

Reference: VARIOUS

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## The Doctrine of the Holy Trinity

Purpose: to state the doctrine of the Holy Trinity and show how it is derived from Scripture

### Introduction

Continuing with Doctrine of God

Will look at Scriptural proof for Trinity

There are other forms of proof:

If God is love and God is self-sufficient, there must be plurality in the Godhead, for love must have an object.

But Scripture Porrf essential

Bible nowhere uses the word trinity

It is derived from Scripture teaching on God

### 1. Old Testament Proofs

#### 1.1. "Elohim" a plural word

Elohim most common word for "God" in Old Testament. It is a plural word, but not shown often in our translations.

Deuteronomy 6:4<sup>4</sup> Hear, O Israel: The LORD (Jehovah) our God (Elohim - plural), the LORD (Jehovah) is one. (NIV)

#### 1.2. Therefore God (Elohim) often refers to Himself in plural

Genesis 1:26<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our 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." (NIV)

Genesis 3:22 And the LORD God said, "The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live for ever." (NIV)

Genesis 11:7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." (NIV)

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

#### 1.3. The Angel (messenger) of the LORD

The Angel of the LORD (not an angel of the LORD) appears in the OT. He is identified with Jehovah yet distinguished from Him.

Genesis 16:7-13 The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur. And he said, "Hagar, servant of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered. Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her."

The angel added, "I will so increase your descendants that they will be too numerous to count." The angel of the LORD also said to her: "You are now with child and you will have a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery. He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility towards all his brothers." She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me." (NIV)

See also Genesis 18:1-21, Genesis 19:1-28, Birth of Samson (Judges 13)

#### 1.4. Personification of Wisdom

Christ is called both the wisdom of God in the New Testament (1 Cor 1:24). In the OT this is a personalised outgoing of the Father.

Proverbs 8:12-31<sup>12</sup> "I, wisdom, dwell together with prudence; I possess knowledge and discretion. ...." The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began. When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with water; before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth, before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world. I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of the deep, when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep, when he gave the sea its boundary so that the waters would not overstep his command, and when he marked out the foundations of the earth. Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always in his presence, rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind. (NIV)

#### 1.5. More than one person mentioned

Psalms 45:6-7<sup>6</sup> Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a sceptre of justice will be the sceptre of your kingdom. You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy. (NIV)

Isaiah 63:9-10<sup>9</sup> In all their distress he too was distressed, and the angel of his presence saved them. In his love and mercy he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them. (NIV)

#### Messiah speaks, mentioning God and the Spirit

Isaiah 48:12-16 "Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called; I am He, I am the first, I am also the last. Surely My hand founded the earth, and My right hand spread out the heavens; When I call to them, they stand together. Assemble, all of you, and listen! Who among them has declared these

things? The Lord loves him; he will carry out His good pleasure on Babylon, And His arm will be against the Chaldeans.<sup>15</sup> "I, even I, have spoken; indeed I have called him, I have brought him, and He will make his ways successful.<sup>16</sup> "Come near to Me, listen to this:

From the first I have not spoken in secret, From the time it took place, I was there. And now the Lord God has sent Me, and His Spirit."

Isaiah 61:1 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 broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, (NIV)

## 1.6. The ministry of the Spirit

### 1.6.1. Equipping Messiah for His work

Isaiah 11:2 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 -- (NIV)

Isaiah 42:1 "Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. (NIV)

Isaiah 61:1 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 broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, (NIV)

### 1.6.2. Working in God's People

Isaiah 32:15 till the Spirit is poured upon us from on high, and the desert becomes a fertile field, and the fertile field seems like a forest.

Ezekiel 36:26-27 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. (NIV)

Joel 2:28 "And afterwards, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. (NIV)

## 2. New Testament Proofs

### 2.1. Divine activities in OT and NT

#### Redeemer & Saviour (Yahweh in OT, Jesus in NT)

Psalms 19:14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. (NIV)

Isaiah 43:3 For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour; I give Egypt for your ransom, Cush and Seba in your stead. (NIV)

Galatians 4:4-5 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. (NIV)

Titus 2:13-14 while we wait for the blessed hope -- the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. (NIV)

### Dwells in & among God's people (OT; Yahweh, NT; Holy Spirit)

Isaiah 57:15 For this is what the high and lofty One says -- he who lives for ever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite. (NIV)

Psalms 135:21 Praise be to the LORD from Zion, to him who dwells in Jerusalem. Praise the LORD. (NIV)

Romans 8:9 You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. (NIV)

Ephesians 2:22 And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. (NIV)

### 2.2. All three persons are asserted to be Divine in NT

#### Father

Galatians 1:1 Paul, an apostle -- sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead --

#### Son

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

Romans 9:5 Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, for ever praised! Amen.

Titus 2:13 while we wait for the blessed hope -- the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, (NIV)

#### Holy Spirit

Mark 3:29 But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin." (NIV)

John 15:26 "When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. (NIV)

1 Corinthians 6:19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; (NIV)

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (NIV)

### 2.3. God sends His Son into the world

Galatians 4:4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, (NIV)

### 2.4. Father & Son send Spirit

John 14:26 But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 15:26 "When the Counsellor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

## 2.5. Father addresses Son

Mark 1:11 <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." (NIV)

## 2.6. Son communes with Father

Matthew 11:25-26 At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. <sup>26</sup> Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure.

## 2.7. Jesus' birth a work of the Spirit

Luke 1:35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. (NIV)

## 2.8. Jesus' baptism

Matthew 3:16-17 As soon as Jesus was baptised, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." (NIV)

## 2.9. Jesus talks of Spirit

See John Ch 15

John 16:5-15 But now I am going to Him who sent Me; and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' <sup>6</sup> But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. <sup>7</sup> But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. <sup>8</sup> And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment; <sup>9</sup> concerning sin, because they do not believe in Me; <sup>10</sup> and concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father and you no longer see Me; <sup>11</sup> and concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world has been judged. <sup>12</sup> I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. <sup>13</sup> But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. <sup>14</sup> He will glorify Me, for He will take of Mine and will disclose it to you. <sup>15</sup> All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.

## 2.10. Great commission (name singular, yet 3 persons)

Matthew 28:19 <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, (NIV)

## 2.11. Three persons mentioned in some verses

1 Corinthians 12:4-6 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. (NIV)  
2 Corinthians 13:14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (NIV)

1 Peter 1:2 <sup>2</sup> who have been 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: Grace and peace be yours in abundance. (NIV)

## 3. Conclusions

The evidence for the Trinity is overwhelming, though the actual word is never used in Scripture.