

A Summary of the Worldwide Church of God's Traditional Teachings on the Nature of God

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The following is a summary of the Worldwide Church of God's teachings about the Nature of God. As taught under the leadership of Herbert W. Armstrong, who died in 1986. Church literature is directly quoted in most cases. In a few places a paraphrase of what is published is provided. Whether a direct quote or paraphrase, all references are documented, allowing the reader to check the original. In a few places words or scripture references have been inserted into the text for clarification. Where this has been done, the inserted text is found between brackets []. During Armstrong's leadership, the Worldwide Church of God quoted the King James translation in its literature, unless otherwise stated. A bibliography can be found at the end of this paper.

The Word

Mystery of the Ages

Herbert W. Armstrong

New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1985.

Page 41

“‘The Word’ in the this passage [John 1:1-4] is translated from the Greek *logos*, which means ‘spokesman,’ ‘word,’ or ‘revelatory thought.’ It is the name there used for an individual Personage.”

Page 41

“The Word, then, is a Personage who was make flesh - begotten by God, who through this later begettal became his Father. Yet at that prehistoric time of the first verse of John 1, the Word was not (yet) the Son of God. He divested himself of his glory as a Spirit divinity to be begotten as a human person. He was made God's Son, through being begotten or sired by God and born of the virgin Mary.”

Page 41-42

“So here we find revealed originally *two Personages*. One is God. And with God in that prehistoric time was another Personage who also was God - one who later was begotten and born as Jesus Christ. But these two Personages were spirit, which is invisible to human eyes unless supernaturally manifested. Yet at the time described in verse one [of John 1] Jesus was *not* the Son of God and God was not his Father.”

Page 42

“These passages [John 1:1-4,14; 4:24; Hebrews 7:3] show that the Word, in the beginning - before ANYTHING had been created - was with God, and he, also was God.”

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lessons 8

Pasadena: Ambassador College, 1972.

Page 5

“The Greek word translated into English as ‘Word’ in John 1:1 is *Logos*. It can also mean spokesman, or one who speaks. It was actually the *Logos*, the ‘Spokesman’ - the ‘Word’ of the God Family - who *said*, ‘Let US make man in OUR image’ (Gen. 1:26), thus executing His awesome office as the executive of the God Kingdom. And so everything was created and made by the divine being who later became the human Jesus Christ!”

Page 9

“Before Christ (the *Logos*) was conceived in Mary, He was not the ‘Son of God.’ He was one

of the two original members of the God Kingdom. He, like the one who became the 'Father,' had existed eternally. But He is nowhere in God's Word referred to as a SON of God prior to His conception in Mary. His *human* birth was His *first* birth. He gave up the glory he had shared with the other divine being, who became His 'Father,' in order to be born into the world as a human being, live a perfect life, and then give His life to pay the penalty of all the sins of mankind."

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lesson 13
Pasadena: Worldwide Church of God, 1981.

Page 5

"The 'Word' in verse one [John 1:1] is translated from the Greek *logos* which means 'spokesman.' It is the *name* for a divine Personage."

Page 5

"The 'Word,' then, is a divine Personage who was made flesh nearly 2000 years ago. He was begotten by God who, through this very begetting, became His 'Father.' Yet, at that prehistoric time of the first verse of John 1, the Word was not (yet) the Son of God. He was *made* God's son later, through being begotten or sired by God and born of the virgin Mary as a human being."

Page 5

"So in the beginning verses of John 1, we find revealed originally *two divine Personages*. One is God. And with God at that prehistoric time was another Personage who *also* is God - one who was later begotten and born as Jesus Christ. Yet, at the time described in verse one, Jesus was *not* the 'Son' of God and God was *not* His 'Father.'"

Jesus Christ is God

Is Jesus God? (Reprint Article)

Herbert W. Armstrong

Pasadena: Ambassador College, 1958, 1972.

Page 4

"First, if Jesus had been *only* human, His death could have paid the penalty for but *one* other human who had incurred that penalty by transgression of God's spiritual Law (Roman 6:23). Since God the Father created all things, *by* Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:9), and since *all* things, including man, were made *by* Jesus Christ, He is our Maker therefore God, and His life which He gave was of *greater value* than the sum total of all human beings." See John 1:1-3,10,14; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Colossians 1:12-19.

Page 4

"Since eternal life is the GIFT of God (John 3:16), only a God *possessing* immortality could give it. If Jesus were only human, *we could not receive eternal life through Him* and He could not be our Savior. Man *does not* have eternal life inherit in himself. But as God 'the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.' And 'God *hath given* to us eternal life, and this life is *in his Son*. He that hath the Son hath life; and *he that hath not the Son hath not life*' (John 5:26 and 1 John 5:11-12)."

Page 4

"Jesus, in nature, is equal with God." See Philippians 2:6.

Page 4

"He is *called* God in Titus 2:10,13. Therefore He *is* God."

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lesson 13

Page 6

"As the Son of God and as the Creator of the entire universe and of all mankind, Christ's life was worth more than all other human lives put together! Therefore, He could pay the death penalty of sin for the *entire* human race, so that others could be born into the Family of God and

become His younger brothers (Rom. 8:29; Heb. 2:11)."

Is God A Trinity?

George L. Johnson

Pasadena: Ambassador College Press, 1973.

Pages 23 and 26

"Two different Lords are mentioned here [Psalms 110:1]. One is God the Father and the other is the One who became Jesus Christ. Paul quoted this passage to the Jewish Christians - applying it directly to Jesus Christ...(Heb. 1:13)."

Elohim

Mystery of the Ages

Page 50

"Now once again to Genesis 1:1: 'In the beginning God...' This originally was written by Moses as God inspired him. Moses wrote in Hebrew. The Hebrew word translated 'God' is *Elohim* - a noun or name, plural in form, but normally singular in grammatical usage. It is the same sort of word as *family, church, group* - one family consisting of two or more members - one church composed of many members - one group of several persons.

"It [Elohim] is referring to precisely the same persons, making up or composing the one God, as we found in John 1:1 - the Word and God - and each of these TWO Persons is God."

