweh God is, and what He is like. Despite their differences in intellects and physical appearance, both men and women contain elements of Yahweh's personality. In the triune Godhead, ***there is therefore a feminine element***. If human beings, as male and female, are both created in Yahweh's likeness, then God has told us by this very fact of Creation that He is also both male and female in nature. For this reason, ***we would be correct in calling Yah the Father and Mother of all Creation***. This does not mean that Yahweh has a physical appearance like a man or a woman, however. ***The Father and the Holy Spirit do not have a corporeal body***. They are invisible and infinite, and therefore cannot be contained in any sort of physical body.

Yet, despite the fact that Yahweh exists in the spiritual realms that mortals cannot see, we find a paradox in Christ. Through Yahshua our Savior, the infinite is given a finite expression that human beings can more fully relate to. Through Yahshua, therefore, people have and will see every aspect of the Living God in physical form. This is why Saint Paul said: *"...in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form"* (Col. 2:9 NIV). Both the masculine leadership of the Father and the feminine compassion of the Holy Spirit work together in Christ. This makes Yahshua a physical representation of the infinite Triune God

called Yahweh Elohim. The masculine and feminine aspects of God are fully discussed in Chapter Seven.

The biblical passages that define and explain the triune nature of the one God Yahweh reveal that He has three ways of relating to us within His one being. Yet, though there is a certain plurality about God due to His triune nature, Christians do not believe in three different Gods as some may claim. Instead they believe in *one* God, though He reveals Himself in three Persons. This is the doctrine of the Trinity - which declares that our one God chooses to express Himself to us in three distinct, yet totally interrelated ways (1 Corinth. 12:4-6; Rom. 8:9,10; Mat. 28:19).

Scripture reveals the truth of the Trinity, showing by numerous examples that *there are three co-eternal, and co-equal Persons in the Godhead that are the same in substance, but distinct in subsistence*. In other words, even though They are totally one in purpose, the three Persons in the Godhead act independently. My own understanding of the Trinity is that *the three Persons in the Godhead are one in essence, but different in action*. All three Persons work together toward a common purpose in distinctly unique ways.

The Christian concept of the Trinity is difficult to accept rationally. It must therefore be accepted through faith. Our faith, even if it is as small as a mustard seed, can grow to accommodate new knowledge, and new perceptions of Yahweh. It is this faith that first calls us to become citizens in the Kingdom of God.

Our salvation in Christ has three stages to fulfillment. The first two stages usually happen simultaneously. First, our faith in Yahshua the Anointed One saves us. Secondly, the Holy Spirit fills the empty place within us, and begins our inner transformation into reflections of Christ. God's Spirit allows believers to understand Yahweh's nature as revealed in the Bible, and His magnificent Creation. With this spiritual discernment, we can begin to recognize Yahweh's master Plan of Salvation. The third stage of salvation - outer transformation - happens with our physical resurrection from the dead. When we are raised into everlasting life, we will be spiritually pure and holy, and will have perfect bodies just like our glorious Savior. As long as we stay faithful to Yahshua and His Spirit, our metamorphosis into perfect, holy people will occur when we are resurrected.

### ***Body, Mind, and Spirit – Man as a Reflection of Yah***

Even now, despite our fallen condition, it is still possible to see how Yahweh created us to resemble Him in nature and attributes. From the moment He formed Adam and Eve, Yahweh wrote the unseen "Language of God" into their physical composition. When Yahweh did this, *He created a perpetual word picture of the Trinity within the structure of Adam and Eve* that was made to instruct them, and every succeeding generation. This means that *each human being is a living parable!* We were all created with a unique and intimate allegorical story to tell each other, but we need to use our spiritual "eyes" to see this. By examining ourselves with the unseen eyes that the Holy Spirit alone can give us, we can gain a deeper understanding of the mystery of the Trinity, and our connection to the three Persons within it.

