

*My question relates to the various forms of our triune God. We know that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity. Is the Father a spirit? Jesus said He is and "those who worship Him must do so in spirit and in truth". And, before His incarnation, are you saying that Jesus was a spirit also? If so, then, the trinity was originally composed of 3 spirits?*

The trinity was alluded to at creation. Genesis 1:1 reads lit.: In the beginning Gods He created. In Genesis 1:26, we read: And God said, let us make man in our image after our likeness (Ge 1:26).

The Jews had always known that there was one God (Deut 6:4); but, there was also a second power revealed in the scriptures to understand. Michael S. Heiser, author of *The Jewish Trinity: How the Old Testament Reveals the Christian Godhead* writes:

There are...claims among many scholars that the idea that Jesus was God or that there was a Godhead, that that idea is in conflict with the OT and is very new, is very late; it is a latecomer to theology.<sup>1</sup>

God's triune nature is described throughout the Old Testament as well as the New (e.g. in the personality of the Spirit [Is. 40:13; Is. 48:16], as a divine angel [Judg. 13:8–23], the personification of wisdom [Prov. 8:22–31], the threefold "Holy" [Is. 6:3] and in an Aaronic benediction [Num. 6:24–27]).<sup>2</sup>

Heiser continues:

[T]hey [the Jews] were struggling to deal with the Second Yahweh idea, some of these Godhead passages, these odd angel passages, the Word, the Rider on the Clouds, all these things. They were trying to come to grips with what their Bible was saying, and they sort of parsed out their views in a couple different categories, as to who the Second Power was, who it might be.<sup>3</sup>

It is only in modern times that Jews began to dismiss this second power (Ro 11:25).

Jesus said: God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth (Jn 4:23–24). The reason the incarnation was such a big deal to the watching angelic world was because God had taken on a new nature for the first time—that of a man (Jn 1:14). The incarnation was foreshadowed by an "angel" (Josh. 5:13–15) and in prophecy in the Old Testament (Is. 7:14).

Jesus is 100% man and 100% God. The trinity is indivisibly one (Mic 5:2; Jn 5:23; 14:9–10; Col 2:9). When God was reconciling himself to the world (2 Co 5:19), there was a rift in the trinity (Ps 22:1, Mt 27:46).

God cannot look on evil (Hab 1:13). The Father put men's transgressions and iniquities on the Son (Isa. 53:5). He was delivered up for our transgressions (Rom. 4:25). He died for our sins according to the scriptures (1 Cor. 15:3). Jesus was without sin—incorruptible. In other words there was nothing inside him that could say yes to sin (Heb 4:15). He became sin on our behalf (2 Cor. 5:21). He became a curse for us (Gal. 3:13). His *shed* blood saves men (Lev. 17:11, 14, Heb 9:14).

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<sup>1</sup> Heiser, M. S. (2014). *OT291 The Jewish Trinity: How the Old Testament Reveals the Christian Godhead*. Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). *Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index* (p. 625). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid* Heiser, M. S.

Once a woman touched Jesus and he felt power leave him. In the gospel of Luke we read:

Jesus said, "Who touched me?"

When all denied it, Peter and those with him said, "Master, the multitudes throng and press you, and you say, 'Who touched me?'"

But Jesus said, "Somebody touched me, for I perceived power going out from me." Lk 8:45–46

It *cost* him something to save us.

God says: Surely for your lifeblood I will demand a reckoning; from the hand of every beast I will require it, and from the hand of man. From the hand of every man's brother I will require the life of man (Ge 9:5). If one's name is not written in the Lamb's Book of Life, he will believe a lie (Re 13:8). To men whose names are *not* written in the book, he asks them to come to him (Re 22:17).

When men do not see fit to retain God in their knowledge [Ro 1:28]—they won't have God—his thoughts and his ideas; they have trampled the blood of the Son. They will die without remedy (Mt 9:12).

When Jesus walked the earth, men saw him veiled in human flesh (Heb 10:20). He died and was raised bodily. Those who deny the bodily resurrection of Jesus have the spirit of antichrist (1 Jn 4:3). Men must believe in a: physical, literal, bodily resurrection of Jesus.

Is Jesus a spirit? Yes. Is Jesus a man? Yes. He lives forever now with two natures—God and man. When the apostle John in vision sees God on the throne, he is one figure (Re 4:2). His own will sit with him there: To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne (Re 3:21).

There are not various forms of the triune God. Such a belief is called modalism (e.g. God puts on his Father hat and then his Son hat and then his Holy Spirit hat). No, the Father is not the Son and the Son is not the Holy Spirit—three whose and one what. Cult and 'isms go astray when it comes to Jesus. Gino Geraci said, "If you get it wrong about Jesus, it doesn't matter what else you get right."

John wrote: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created (Jn 1:1–3). There was never a time when Jesus did not exist.

The triune God has always been in a right relationship. That oneness experienced in the godhead was made available to men. Jesus prayed: May they all be one, as you, Father, are in me and I am in you. May they also be one in us, so the world may believe you sent me (Jn 17:21). Marriage, for example, is a picture of Christ and his bride, the church (Eph. 5:23–32). The world should see Christ in marriage. Married or single (1 Co 7:7) individuals may be one with the Lord through the mediator, Christ Jesus (1 Ti 2:5). Men are called to love their God and to love their neighbor. Relationships are the most important thing in the universe (Mt 22:37-40). Men were created to be loved by God and to love one another. Understanding God's nature helps us to understand our own.