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lessons 8

Page 5

"The original Hebrew word for 'God' here [Genesis 1:1] and throughout the account of creation is *Elohim*, which actually means *more than one*. It is the plural form of Hebrew *Eloah*, which in English means 'Mighty One.' So *Elohim* means 'Mighty Ones' - *more* than just one person.

"*Elohim* is a uniplural or collective noun, such as 'church,' or 'family,' or 'kingdom.' In other words, *Elohim* stands for a SINGLE CLASS composed of TWO or MORE individuals. *Elohim*, then, is the 'God KINGDOM' or 'God FAMILY.' (In actual usage the word was also applied to any single member of the God Family or, by analogy, even to a heathen idol.)"

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lesson 13

Page 8

"The English word 'God' [Genesis 1:1] is translated from the Hebrew word *Elohim* - a uniplural noun. It is uniplural in the same sense as the words 'family' or 'church' - denoting more than one component forming one whole."

Is God A Trinity?

Page 42

"The Hebrew word for 'God' used in Genesis 1:1 and 26 is *Elohim*. *Elohim* is plural in form. Though this word taken by itself does not prove that there are two beings in the Godhead, it does allow for the plurality that is clearly indicated in other parts of the Bible."

God is One

Is Jesus God?

Page 5

"A church or a family consists of more than one person, yet is *one* church, or *one* family. In this sense *Elohim* - The God kingdom - includes both God the Father and YHVH who was the *Logos* or the WORD of God, and also their Spirit emanating from them, the Holy Spirit, the LIFE, CHARACTER and POWER of God. Jesus, in praying for the welfare of the Church, prayed that its many members might 'be ONE as we are one' (John 17:11, 21, Moffatt). The Church is ONE body, yet composed of many members (1 Cor. 12:12). A husband and wife are ONE FLESH, yet two persons.

"The word 'God' has two meanings - the God kingdom or the family of God, AND the *persons* composing that kingdom or family. Christ and the Father are ONE God, *not two* Gods -

one *Elohim*. That is why *Elohim* said, 'Let us make man in OUR image' (Gen. 1:26)."

Page 6

"God is not merely one Person. God is a divine Family - only one Family - but more than one divine Person. Jesus Christ spoke of His divine Father as God. Jesus said He was the Son of God (Matt. 27:43; John 10:36). Jesus is called God in Hebrews 1:8 and elsewhere. All the holy angles are commanded to worship Jesus (Heb.1:6) - and none but God many be worshipped."

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lessons 8

Page 9

"The Father and Son are one *in purpose and attitude*. But the Father is greater in authority since Christ - the "Word" or *Logos* - made all things by His authority. The Father has always been in supreme command in the Family or Kingdom of God - long *before* the Word became a human being."

Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course Lesson 22

Pasadena: Worldwide Church of God, 1985.

Page 7

Referring to the word *Elohim*. "Just as there is the animal kingdom and the human kingdom or family, Genesis 1 shows that there is also a God Kingdom or Family!

"There is *one* God, but God is a Family composed of more than one member. *Elohim*, which means 'Mighty Ones,' is the name of the God Family."

Is God A Trinity?

Page 25

"The New Testament speaks of 'God the Father' and 'God the Son,' the One who became Jesus. They are two distinct beings, but both are God. Both of them have been together since eternity."

Page 25

"Thus the Bible reveals that there were actually two spirit beings - two distinct personalities who united their efforts in the creation."

Page 42

"By what we can understand from the rest of the Bible, this word *Elohim* can act like our English words 'family,' 'group,' 'church,' or 'crowd.' These words are often regarded as singular and take a singular verb form, but they all contain more than one member.

"The Apostle Paul exemplifies this for us in 1 Corinthians 12:20. Speaking about the Church he says: 'But now are they many members, yet but one body.'"

God is a Family

Mystery of the Ages

Pages 42-43

"There might be a man named John. And John might be with the man named Smith, and John might also be Smith because John is the son of Smith, and Smith is the family name. Yet they are two separate persons.

"The only point of difference in that analogy is that the Word, at the time of Jh. 1:1, was not, yet the Son of God. But he was *with* God, and he also was God.

"They were not yet Father and Son - *but they were* the GOD KINGDOM!

"That family is composed, now, of God the Father, and Jesus Christ his Son, and many begotten humans who already, NOW, are begotten SONS OF GOD (Rom. 8:14,16; 1 John 3:2), forming the Church of God."

Pages 50-51

"IN OTHER WORDS, GOD IS NOW A FAMILY of Persons, composed so far of only the TWO - God the Father and Christ the Son. But IF the Holy Spirit of God dwells in someone, and he is being led by God's Spirit, then (Rom. 8:14) he is a begotten son of God, But, at the time of

Christ's return to earth ... all being filled and led by God's Spirit shall become BORN sons of God. The GOD FAMILY will then RULE ALL NATIONS with the GOVERNMENT OF GOD RESTORED!"

Page 57

"Finally, in briefest summary: God is a FAMILY composed at present of the TWO Persons of John 1:1-4, but with many thousands, already *begotten* by God's Spirit, in God's true Church, soon to be born into the divine family at Christ's return to earth. Jesus Christ, by his resurrection, was BORN a divine Son of God (Rom. 1:4) - the *first* so born into the God Family (Rom. 8:29)."

Is God A Trinity?

Page 41

"When we understand that God is a family - that God is reproducing after His kind - we are no longer confronted with the problems inherent in the Trinity doctrine, nor are we faced with the problem of worshiping many gods.

"There is only one God family, yet there are presently two members, and in the future there will be *many more*. Jesus was called 'the firstborn of *many brethren*' (Rom. 8:29)."

Page 42

"It was God who created man and put him on the earth. He created marriage and the family relationship as a type of His divine family."

Page 42

"God is a family. There presently are two members in that God family, God the Father - the Head of the family, the Lawgiver - and Jesus Christ the Son - the Spokesman, the Creator. But the word *Elohim* is not just dual. There is a dual number in Hebrew, but this would have to be *Elohim*. The God family, however, is destined to be truly plural - to have many members. And this is what the word *Elohim* describes and allows for."

