



Truth For These Times



27. THE GODHEAD

Use with Chart "The Godhead"

The word Godhead in English essentially means divinity. The word divinity speaks of the attributes of God, so in speaking of the Godhead, we are looking at the attributes of God. The attributes are those that God has revealed to us in His Word. There are many things about God we simply do not understand and have not been revealed to us, but He has given us enough to know Him and enter into a loving relationship with Him.

THERE IS ONE TRUE GOD

Deuteronomy 6:4

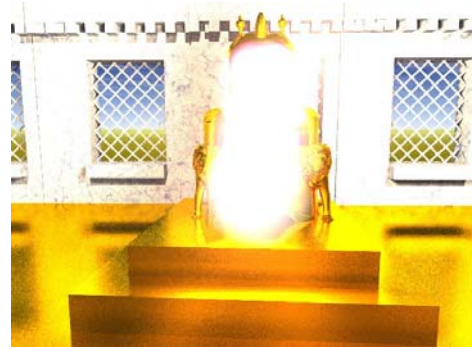
Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD:

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.

John 17:3

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.



This one true God is called the Father. This means that He is the source and originator of all things. All things come from Him and all things flow back to Him.

CHARACTERISTICS AND ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

When we speak of the attributes of God, we naturally gravitate to those things that He can do: His power and knowledge. We will examine what the Bible says about this but like my earthly father, it is not His power or abilities that are most precious to me but His character. Let us examine what God has revealed about His character. We will follow this by taking a look at His abilities.

Characteristics

Exodus 33:17-19, 34:6

And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name. And he said, I beseech thee, shew me thy glory. And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.... And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,

1 John 4:8

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

God is a tender Father who is loving, merciful, patient and one who loves to do good. This is His glory. This is what makes Him so precious. It is His character that above all is worthy of our worship.

Attributes

The Bible also mentions several attributes that are amazing and wonderful to consider.

1. He is the Fountain of Life

Psalms 36:9 For with thee *is* the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.

James 1:17

Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

2. He is Eternal

1 Timothy 1:17

Now TO THE KING ETERNAL, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

3. He is omniscient – He knows all.

Isaiah 46:9,10

Remember the former things of old, for I *am* God, and *there is* no other; I *am* God, and *there is* none like Me, DECLARING THE END FROM THE BEGINNING, and from ancient times *things* that are not *yet* done, saying, “My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.”

4. He is omnipotent – He is all powerful.

Revelation 19:6

And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the LORD GOD OMNIPOTENT REIGNS!”

God is all powerful – without limit.

5. He is omnipresent – He is present everywhere by His Spirit.

Psalms 139:7

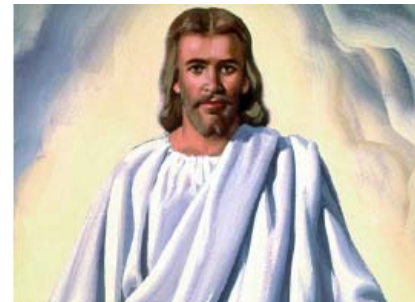
Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence?

Nothing happens without the knowledge of God. He knows if a sparrow falls. He also knows the number of hairs on your head. He is constantly in touch with all of His creation. He has the ability to be in all places at the same time.

GOD HAS A SON

Hebrews 1:1-4

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; (3) Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by



the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; (4) Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

John 5:26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

John 1:1-4 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) The same was in the beginning with God. (3) All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. (4) In him was life; and the life was the light of men.



Christ has created all things.

God has an associate, a co-worker who has inherited all of God's attributes including His name – "God." God knew that before He could create anything he needed a divine example of submission, trust and obedience that He could lift up before the universe as the perfect example for all. God cannot provide this example of trust and obedience for us because He does not depend on or obey anyone, but without this vital example, the universe could not survive. So God in His infinite wisdom brought forth a Son as our Divine example. His Son inherited

His own creative power and through His Son, God has created all things. By this process, all creatures would be able to receive those special attributes of blessing and trust and obedience.