Like the Trinity, the Apostle Paul stated that *human beings consist of three distinct, though interrelated parts. He called these parts the spirit, the soul (or mind), and the body* (1 Thessalonians 5:23). *Like Yahweh then, we also exhibit three different states of being in one body.* Though we aren't consciously aware of these divisions, each aspect of our "triune" selves works on a somewhat independent level. For instance, our bodies can continue to function without the conscious intervention of our minds, or spirits (as in a deep sleep, or a coma). Our minds, without any help from the spirit, can process and

examine information we glean from our five senses about the physical world. The mind is also the seat of the basic emotional responses we produce when affected by outside stimuli. Yet the mind cannot act intuitively without relying on the spiritual dimension within us.

Spiritual beliefs are discerned and understood by our spirits. Yet without the power of the indwelling Holy Spirit assisting us (1 Cor. 2:14), all we discern spiritually is erroneous, and part of the darkness that Satan is also enveloped in! Unless we are born again so that our spiritual centers are filled with God's Spirit, this spiritual part of ourselves will remain in darkness (John 3:5-7; Ephesians 5:8-12). Unsaved people therefore lack spiritual discernment, and are unable to accept the truths about Yahweh recorded in the Bible, and in the Mazzaroth. They lack wisdom - not knowing what is truly good for their bodies or themselves. In their ignorance, they do evil continually, and are unable to overcome their innate wickedness (Genesis 6:5, 8:21).

Unlike Yahweh Elohim's triune Self, the three aspects of our own individual selves are set on a course of destruction, and death. ***Without the Holy Spirit's guidance, the spirit, soul, and body of each individual are completely incapable of working together in harmony and love. For this reason, we are subject to the laws of chaos, death, and decay.*** This downward spiral toward chaos is in operation throughout the Universe, and has been since Eve shared the forbidden fruit with Adam in Eden (Genesis 3:19; Psalm 102:25,26).

On that sad day, Adam and Eve may have lost the Shekinah Glory, and with it, their clothing of divine light, their immortality, and the indwelling presence of God's Spirit within them. Allusions to the Shekinah Glory in the Bible suggest that it was a physical manifestation of Yah's Spirit, and appeared as pure, radiant white light. If Yah's Shekinah Glory dwelled in Adam and Eve before the Fall, it likely acted as clothing, provided divine protection, and allowed the first human couple to feel no shame - even though they were technically naked beneath the light. Once the Shekinah Glory was lost, however, Adam and Eve both suddenly became aware of their nakedness, sinfulness, and mortality.

Since the Fall, every human being is born without the Shekinah Glory, tainted by the Original Sin, and therefore subject to decay and death. Furthermore, due to the nature of sin, each human being has a spirit, soul, and body that act independently and antagonistically toward one another - to the detriment of the whole being. The following Scripture illustrates this point:

*"Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another... But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred... jealousies, outbursts of wrath... selfish ambitions... heresies, envy... and the like; of which I tell you... that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God." - Galatians 5:16-21*

Since we are constantly at war with our own fleshly desires, the body, mind, and spirit in each person is in a constant state of chaos. The discordance in us causes disharmony in the body that leads to emotional and physical illness. Ultimately, this physical, emotional, and spiritual decay leads to death. Yet, though our bodies are perishing because of sin, we who are born again are being renewed spiritually. Believers will therefore not perish, but already have everlasting spiritual life, and a guarantee that they will participate in the First Resurrection from the dead. At the time of the First Resurrection on the Last Day, we will be given physical bodies to facilitate our eternal citizenship in the Kingdom of God on Earth.