Pages 42-43

"Look at the creation account in Genesis 1: God created the fish after the fish kind, birds after the bird kind, and animals after the animal kind. But in verse 26 God made man - *not* after any of the animal kinds, but after the God kind - in God's image and God's likeness. 'And God (Hebrew, *Elohim*) said, let us make man in *our image*, after *our likeness*; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepth upon the earth.'"

Is Jesus God?

Page 6

"So God is presently a Family of two Persons - God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son. And the wonderful truth is that human beings may be born into this same ONE God Family as distinct, separate Personalities by a resurrection from the dead."

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lesson 13

Page 8

"God, as we learned in Lesson 8 and as this lesson explains, is NOT a 'trinity,' but is a *family* composed at present of the TWO Persons mentioned in John 1:1. However, the God Family will not be limited to *only* two persons.

"God is in the process of *expanding* His Family. Already many thousands have been *begotten* by God's Holy Spirit, and will soon be born into that divine Family by a resurrection at the return of Jesus Christ. Still later, millions - even billions - will eventually be born into the Family of God!"

Page 8

"God the Father is the divine Father of the God Family, and when we who are now the *begotten sons of God* are BORN into His Family at Christ's imminent return, *we shall be like God* (1 John 3:2) for we shall then be the *born-again Sons of God!*"

Page 10

"Thus far we have learned that two all-knowing, all-powerful, all perfect Superbeings have existed from eternity. Each possesses supreme mind and creative power. These two Divine Beings composing the nucleus of the God Family, created the entire universe, including man."

Jesus Christ is the Creator

Mystery of the Ages

Page 44

"In the same manner, God the Father is Creator. But he 'created all things by Jesus Christ.' Jesus is the Word. It is written, 'He spake, and it was done' (Ps. 33:9). God tells Christ what to do (John 8:28-29). Jesus then speaks, as the workman, and the Holy Spirit is the POWER that responds and does what Jesus commands."

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lessons 8

Page 5

"John 1:1 and Genesis 1:1 are two accounts of the same event - the original creation of the universe. They both reveal that these two Supreme Beings of the God Family created all things." See 1 Corinthians 8:6.

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lesson 13

Page 8

"God created all things through Jesus Christ." See Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:15-17.

Page 8

"Christ at all times does what His Father tells Him to do. He then speaks as the workman, and the Holy Spirit is the *power* that responds and does what Jesus commands." See Genesis 1:2-3; Psalms 33:6-9; 104:30; John 8:28-29.

Page 8

"...God the Father is Creator. He 'created all things *by* Jesus Christ,' the Word, who utilized the *power* of the Holy Spirit to accomplish the task!"

Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course Lesson 22

Page 7

"John 1:1 and Genesis 1:1 takes us back to the same time in prehistory - to the original creation of the universe. Both verses reveal that the two supreme Beings composing the God Family created all things."

Jesus is Melchisedec

Mystery of the Ages

Page 42

"Since Melchisedec was '*like* unto the Son of God,' and abides as High Priest forever continually, and Jesus Christ is now High Priest, Melchisedec and Jesus Christ are one and the same Person."

Page 42

In reference to Hebrews 7:1-3, "God also had existed *eternally* with the Word. Jesus, when he was 'The Word' was an immortal being who had existed ALWAYS - there never was a time when he did not exist - with out beginning of days. He was, then, 'like' the Son of God - but he was not yet the Son of God. He also was God, along *with* God."

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lesson 13

Page 5

In reference to Hebrews 7:3, 25-27, "Since Melchisedec was without descent, was '*like* unto the Son of God,' and abides as High Priest for ever, and since Jesus Christ is now our eternal

High Priest, Melchisedec and Christ (the Word) are *one* and the *same* Person!

"Christ, when He was 'the Word,' was an immortal being who had always existed - there had never been a time when He did not exist - He was literally without 'beginning of days.' He was then 'like' the Son of God, but He was not yet the Son of God. He also was God, *along* with God who became the Father."

Is God A Trinity?

Page 26

In reference to Hebrews 5:6-7; Genesis 14:18; Hebrews 7:23, 26; 8:1, Jesus Christ is Melchisedec. He was Melchisedec in the Old Testament, the Priest of God. He is now the High Priest of God. Melchisedec was divine, no beginning, no creation.

Jesus is the Rock of the Old Testament

Is Jesus God?

Page 5

"As a fragment of the evidence, compare Isaiah 8:13-14 with 1 Peter 2:7-8. Isaiah said, 'The LORD of hosts' - YHVH - shall be 'a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.' Peter said, in *quoting* this text in reference to *Christ*, He is 'a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense.' Jesus Christ is the LORD - the Eternal of the Old Testament."

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lessons 8

Page 6

"Thus the Bible [1 Cor. 10:4] identifies the 'Rock' as *Christ!* How surprising to those who have *assumed* that the God of the Old Testament was the one the New Testament calls 'The Father'!

"And so the 'LORD' who spoke and was seen of men was always the one who became Jesus Christ. For no *mortal man* has ever seen or heard the Father! (John 1:18; 5:37.)"

Is God A Trinity?

Page 28

"There can be no denying the fact that Jesus Christ was the God of the Old Testament, the Stone over which many people stumbled." See Isaiah 8:12-14; 1 Peter 2:6-8; Luke 2:34.

Jesus Christ Came to Reveal God the Father

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Page 5

No one has seen God John 1:18, 5:37. God has appeared to human beings Genesis 17:1; 18:1, 22; 32:30; Exodus 24:9-11; 33:18, 20-23. "Clearly, then, the God of the Old Testament could not have been the 'Father'."

Is God A Trinity?

Page 27

"So we see that even in the first book of the Bible the plurality of God is shown, although clear understanding of this truth could not be known until Jesus came to reveal it in the New Testament...(Luke 10:22).

"A clear distinction is made in the New Testament between Christ and the Father. The God that Moses saw and heard was not God the Father, again proving that Christ was the God of the Old Testament. 'No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him' (John 1:18). Christ came to earth to, among other things, reveal the Father and to show a family relationship that exists in the Godhead."

How You Can Be Imbued With The Power Of God

Page 4

"In the Old Testament, men did not pray to the Father. But we pray to the Father. No one addressed God as Father in Old Testament times. Christ came to declare who the Father is - to declare that we may be begotten of Him." See 1 John 1:18.