Proverbs 8:22-25 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. (24) 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:

In the Son of God we find all the essential spiritual elements for life. The Son lives constantly in the blessing of His Father; He has a continual sense of acceptance and worth. In the heart of the Son is a continual trust, obedience and love for His Father.

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

John 8:29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

THE SPIRIT OF GOD

Revelation 22:1 And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.

It is the spirit of Jesus that all of us need to live. As this pure river flows out of the Father, it contains life, blessing and love. What it does not have are those vital ingredients of trusting obedience and submission. It also does not have that sense of



Jesus explaining to Nicodemus about the Holy Spirit.

acceptance. After the river flows forth from the Son of God, all these ingredients or elements are added. Only with the Spirit of Jesus in our hearts can we experience that sense of love, acceptance, trust and obedience. This Spirit that comes to all of us is the omnipresent spirit of God that flows from the heart of the Father through His Son and out to the universe. The Spirit is referred to by many examples including water, wind, fire and oil. All of these symbols are used to help explain the Spirit of Christ which is freely offered to us. Here are some examples



John 4:13,14 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 7:37-39 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 3:8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

John 20:21,22 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

THE MYSTERY OF THE SPIRIT

John 14:16-18 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 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. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.



John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

It is hard to understand how the Spirit works. We can't see it, yet it brings the heart of Jesus to us. It also lets us drink and breath of his characteristics and personality. The Spirit is the agent that brings the presence of both the Father and Son to us. It is not a separate person like the Father and the Son. The Spirit is referred to as "he" in the sense that it is not simply a force or essence because it brings the presence of the Father and Son to us and they are real persons. The spirit is a mystery because it is hard for us to understand omnipresence. How can

someone be in heaven and yet be everywhere at the same time? It is too hard for us to know how this works. We can only accept what the Bible has revealed on the subject and leave the rest to God.

JESUS MADE EQUAL WITH GOD

Philippians 2:5,6 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

Not only would God elevate His Son as our perfect example in all things, God made His Son equal with Himself as a living definition of equality to all His subjects. His Son was equal based upon the Father's Word not on His Son's inherited power. This is a vital point and has far reaching implications. This places the equality in the Father/Son relationship and not their individual power. Jesus speaks of this equality in the book of John.

John 10:15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father:

Just think about it, The Son knows the Father in exactly the same way that the Father knows Him. No one else in the universe knows everything about the Father except His Son and that is because He is in His express or exact image.

This form of equality preserved the vital blessing component from Father to Son; the Father states that His Son is equal and in these words comes the equality. If the Son was considered equal because of the power He possessed, He would be placed in a position of continually demonstrating that power to prove His equality. This is exactly what Satan wanted Jesus to do by turning stones into bread, prove equality through displays of power. God ensured that His kingdom would not operate this way by making Him equal through His word of blessing and their relationship.

Jeremiah 9:23,24 Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

As we look at the relationship of the Father and Son, we can see that in our sphere it is our ability to understand each other that makes us equal, not our power and ability and position. In looking at the relationship of the Father and the Son we can be set free from comparing ourselves by our talent, ability and power. God was incredibly wise in elevating His Son to be equal with Himself through His blessed Word to underscore how equality operates in His kingdom.

LUCIFER REJECTED THE SON

John 5:23 That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

1 John 2:23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.



Revelation 12:7-9 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

The Bible passages above tell us that there must have been someone who started to deny the Son and would not honour Him. This person is Satan. He is the father of lies. (John 8:44) He would not accept that Jesus was equal with the Father. He rejected the Father's command to worship Him. The evidence for angels worshipping Christ is evidenced by the angels worshipping Christ at His human birth at Bethlehem and mentioned in Heb 1:6.