Unlike the three parts of a fallen human being, the three Persons within our one perfect God Yah work in complete harmony together and are one in essence (John 10:30). Yahweh Elohim is a holy God without blemish or fault, and all three Persons within Him are perfect and flawless. These three in one are therefore in absolute agreement, and have one ultimate purpose that never changes (Malachi 3:6). This is what the doctrine of the Trinity states, and accepting it is a fundamental part of being a believer in Christ. This Tri-Unity so evident in our Triune God is totally absent within spiritually unregenerated people, and that is why men and God differ so completely. Without the Holy Spirit dwelling within us and set in a position of leadership over every aspect of our lives, our minds continually war with our bodies and spirits. As already stated, this causes great havoc, sorrow, pain, illness and ultimately, death. ***Our Triune God has no such weakness.***

Despite our weaknesses, however, we display certain characteristics that recall the fact that we are all created in Yah's image. Since we, like Yahweh, are triune in nature, there are some startling analogies that can be drawn from this truth that form part of the unseen Language of God. ***The three aspects of a human being - as found unblemished in Adam and Eve before the Fall - correspond allegorically to the three Persons of our one God; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*** The human mind is analogous to God the Father, though human mental abilities are only a faint reflection of the mind of the Father. Yahweh God created and controls every atom in the Universe - but our minds can only control some of our body's responses. Unlike us, Yahweh is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient. He has always known all things and never had to be taught anything, though we are born dumb and must be taught all things. Furthermore, Yahweh never forgets, though we often do and constantly need to be reminded.

God the Father is the Master Engineer of the Universe. He conceived, and laid down all the great Laws that govern time, space, and matter. Then the Father gave the blueprints to His Son: the pre-incarnate Messiah Yahshua. With the Father's Master Plan in hand, Yahshua then formed all Creation to fill the void:

***“He (Yahshua) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible... all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” - Colossians 1:15-17 (NIV) (See also John 1:3)***

In mystical Jewish theology, our invisible heavenly Father is called Ain Sof. He is not seen as a part of this Creation, but nonetheless encompasses every aspect of it within Himself. Using this concept of Ain Sof can help explain the Trinity. We can visualize Ain Sof as the invisible energy that permeates all physical matter, and energizes every atom in the Universe. Yet Yahshua put this energy into place, and acted as Yahweh Elohim when He spoke all Creation into being. Ain Sof - the Father - called His Son to act as His voice. Yahshua, acting as Yahweh Elohim, then spoke the Universe into existence - just as Genesis records:

***“Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.” - Genesis 1:3 (NKJ)***

Yahshua, as the Word of God, was the Master Architect of the material world, of every object in the celestial realms, and of all living things. In Colossians 1:17, the Apostle Paul states that Yahshua - in His preincarnate form - holds all created things together. As part of the Trinity, Yahshua is the allegorical glue that holds the fabric of the Universe together. At the same time, however, His power to order the Universe reflects the essence and will of the Father and Holy Spirit combined. In the role of Creator of the Universe, therefore, Yahshua was not alone. The Bible tells us that Yahshua had a helper in the Holy

Spirit! In Proverbs, we are told that the Holy Spirit was present when the Son of God formed the Universe. There, the Spirit of Yah is depicted as Lady Wisdom:

**“Does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice? She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, beside the way, where the paths meet. She cries out by the gates...” - Proverbs 8:1-3 (NKJ)**

Here Lady Wisdom is addressed as “She.” Thus, this Scripture suggests that Yah’s Spirit is feminine in essence. In fact, in Jewish thought, the Holy Spirit or Ruach Ha Kodesh has always been considered feminine in nature. Lady Wisdom is not only feminine in nature, but Proverbs tells us that She has always been a part of the one triune Godhead:

*“The LORD (Yahweh) possessed me (Wisdom) at the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth.” - Prov. 8:22-23 (NKJ)*

It is this Spirit of Wisdom - the same Spirit that Yahshua gives to believers - that helped Yahshua with the Father’s plans, and took delight in being a part of the creative process with Her Preincarnate Son:

**“When He (Yahshua) prepared the heavens, I (Wisdom) was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above... when He assigned to the sea its limit... when He (Yahshua) marked out the foundations of the earth, then I (Wisdom) was beside Him as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him, rejoicing in His inhabited world, and my delight was with the sons of men. Now... listen to me, my children, for blessed are those who keep my ways.” - Prov. 8:27-36 (NKJ)**