Jesus is the "Yhvh" or "Yhwh" of the Old Testament

Is Jesus God?

Page 5

"It is commonly supposed that YHVH [Also spelled YHWH], or, as commonly called, 'Jehovah,' or, as in the Authorized Version, 'The LORD,' of the Old Testament was God the FATHER of Jesus Christ. *This is a flagrant error!*

"YHVH was the God of Israel, the only One of the Godhead known to ancient Israel - When He came in human flesh they did not recognize him...(John 1:10). Neither did they know God the Father." See Matthew 11:27; Luke 10:22.

Page 5

"Jesus Christ calls Himself the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." See Revelation 1:8, 17; 22:13.

Page 5

In reference to Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; 48:11-12, "All of these scriptures show that YHVH is the First and Last. Christ is the YHVH of the Old Testament."

Page 5

"The person of the Godhead who is our REDEEMER [or Savior] is Jesus Christ." See John 4:42; Philippians 3:20; Titus 2:10-14; Luke 1:68-69.

Page 5

"That Jesus, the Savior, is YHVH. See Isaiah 49:7 and Isaiah 60:16, where He - YHVH - is also 'the [M]ighty One of Jacob' - to be OF Jacob means a son, or descendant of Jacob - the Mighty One of all Jacob's children. Also in Isaiah 48:17, YHVH is called the *Redeemer*, and the Holy One of *Israel* - the One of Israel who is Holy! The same is expressed in Isaiah 43:14, 'Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel...' Also note the next verse (15), YHVH is Israel's Holy One, Creator of Israel, Israel's King. Now notice in Acts 3:14-15 that the Christ who was denied was the same 'HOLY ONE' - YHVH! 'But ye denied the Holy and Righteous One... the Prince of Life' (Panin)." See also Acts 2:27 and Mark 1:24.

Pages 5-6

YHVH is the Sheppard of the Old Testament, Psalms 23:1. Jesus Christ is the Sheppard of the New Testament, John 10:11; Hebrews 13:20; 1 Peter 2:24-25; 5:2-4.

Page 6

"The Great Shepherd who is coming to RULE as King over all kings is YHVH." See Revelation 19:13,15; 17:14; Ezekiel 34:11, 30-31.

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Pages 5-6

"Most scholars believe *YHWH* to be some form of the verb 'to be' or 'to exist.' Hence *YHWH* signifies 'the self-existent-One,' One who '*lives*' - from eternity, and to eternity. Revelation 1:8 clarifies the meaning of this name, speaking of Christ, 'the beginning and the ending...which is, and which *was*, and which *is to come*...'"

Page 6

"The Hebrew word for 'Lord' in Exodus 20 [Exodus 20:1-2] is *YHWH*. So here again it was the *Logos*, the 'Spokesmen' - who later became Christ - who actually spoke the Ten Commandments."

Is God A Trinity?

Page 28

"Putting them all together, YHVH actually means the 'Was - Is - Will Continue to Be'

Being. Even Hebrew linguistic scholars agree that YHVH must be derived from some form of the verb 'to be' (was, is, will be).

"By His very name, then, God quite literally encompasses all aspects of time - past, present, and future. This is in complete accord with Malachi 3:6...; Hebrews 13:8...; and Revelation 1:8..."

Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Old Testament

Is Jesus God?

Page 5

"Now compare Isaiah 40:3 with Matt. 3:3 and Mark 1:3. John prepared the way before YHVH (Isaiah 40:3) who was CHRIST (Mark 1:14-15)."

Page 6

"In almost every Old Testament passage, the LORD YHVH - The Eternal - is Jesus Christ. Clearly, Jesus is the God of the Old Testament."

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lessons 8

Pages 6-7

"But what difference does this revelation [that Jesus is the God of the Old Testament] make? It makes all the difference.

"Understanding the true identity of the God of the Old Testament is vital to becoming re-born with the spiritual nature of God. For the God of the Old Testament, commonly assumed to have been harsh and stern, was really our SAVIOR - loving, kind, merciful *and* just (Ex. 34:5-7)."

Is God A Trinity?

Page 22

"If we read no further in the New Testament than this [Jh. 1:1-3,14], we would be able to know beyond a shadow of a doubt that Jesus Christ was God and that He is the One who created man in Genesis 2:7. Because John clearly states that the Word - the One who became Christ - created all things."

Page 23

"Paul clearly tells us [1 Corinthians 10:1-4] that Jesus Christ was the God of the Old Testament - the One who spoke to Moses and led the Israelites out of Egypt. This clearly shows us that the One who became the Son was the God of the Old Testament, not God the Father."

How You Can Be Imbued With The Power Of God

Page 4

"How did they [the prophets and patriarchs in the Old Testament] have access to the Spirit of God? Through the One who was to become *Christ* (1 Peter 1:11). *Christ*, one of the members of the God-Kingdom, was the One who administered the Spirit to Moses, to Abel and to all the faithful of old. He sent the Holy Spirit of the Father to be in them, to give them *faith and POWER*."

The Image of God

Mystery of the Ages

Page 46

"To seem real, the mind naturally wants to visualize a definite form and shape. But even though God is composed of spirit and not of visible matter, God never the less does have definite form and shape.

"What is God's form and shape?

"In Genesis 1:26, 'God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness.' We know the form and shape of man. That is the image, likeness, form, and shape of God.

"In various parts of the Bible, it is revealed that God has a face, eyes, a nose, mouth and ears. He has hair on his head. It is revealed God has arms and legs. And God has hands and fingers."

Page 47

"God has feet and toes and a body. God has a mind. Animals have brains, but no mind power like man's.

"If you know what a man looks like, you know what is the form and shape of GOD, for he made man in his image, after his very likeness!"

Page 47

"So now we know God has the same form and shape as a man. We also know he is composed of spirit, not of matter as is man. Spirit is invisible to human eyes, unless manifested by special process.

"And *if* so manifested we would see both the Father and Christ now glorified in heaven with faces, though formed and shaped like human faces, as bright as the sun full strength! Their eyes flames of fire, feet like burnished brass and hair white as snow (Rev. 1:14-16)."

