

Topical Study on the Trinity – *Jesus is God*

Part 2 of 3

Sunday, March 21, 2010 (S-855-KI)

(All Scriptures are from the New King James Version unless otherwise indicated.)

Proofs that Jesus is God by Comparing Old and New Testament

In Part 2 of this three-part study on the Trinity, we will show that Jesus is God by looking at some of the attributes of God revealed in the Old Testament and seeing that Jesus and the apostles applied them to Jesus.

God is “I AM”

In the Old Testament, God calls Himself the great “I AM.” (As we will see later, Jesus claims to be the “I AM.”)

Turn to Exodus Chapter 3:

And the Angel of the LORD [The Messenger of the LORD –in context is the LORD] appeared to him [Moses] in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed. Then Moses said, “I will now turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush does not burn.” So when the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.” Moreover He said, “I am the God of your father — the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look upon God. (Exodus 3:2-6)

The word angel = messenger. But the Angel of the LORD is called “the LORD” and calls himself, “God.” So God sent a Messenger who was himself God. This requires a plural nature of God. As we will see, the Angel of the LORD is the pre-incarnate Jesus.

...Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘What is His name?’ what shall I say to them?”

And God [Elohiym] said to Moses, “I AM Who I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’” Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The Lord God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.’” (Exodus 3:13-15a)

The Angel of the LORD told Moses to give the Jewish people two names of God:

- 1. God is the “I AM.”**
- 2. God is the God of their Fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.**

So we can know that He is *not* the same god as Allah, since Muslims believe in a god of Abraham and Ishmael; not the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

“This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.” (Exodus 3:15b)

From this point on, the Jews knew this “Name of God” as the great “I AM.”

Did Jesus ever claim to be part of this plural unity? Did He ever claim this name of God?

Turn to John Chapter 8

Jesus came from God

Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and came from God; nor have I come of Myself, but He sent Me. (John 8:42)

Jesus came out of (from) the plural unity of God.

- **Sent by “He” – The Father**
- **A messenger is someone sent, The Angel of the LORD is Someone sent.**

Jesus of the New Testament was “The Angel of the LORD” in the Old Testament.

Jesus’ Words are God’s Words

Why do you not understand My speech? Because you are not able to listen to My word. (John 8:43)

Jesus speaks with the same authority as Scripture, claiming that they are *His* words, making Himself equal with God.

You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it. But because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me. Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? (John 8:44-46)

Jesus is without Sin

Even Old Testament saints knew that all have sinned and fall short of God’s glory.

“When they sin against You (for there is no one who does not sin), and You become angry with them and deliver them to the enemy, and they take them captive to a land far or near; (2 Chronicles 6:36)

But Jesus is saying He is without sin – but Only God is without sin.

Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me? He who is of God hears God’s words; therefore you do not hear, because you are not of God.” (John 8:46-47)

Again, Jesus claims that His words are God’s words. He claims that anyone who does not listen to and believe in Jesus’ words is not of God.

Then the Jews answered and said to Him, “Do we not say rightly that You are a Samaritan and have a demon?” (John 8:48)

History of Samaritans was that they invented false religion and belief – of which they now accuse Jesus.

Jesus Claims that his literal Father is God

*Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; but I honor **My Father**, and you dishonor Me. And I do not seek My own glory; there is **One who seeks and judges**. (John 8:49, 50)*

The miraculous conception of Jesus in Mary’s womb by the Holy Spirit and the virgin birth is foundational to Christian faith.

Jesus is Judge

Who is it that judges? Throughout Scripture, it is clear that God alone judges. But Scripture teaches that Jesus also judges. Turn to John Chapter 12:

*And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him — **the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day**. (John 12:47 & 48)*

And Revelation Chapter 19:

*Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and **in righteousness He judges and makes war**. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called **The Word of God** [another Name for Jesus as we will see]. (Revelation 19:11-13)*

Back to John Chapter 8:

Jesus answered, “I do not have a demon; but I honor My Father, and you dishonor Me. And I do not seek My own glory; there is One who seeks and judges. (John 8:49 & 50)

Jesus’ first coming was to give God’s word and to save. Jesus’ second coming is to judge based on whether people accepted or rejected His word when He came to save.

“Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death.” (John 8:51)

Jesus claiming that His words are not only the same as God’s word but that His words have power over death.

Jesus is I AM

Then the Jews said to Him, “Now we know that You have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, ‘If anyone keeps My word he shall never taste death.’ Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Who do You make Yourself out to be?” (John 8:52 & 53)

Answer - Jesus was making it clear that He was sent as a messenger representing (in human form) the very authority of God Himself.

Jesus answered, “If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, ‘I do not know Him,’ I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.” (John 8:54 & 55)

“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.” (John 8:56)

Jesus now claims to have been with Abraham when he was alive even though Abraham lived about 2,000 years earlier.

Then the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?” Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.” (John 8:57 & 58)

Jesus now claims the very name of God that “the Angel of the LORD” gave to Moses. (Because Jesus was the Angel of the LORD Who claimed this title at the burning bush.)

Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by. (John 8:59)

Jesus was able to escape here and many other times – because He was all powerful.

They tried to stone Jesus because He claimed the name of God for Himself – which is blasphemous and punishable by death (unless He is God) as recorded in Deuteronomy 13:

“If there arises among you a prophet or a dreamer of dreams, and he gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass, of which he spoke to you, saying, ‘Let us go after other gods’ — which you have not known — ‘and let us serve them,’ you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. (Deuteronomy 13:1-3)

You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him. (Deuteronomy 13:4)

But that prophet or that dreamer of dreams shall be put to death, because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the Lord your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst. (Deuteronomy 13:5)

Summary so Far

- **God is the great “I AM.” Jesus claims to be the “I AM.”**
 - **A (God) = C (the I AM)**
 - **B (Jesus) = C**
 - **Therefore A (God) = B (Jesus)**

Other Old Testament Proofs that Jesus is God

Jesus claimed other attributes of God which are defined as such in the Old Testament.

Jesus is Creator

God created the heavens and the earth.

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

*Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord from the heavens; Praise Him in the heights! Praise Him, all His angels; Praise Him, all His hosts! Praise Him, sun and moon; Praise Him, all you stars of light! Praise Him, you heavens of heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise **the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created.** He also established them forever and ever; He made a decree which shall not pass away. (Psalm 148:1 – 6)*

But Scripture says that *Jesus* created all things! Turn to John Chapter 1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. (John 1:1-3)

“The Word” created all things. We will soon see that “The Word” is Jesus.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. (John 1:4 & 5)

“The Word” is Light and Life.

He [the Word] was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. (John 1:10)

*He [the Word] came to His own [the Word came to human relatives], and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, **but of God.** (John 1:11-13)*

Adopted children of God believe in God’s Name and are born of God. But John Chapter 3 teaches must be born of the Spirit.

*Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water **and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is **born of the Spirit is spirit.** Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ (John 3:3-7)*

Therefore, comparing John 1:13 with John 3:5, the Spirit is God.

*But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, **but of God.** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us [**can only be Jesus**], and we beheld His glory [**only God has glory**], the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:12-14)*

Summary - Jesus created all things according to John Chapter 1.

Jesus is also the Creator and Preeminent in His Creation according to the Book of Colossians

Turn to Colossians Chapter 1

He [the Father] has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom [Jesus] we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. (Colossians 1:13-15)

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) [Another Scripture that reveals Jesus as Creator.]

And He [Jesus] is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. (Colossians 1:17 & 18)

Jesus is preeminent – something that can only be attributed to God.

For it pleased the Father that in Him [Jesus] all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. (Colossians 1:19 & 20)

Go to Hebrews Chapter 1

*God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, **through whom also He made the worlds;** (Hebrews 1:1 & 2)*

Jesus made the worlds.

*But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. **Bringing Many Sons to Glory For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.** (Hebrews 2:9 & 10)*

Everything is for Jesus and by Jesus are all things.

Summary

- 1. The Bible teaches that Jesus took the name of God as His own.**
 - **Therefore Jesus must be God!**
- 2. The Bible teaches that God created all things and also that Jesus created all things.**
 - **Therefore Jesus must be God!**