In the above passages, we see the tri-unity of Yahweh in the “Word of God,” or preincarnate Christ, who manifests Ain Sof - His Father’s Will - in the physical realm. As such, it is Yahshua who acts as the Creator on His Father’s behalf, and with the help of the Holy Spirit. When Yahshua became a man, His role did not change. He still acted on the Father’s behalf, and with the aid of the Holy Spirit. In addition, Yahshua acts this way every time a person believes in Him, and receives the Holy Spirit through Him. ***This is why Wisdom, or the Spirit of Yah, depicts Herself just as Yahshua depicts Himself: as a gate we must enter to find life:***

*“Hear instruction and be wise, and do not disdain it. Blessed is the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. For whoever finds me (Wisdom) finds life (through Yahshua’s Spirit! – see John 3:16, 36), and obtains favor from the LORD (Yahweh); But He who sins against me wrongs His own soul; all those who hate me love death.” - Prov. 8:22-36 (NKJ)*

In verse 34 of the preceding Scripture, Wisdom tells us that She waits and watches for us to arrive at Her gates and doors. Later, however, Yahshua described Himself as the Gate we must pass through to find life. In the Book of Revelation, Yahshua is depicted as standing at the door of our hearts and knocking. The Bible therefore consistently depicts our salvation in terms of finding a door or gate we must enter through. These symbolic doors or gates to salvation lead to everlasting life, and we can only enter through them when we believe in Yahshua as the Messiah (See Matthew 6:6, 7:7, 7:13-14; John 10:7-9; Revelation 3:8,20). Though these passages about the gate or door to salvation refer to Yahshua, they also identify the Wisdom, or Spirit of Yahweh acting in tandem with Christ.

Therefore, in the study of Bible passages about Lady Wisdom, we can see the true essence of the doctrine of the Trinity.

Our triune Godhead is a perfect blending of three natures in one: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Yahshua revealed Himself to be a perfect melding of both masculine and feminine characteristics in His dealings with humanity, and Yahshua is the visible image of the invisible, triune Godhead. We see this tri-unity in the holy voice that spoke to Moses from the burning bush on Mount Horeb, which was also called the Mountain of God, or Mount Sinai (Exodus 3:1-2, 33:6). That voice represented the Father in Heaven. But ***it was the actual voice of the Son, Yahweh's Word made flesh, that Moses heard***, since the Father is unheard and unseen except through his Son Yahshua. That the Holy Spirit was also present in the miracle of the burning bush is indicated by the fact that the voice issued forth from a bush *on fire*.

Fire is a symbol for the invisible transforming action of the Holy Spirit. The most noteworthy place in the Bible where this connection is shown was on the day of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit, and spoke in tongues. For Jews, Pentecost, or Shavuot commemorates the day when Moses received the Ten Commandments and the rest of God's Law on Mount Sinai. On that day, the Bible tells us that Yahweh spoke to Moses through fire and smoke (Exodus 19:18-21). For fire to burn, it requires an oxygen rich atmosphere. Fire can therefore be another manifestation of the Holy Spirit. This is why, on the Shavuot following Christ's death and resurrection, tongues of fire appeared over the apostles' heads in a physical manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit:

*"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together... Suddenly a sound like... a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house... They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."* - Acts 2:1-4 (NIV)

On that first Pentecost after Christ's death, the Holy Spirit's presence was made known through tongues of fire, and the sound of a rushing wind. God's audible voice can therefore be understood as a physical manifestation of our unseen heavenly Father, who communicates to us through His Son Yahshua and the Holy Spirit."

**END OF EXCERPT from my book: "The Language of God in Humanity."**

Simply put, what I was attempting to express in the preceding lengthy book excerpt is that we can discern the triune nature of Yahweh God that has been defined as a Trinity within ourselves. To do so, one must fully acknowledge and accept that Yahweh made mankind in His image. As it says in Scripture:

*"So God created man in His own image... male and female He created them."* - Genesis 1:27 (NKJ)

If this is true, and Scripture says it is, then we must be able to discern the nature of God in every male and female human being ever born. This means that they must physically be like God in some way. So, if the Trinity has validity as an expression of God's constitution or make-up, we should find an example of it within ourselves.