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lessons 8

Page 9

"To be glorified means to have GREAT POWER and BRIGHTNESS! The power of the Father and Christ is *so great* that it makes their spirit bodies shine as BRIGHT AS THE SUN IN FULL STRENGTH!"

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lesson 13

Page 6

"We know what form and shape is that of a man. God therefore has the form and shape of a man, since man was created in the 'image' of God, after His very 'likeness' [Genesis 1:26].

"In various parts of the Bible it is revealed that God has arms and legs. And God has hands and fingers. God has feet and toes and a torso."

Page 6

"If we could see both God the Father and Christ the Son as they appear today in their glorified state in heaven [John 17:5; Revelation 1:13-18], their faces (though formed and shaped like human faces) would be as bright as *the SUN in full strength!* Their eyes would be like flames of fire, their feet like burnished brass and their hair as white as snow!"

How You Can Be Imbued With The Power Of God

Page 5

"'God is Spirit' (John 4:21). The God family is composed of spirit. The Father and the Son, who are composed of spirit, have definite *shape*. From one end of the Bible to the other we are told about the *shape* and the parts of each member in the God family. The Father and the Son each have a head, hair, eyes, nose mouth, arms, fingers, a torso, legs, feet, plus inward parts. Man is in the *image* of God. Man is matter, but God is spirit."

The Character of God

Mystery of the Ages

Pages 47-48

"Most important of all however is what is God's nature - his CHARACTER like? One can not know *what* God is unless he knows what his CHARACTER is!

"The CHARACTER of both God the Father and Christ the Son is that of spiritual holiness, righteousness and absolute perfections.

"That character might be summed up in the one word LOVE, defined as an outflowing, loving concern. It is the way of giving, serving, helping, sharing, not the 'GET' way."

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lesson 13

Page 14

"The character of both God the Father and Christ the Son is that of spiritual holiness, righteousness and absolute perfection.

"That character can be summed up in the one word 'love,' defined as an out-flowing

concern. It is the way of giving, serving, helping, sharing, not the 'get' way."

Page 14

"God's inherent nature is the way of peace, of justice, mercy, happiness and joy radiating outward toward those He has created.

The Holy Spirit and the Christian

Is God A Trinity?

Pages 36-37

In a section of this booklet, entitled "What Is the Holy Spirit," are nine facts about describing the Spirit of God.

1. "It is the power of God" (Zechariah 4:6; Micah 3:8).
2. "It is the spirit of wisdom," understanding counsel, might, knowledge and fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:2).
3. "It is a gift" (Acts 2:38; 10:45).
4. "To be effective the Holy Spirit must be stirred up" (2 Timothy 1:6-7).
5. The spirit can be quenched, (1 Thessalonians 5:19).
6. "It is the begetting power of God" (Matthew 1:18; Romans 8:9).
7. The Holy Spirit is God's guaranty He will keep His promises to us (Ephesians 1:13-14).
8. It gives us God's love (Romans 5:5).
9. The Holy Spirit must be renewed (Titus 3:5-6).

Page 38

Those who have the Holy Spirit are God's Children and joint heirs with Christ (Romans 8:16-17).

Page 40

"The Spirit of God unites with our minds, and we are begotten (or conceived) again - this time spiritually - not as we originally were physically. We become a new person."

Page 40

"The Holy Spirit impregnates us with God's nature. That spiritual begetting imbues us with the nature and mind of God. Throughout our Christian lives we continue to grow and develop in the understanding and mind of God until we are finally born into the God family and made immortal at the return of Jesus Christ to this earth (1 Cor. 15:49-52)."

Page 40

We receive the Holy Spirit after repentance, baptism and the laying on of hands (Acts 2:38).

Page 40

"Here again we can see why the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are mentioned in the 'baptismal formula' in Matthew 28:19. God the Father is the One who brings us to repentance; Jesus Christ - God the Son - is the one who died that we can have our past sins forgiven; and the Holy Spirit is the power by which God the Father begets us."

How You Can Be Imbued With The Power Of God

Page 1

Christians are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 15:13).

Page 1

After conversion Church members were again filled with the Holy Spirit. This gave them strength to keep on preaching the gospel (Acts 4:31).

Pages 1-2

In reference to 2 Corinthians 11:3-4, "That is what has happened today! Paul warned about receiving a 'DIFFERENT SPIRIT' and 'a DIFFERENT GOSPEL.'"

Page 2

God will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask for it (Luke 11:13).

Page 2

The Holy Spirit is a gift from God (Acts 10:45; 11:17).

Page 2

"Then the Holy Spirit is not something we were born with, nor is it anything we earn. It is the source of spiritual power *we need*, but which we receive as a GIFT upon *asking* God for it." See Luke 11:13; Acts 10:45, 11:17.

Page 2

In reference to Acts 2:38, "That is how! You begin by REPENTING - by turning away from your past sins, through the blood of Christ, by being baptized (immersed). You are then unconditionally promised the Holy Spirit. God has bound Himself to perform His part if you first perform yours. You can ask God thereafter to direct you through His Holy Spirit to lead a new life in conformity with His revealed Word, the Bible."

Page 2

In reference to Acts 5:32; Luke 22:42, "God expects a submissive obedient attitude *before* we receive the Holy Spirit. How plain it is that the Holy Spirit is the spirit of total submission and obedience to the Father."

Page 2

"It is by the fruits of the Spirit that you *know* you have received the Holy Spirit of God." See Galatians 5:22-23.

Page 2

The love of God comes through the Holy Spirit, Romans 5:5. Love is the fulfillment of the Law of God (Romans 13:10). "Love is a godly, spiritual force, imparted by the Holy Spirit, that channels the human will into *obedience* - obedience to God's Law. If you *love* God, you will - by the power of God, not by your human strength - be keeping *all* his commandments - *all ten* of them."

Page 3

In reference to Romans 8:9-11; 1 John 5:11-13, "How plain. The Holy Spirit imparts the power to commence eternal life. We inherited *mortal* life through Adam. We become heirs of eternal life - heirs of God - by being *begotten* through the Holy Spirit *which is the LIFE of God*."