Satan determined that He would only worship a God that was a God in his own right. He would not worship a God who had inherited everything. He rejected the Son of God and therefore He rejected the will of the Father.

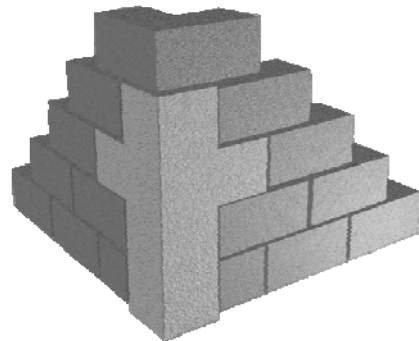
The sad reality is that most Christians today will not accept Jesus as the Son of God unless He is God in His own right. This is simply echoing the lies of Satan. They are saying in effect "we will not have this man reign over us." Luke 19:14. The Father commands us to worship and honour Jesus as God, this is the Father's will. We need no other reason than this.

THE FOUNDATION STONE

Matthew 16:13-18 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? (14) And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. (15) He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? (16) And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. (17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. (18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

1Peter 2:6-8 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. (7) Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, (8) And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.



The confession of Peter that Christ was the Son of the Living God was the confession that would provide the very foundation of Christ's church. The acceptance of Jesus as the Son of God opens to us the reality of His trusting obedience and submission. It establishes the Father's authority as absolute and it makes the blessing upon Jesus real. And above all it allows us to accept that God is the Father of Jesus and that Jesus is the Son of God. All of these things are vital parts of God's kingdom. If we reject Jesus as the Son of God, then we reject the Father's absolute authority and we are forced to see the submission of Jesus as only a demonstration and not a reality. It removes from the river of life those vital ingredients of trusting obedience; it removes the absolute nature of the Father's acceptance of the Son and His blessing upon Him.

The Identity of Jesus is the key to understanding the whole kingdom of God. The whole basis of authority, blessing, equality, submission and trust are all found in the identity of the Son of God. He is the very cornerstone of the kingdom of God.

The Son was indeed a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to Satan. Satan's lies have found entry into most of the Christian church and they now refuse to worship the Son of God; the builders of the Christian church have disallowed this stone which Peter accepted. The Father now invites you to accept His Son, receive His Spirit for He is meek and lowly in heart. He invites us to take the yoke of His Son, learn of Him, worship Him and honour Him to the glory of God the Father. Will you accept this invitation today?

Review Sheet – The Godhead

Assignment: Read the Bible study carefully before answering the following questions.

1. What are some of the Characteristics of God. Ex 34:6; I John 4:8
And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, _____ and _____,
_____, and _____ and _____.
He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God is _____
2. Name three attributes of God. Isaiah 46:9,10; Revelation 19:6; Psalms 139:7
 1. _____.
 2. _____.
 3. _____.
3. How do we know that God has a Son? Hebrews 1:2
Hath in these last days, “ _____ ”
4. What did the Son inherit from the Father? Heb 1:3
“Who being the _____”
5. How is the person of Jesus made available to us? John 15:26
“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, _____,
_____, he shall testify of me:
6. How did God make the Universe? Eph 3:9
“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid
in God, _____”
7. What did Jesus not consider robbery? Phil 2:5,6
“Thought it not robbery _____”
8. Who did consider it robbery? John 8:44, 1 John 2:23
Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and
abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, _____:
_____, _____.

Whosoever _____.
9. Why do we obey the Son? Matt 17:5
While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This
is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; _____.
10. What is the truth that is the foundation of the Christian Church? Matt 16:16
Thou art the Christ, _____.
11. Why do so many reject this foundation? I Pet 2:8, Luke 19:14
And a stone of stumbling, and _____, even to them which _____, being
disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.
11. But what is Jesus to those who believe He is the Son? 1 Pet 2:7
Unto you therefore which believe _____:

Will you worship the Father and His Son through their omnipresent Spirit and confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of
the Living God? _____