Amazingly, the Apostle Paul saw three distinct parts that make up every complete human being. These are identified as the spirit, soul and body in the following verse:

*“Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (Adonai Yahshua Ha Mashiach).” - 1 Thess. 5:23 (NKJ)*

Now, if mankind has a spirit, soul and body, and mankind is in the Image of God, then it stands to reason that God also has a spirit in the Ruach, a soul or mind found in the Father, and a physical and spiritual body found in the Son, who is the only part of the Godhead that we will ever be able to see with our eyes.

As with any sane human being, the Spirit or Ruach of God, the Soul or Mind of God the Father and the Body of the Christ or Messiah belong to one singular Person that functions spiritually as One, but that manifests Himself in our world as three distinct Persons within the Godhead. These three Persons are what make up the whole Person of the Godhead, just as every human being is made up of a spirit, soul, and body that cannot function fully apart from one another, yet can act somewhat independently of one another.

For example, the heart and lungs in each person work of their own accord as involuntary muscular reactions. They do not need a conscious act of will to occur, though they can be influenced by a conscious act of will. Likewise, people can see themselves doing something physical in their thoughts without actually doing so. Finally, a person can share his or her spirit or life essence with another person through the vehicle of touch. This is why Paul said:

*1 Corinthians 6:16-17 - “Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For ‘the two,’ He says, ‘shall become one flesh.’ But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.” (NKJ)*

The person sharing his or her body and spirit with another person is not losing their spirit to give it to another. They are mingling their life essence with the life essence in another person and thereby can become imprinted by the spiritual essence of that person, whether for good or evil. This is why we are admonished throughout Scripture to only draw near to those we love and trust before we become one with that person on a spiritual level. This idea of mingling spirits is the active vehicle behind the Baptism of the Holy Spirit or Ruach that makes us true believers. This is why Paul said:

*1 Corinth. 12:11-13 - “But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body-- whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free-- and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.” (NKJ)*

There are many Scriptural statements clarifying that we can discern the existence of the Ruach or Spirit of God and the Father through the Son of God, but also that the Father, Son and Spirit of God are distinct Persons in the Godhead that can act somewhat independently of one another, but nonetheless always act in agreement. Here are just a few of these Holy-Spirit inspired passages from the Bible. Note especially the first four Scriptures - all of which mention the Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

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

*1 Corinth. 12:4-6 - “There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit (i.e. the Ruach). There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord (i.e.*

*Adonai Yahshua). And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God (i.e. Elohim) who works all in all. (NKJ)*

*2 Corinthians 13:14 - "May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (i.e. Adonai Yahshua Ha Mashiach), and the love of God (i.e. Elohim), and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (i.e. the Ruach) be with you all." (NKJ)*

*1 Peter 1:2 - "... Chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and sprinkling by his blood..." (NKJ)*

*Matthew 11:27 - "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him." (NKJ)*

*John 10:30 - "I and My Father are one." (NKJ)*

These Scriptures have not been mistranslated, and they make it clear that Yahweh God manifests Himself as Three Persons that can and do act independently at times but are completely in agreement with one another, just as the body, mind and spirit in every believer in Yahshua ought to be.

Because of the consequences of sin, we have lost the Shekinah Glory of God and our bodies, minds and spirits no longer can act in agreement with God's Spirit. But through the re-birth given to us in the allegorical womb of the Holy Spirit, every believer will someday be one in thought and action with the triune God. This will happen when they are resurrected with indestructible spiritual bodies of perfect flesh and bone on the Last Day.

Hallelu-Yah to Yahshua our Messiah, who saves us by His perfect blood shed for us on the Cross and allows us to become His brethren in Spirit and flesh through the promise of the resurrection into everlasting life! Amen!

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