Page 3

"Eternal life with unending spiritual power is a *gift* of God. It is an attribute of the Holy Spirit." See Romans 6:23.

Page 3

"It requires the addition of another Spirit - God's Holy Spirit - to open the human mind to comprehension of spiritual things (1 Cor. 2:9-11)."

The Nature of the Holy Spirit

Mystery of the Ages

Page 45

"Both God and the Word themselves are SPIRIT, and project their Spirit. Let me illustrate. By your eyesight you can see something across the room, or see to the sun or even to stars that are many times the size of our sun, only much father distant. But through your eyesight you cannot act on these objects. In like manner, God can project his spirit to any place regardless of distance, but through his Spirit God is able to act on such objects or to change it as he wills. Thus God is omnipresent."

Page 57

"God is creator of all that exist. Both God and the Word (who became Christ) have existed eternally and before all else. From them emanates the Spirit of God, by which God is omnipresent and omniscient. God the Father is the divine Father of the God family, into which truly converted Christians shall be born."

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lessons 8

Page 7

God's Spirit is "the POWER by which He creates." See Jeremiah 32:17; Genesis 1:1-3; Psalms 104:30.

Page 7

"It was by the Spirit of God that the Eternal (YHWH) - the *Logos* (Christ) - created the entire vast universe. Invisible spirit energy was literally transformed into the material creation we see about us (Heb. 11:3). And by His Spirit, God reformed the surface of the earth (Ps. 104:30). No wonder the Bible calls it the 'power' of God!"

Pages 7-8

"God, the ultimate source of all power, willed that spirit *energy* emanating from Himself be TRANSFORMED into physical energy and matter. Christ - the *Logos*, or 'Word' (John 1:1) - 'spoke and it was done.' He is the One who said 'Let there be light.' And the Spirit of God, moving over the face of the waters *performed* the command, and 'there was light' (Gen. 1:3)." See Psalms 148:1-5; 33:8-9; Genesis 1:2-3.

Page 8

God uses "His Spirit of power to sustain, preserve and rule His vast creation." See Nehemiah 9:6; Hebrews 1:2-3; Psalms 66:7.

Page 8

"God sits at the controls of the entire universe - He *rules* and *sustains everything* by the POWER of His Spirit."

How You Can Be Imbued With The Power Of God

Page 5

"The Holy Spirit, like matter, exists in various states. It not only composes the members of the God Family, it also *flows* through our minds, and empowers us to do good works.

"Even though the Father and the Son are in definite locations with respect to each other, spirit proceeds from them and fills the entire universe much like air fills everything on earth!" See Psalms 139:7-11.

Page 5

"The divine Spirit that fills the entire universe is the channel by which the Father and Son *create*. The Spirit of God transformed the creative energy of Father and Son into the physical world we see around us."

The Holy Spirit is not a Person

Mystery of the Ages

Page 56

"Much is also made of the fact that in a number of places in modern translations the masculine pronoun *he* is carelessly used in connection with the Holy Spirit. But not always - sometimes the Holy Spirit is referred to as *it* in these very same translations."

Page 57

In reference to Acts 2:18; John 7:37-39; Acts 10:45, "Can you pour out a person from one into another - as from God into those assembled there [Acts 2]?"

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lessons 8

Page 8

“God’s Spirit is not a ‘third person’ in the God Family. It is His divine POWER that emanates from Him and permeates the universe!” See Psalms 139:7; Jeremiah 23:24.

Page 8

“6. Is the Holy Spirit referred to in the Bible simply as ‘it’ - *not* a person? John 1:32; Rom. 8:16, 26; I Peter 1:11.

“COMMENT: In Greek, as in English, the word ‘spirit’ is *neuter*. It naturally requires a neuter pronoun which is rightly translated into English as ‘it,’ and is usually so translated. However, in some cases the translators have used a masculine pronoun where the original Greek uses ‘it.’ John 14:17 is such a case. The pronouns ‘he’ and ‘him’ should have been rendered ‘it.’ No doubt the translators erred because they themselves *assumed* the Holy Spirit to be a person.

“In John 14:26; 16:7-8, 13-14 the Holy Spirit is personified as the ‘Comforter’ (Greek *parakletos*, which is grammatically masculine), hence the pronoun ‘he’ (*ekeinos*) was used in the original Greek to agree with ‘Comforter,’ but should also be translated ‘it’ in an English version.”

Page 9

“And so Jesus was begotten within His human mother Mary. But unlike all other men, He was *miraculously* begotten by the One who became the Father, through the agency and power of the Spirit of God (Matt. 1:20; John 1:14 - here is further proof the Spirit of God is not another person). Christ thus became the ‘Son’ of God and He called the other person of the God Kingdom His ‘Father.’ And so began the ‘Father - Son’ relationship, which is a FAMILY relationship!”

Is God A Trinity?

Page 32-33

“The OT (Old Testament) clearly does not envisage God’s spirit as a person, neither in the strictly philosophical sense, nor in the Semitic sense. God’s spirit is simply God’s Power. If it is sometimes represented as being distinct from God, it is because the breath of Yahweh acts exteriorly (Isa. 48:16; 63:11; 32:15).’ So say the authors of the *New Catholic Encyclopedia* [Vol. XIII, p. 574]. But let them continue:

“Very rarely do the OT writers attribute to God’s Spirit emotions or intellectual activity (Isa. 63:10; Wis. 1:3-7). When such expressions are used, *they are mere figures of speech* that are explained by the fact that the *ruah* was regarded also as the seat of intellectual acts and feeling (Gen 41:8)...*New Catholic Encyclopedia* Vol. XIII p. 574.

“In the Old Testament, God’s Spirit is pictured as His power. The power by which the one who became Jesus Christ, as Executive for the Father, created the entirety of the universe. These theologians also recognize that when the Spirit is spoken of as a person or in a personal way, the Bible writer is merely *personifying* the Spirit, as he would wisdom or any other attribute.”

Pages 33, 35

“When a quasi-personal activity is ascribed God’s spirit, e.g., speaking, hindering, desiring, dwelling (Acts 8:29; 16:7; Rom. 8:9), *one is not justified in concluding immediately that in these passages God’s spirit is regarded as a Person*; The same expressions are used in regard to rhetorically personified things or abstract ideas (see Rom. 6:6; 7:17). Thus the context of the phrase ‘blasphemy against the spirit’ (Mt. 12:31; cf. Mt. 12:28; Lk. 11:20) shows that reference is being made to the power of God.’ (*New Catholic Encyclopedia*, Vol. XIII, p. 575).”

Page 35

“In the Greek language, like the Romance languages (Italian, Spanish, French and others), every noun has what is called gender; that is, it is either masculine, feminine or neuter. The gender of a word has nothing to do with whether it is really masculine or feminine - it is more of a grammatical tool.”

Page 35

In John 14, 15, and 16 “The pronoun ‘he’ is used in connection with the word ‘comforter’ - *parakletos* - however, the reason for the use of the personal pronoun ‘he’ is for grammatical, not theological, or spiritual reasons.”

Page 35

Pneuma "...is the Greek equivalent of *ruah*, the Hebrew word for 'spirit' used in the Old Testament. *Pneuma* is a grammatically neuter word and is always represented by the pronoun 'it.'"

Pages 35, 38

"John's use of the *parakletos* [comforter] is no proof the Spirit is a person. For if the simple gender of a noun were the basis for the personality of the Spirit, then the Spirit changed gender from the Old to the New Testament, The Hebrew word for 'spirit' in the Old Testament being in the feminine gender in a majority of cases and in a masculine sense less often."

Page 37

"Here [Matthew 1:20] we read that Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit. Yet Christ calls *God* His Father, not the Holy Spirit (John 14:16). If the Holy Spirit were a person, it would be Christ's Father - proof positive that the Holy Spirit is not a person but the power God the Father uses - much as a man uses electricity.

"Consider further. If the Holy Spirit were a person, Jesus Christ prayed to the wrong individual. Throughout the four Gospels, we find Christ speaking to God - not the Holy Spirit - as His Father."

Page 39

In a section of this booklet, entitled "Paul Did Not Recognize the Trinity" is the following:

"All of these greetings [Romans 1:1; 1 Corinthians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 1:3; Galatians 1:3; Ephesians 1:2; Philippians 1:2; Colossians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:2; 1 Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4; Philemon 1:3] are without variation - the Holy Spirit is consistently left out (a great oversight - indeed blasphemy, provided the Trinity doctrine is correct).

"Only in II Corinthians 13:14 is the Holy Spirit mentioned with God and Jesus and thereonly in connection with communion or fellowship. The Holy Spirit is not the third member of the Godhead."

How the Worldwide Church of God Traditional Viewed the Trinity Doctrine

Mystery of the Ages

Page 51

"The Trinity doctrine *limits* God to a supposed three Persons. It DESTROYS the very gospel of Jesus Christ! His gospel is the good news of the now soon-coming KINGDOM OF GOD - the only hope of this world and its mixed-up mankind!

"The Trinity doctrine, by contrast, is the doctrine of the great false religion called in Revelation 17:5: 'Mystery, Babylon the great, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth.'

"By that doctrine, along with others, Satan has DECEIVED all traditional Christianity.

"The generally accepted teaching of traditional Christianity is that God is a Trinity - God in three Persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit (which is often called a 'Ghost').

"But how did this 'Trinity' doctrine enter traditional Christianity?

"It most emphatically did not come from the Bible. I have quoted Revelation 12:9 saying that all nations have been deceived by Satan the devil. How, then, did the wily Satan introduce this doctrine into "Christianity"?

"The history of this question is interesting. It seems incredible that a being like Satan not only could have deceived the whole world, but also 'Christianity' - the very religion bearing Christ's name and supposed to be his true religion. Yet, paradoxically, Satan did!

"He did it through his great false church, started in A.D. 33 by Simon the Sorcerer, described in the 8th chapter of the book of Acts as the leader of the Babylonian mystery religion in Samaria."

Pages 52-53

"Then Simon came to the apostles Peter and John, offering money as a bribe [Acts 8:18-24], asking them to give him the power to lay hands on people and have them receive the Holy Spirit. Peter rebuked him strongly. But Simon proclaimed himself a Christian apostle, nevertheless, and

called the pagan Babylonian mystery religion 'Christianity.' He accepted the doctrine of 'grace' for the forgiveness of sin (which the pagan religions had never had), but turned grace into license to disobey God (Jude 4). He aspired to turn his pagan religion, under the name 'Christianity,' into a universal religion, to gain thereby the political rule of the world.

"Simon, the 'Pater' (Peter) of his counterfeit religion, did not accomplish this in his lifetime. But succeeding leaders, with the headquarters moved to Rome, did, later, gain political control over the Roman Empire and its medieval successor, called 'The Holy Roman Empire.'"

Page 54

"About the same time [as the Quartodeciman controversy] another controversy was raging, between a Dr. Arius, of Alexandria, a Christian leader who died A.D. 336, and other bishops, over calling God a Trinity. Dr. Arius stoutly opposed the Trinity doctrine, but introduced errors of his own.

"In A.D. 325, The Emperor Constantine called the Nicene Council to settle these controversies. Constantine was not yet a 'Christian,' but as political ruler he assumed control. The Council approved both the Easter-Sunday doctrine and the Trinity. Constantine, then civil ruler, made it a LAW. But he was not able to make them TRUTH!"

Pages 54-55

"The word *trinity* is not used anywhere in the Bible. I am going to make completely clear, as we proceed, God has not limited Himself to a 'Trinity.' The surprising truth, once understood, is the most wonderful revelation the human mind could receive or contain!

"The very first idea or teaching about God being a Trinity began in the latter half of the second century - a hundred years after most of the New Testament had been written. The counterfeit Christianity spawned by Simon the Sorcerer was promoting it vigorously along with the pagan Easter. But the true Church of God vigorously resisted it. The controversy became so violent it threatened the peace of the world. The then pagan Emperor Constantine called this Nicene Council to settle it. The Roman Emperor's supporters greatly outnumbered the persecuted true Church of God."

Page 55

"There is one small passage in the Authorized Version of the Bible that is generally used by Trinity adherents to support the Trinity doctrine. This passage is found in 1 John 5:7-8, and is bracketed in the following quotation: 'For there are three that bear record {in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth}, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.' The bracketed words were added by editors of the Latin Vulgate translation probably in the early fourth century. They do not appear in *any* of the older Greek manuscripts nor in the other modern English translations. They were added to the Latin Vulgate during the heat of the controversy between Rome and Dr. Arius and God's people."

Page 56

"There was a real reason why the archdeceiver Satan wanted that spurious verse [1 Jh. 5:7] added in the Latin Vulgate from which it crept into the Authorized Version. The Trinity doctrine completely does away with the gospel of Jesus Christ. His gospel is the MESSAGE he brought to mankind from God the Father, the good news of the coming KINGDOM OF GOD! That is the ONE thing above all Satan wants to defeat. This will become plain as we proceed.

"One world-famous evangelist said: 'When I first began to study the Bible years ago, the doctrine of the Trinity was one of the most complex problems I had to encounter. I have never fully resolved it for it contains an aspect of mystery. Though I do not totally understand it to this day, I accept it as a revelation of God.... To explain and illustrate the Trinity is one of the most difficult assignments to a Christian.'"

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lessons 8

Page 7

"Most of professing Christianity today also assumes that God is a 'trinity' composed of God the Father, God the Son and God the 'Holy Spirit.'"

Page 8

"This verse [1 John 5:7] is left out of most modern translations of the Bible - for a very good reason! It is spurious - a *fraud!* Most any Bible commentary reveals that this verse is not found in *any* old Greek manuscript and was not found even in the Latin Vulgate until as late as the eight century. Admits Adam Clarke: It is lacking in 'all the ancient versions but the Vulgate; and even of this version many of the most ancient and correct MSS, (manuscripts) have in not.'

"Those who believe in a 'trinity' grasp at this verse to support their belief because they have NO Bible proof for the conviction! Rather, history reveals the trinity concept is a *pagan* invention and belief found in many ancient countries. The Egyptian trinity consisted of Isis, Osiris and Horus; the worship of the trinity traces back to the worship of Nimrod, Semiramis and Tammuz soon after the Flood!"

Page 8

"The plain fact of the whole matter, which few have ever realized, is that the commonly accepted 'trinity' doctrine attempts to *limit* for all time the size of the Family of God. It denies the very PURPOSE for which *Elohim* created mankind!"

Ambassador College Correspondence Course Lesson 13

Page 6

"The generally accepted teaching of traditional Christianity is that God is a 'trinity' - God in three Person: the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (which they call a 'Ghost').

"But how did this 'trinity' doctrine enter traditional Christianity?

"It most emphatically did not come from the Bible! We read in Revelation 12:9 that all nations have been deceived by Satan the devil. How, then, did the wily devil introduce this false doctrine into 'Christianity'?

"The history of this question is not only interesting, it is *essential* to our understanding the devil's master plot to hide the KEY which unlocks the truth about God's awesome purpose for mankind! It seems incredible that Satan not only could have deceived the whole world, but also 'Christianity' - the very religion bearing Christ's name and supposed to be His true religion. Yet, paradoxically, Satan did!

"Satan's great deception was accomplished through his great false church, started in A.D. 33 by Simon the Sorcerer, who is mentioned in the eighth chapter of the book of Acts. Simon was none other than the leader of the Babylonian mystery religion."

Page 7

"Peter rebuked Simon strongly for the evil intentions of his heart [Acts 8:18-23]. But Simon refused to repent, as indicated by his merely asking Peter to pray for him (verse 24).

"Having been frustrated in trying to exalt himself further in the sight of the people, Simon, who had been baptized by a true servant of God, nevertheless proclaimed himself a Christian apostle and began calling the pagan Babylonian mystery religion 'Christianity.' He accepted the doctrine of 'grace' for the forgiveness of sin (which the pagan religions have never had), but turned grace into *license* to disobey God (Jude 4). He aspired to turn his pagan religion, under the name 'Christianity,' into a universal religion, to eventually gain thereby the *political rule* of the world.

"Simon, the 'Pater' or father of his counterfeit religion, did not accomplish this in his lifetime. But succeeding 'Paternalists,' with the headquarters moved to Rome did, later, gain political control over the Roman Empire and its medieval successor, called 'The Holy Roman Empire.'"

Pages 7-8

"About the same time [as the Quartodeciman controversy] another controversy was raging between a Dr. Arius of Alexandria (a Christian leader who died in A.D. 336) and a Roman Bishop, over calling God a 'trinity.' Dr. Arius stoutly opposed the trinity doctrine, and had many followers.

"In A.D. 325, Emperor Constantine called the Nicene Council to settle these controversies. Constantine was not yet a 'Christian' then, but as political ruler he assumed church control. The Council approved both the Easter doctrine and the trinity. Constantine, then civil ruler, made these teachings the law. But he was *not* able to make them TRUTH!

"The word 'trinity' is not to be found anywhere in the Bible. That is because *God has not*

limited Himself to a 'trinity.' The surprising truth, once understood, is the most wonderful revelation the human mind could receive or contain.

"There is one small passage in the King James translation of the Bible that is generally used by 'trinity' adherents to support this erroneous doctrine. That is 1 John 5:7, which reads as follows: 'For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.'

"Those words were *added by editors* of the Latin Vulgate translation probably in the early fourth century. They do not appear in any of the older Greek manuscripts nor in any of the other English translations. They were added to the Latin Vulgate during the heat of the controversy between Rome and Dr. Arius and God's people."

Page 8

"There was a definite reason why Satan, the archdeceiver, wanted that spurious verse [1 John 5:7] added in the Latin Vulgate. The 'trinity' doctrine completely does away with the Gospel of Jesus Christ - the only hope of this world and its mixed-up mankind. It limits the number of members of the God Family to *only three* - with no possibility of expansion!

"Jesus' Gospel is the message He brought to mankind from God the Father - the good news of the coming ruling Kingdom or Family of God. That is the one thing above all else Satan wants to hide from the eyes of man!

"By the doctrine of the 'trinity,' along with other false doctrines, Satan has thoroughly deceived all traditional Christianity.

"Notice the candid admission of one world famous evangelist who teaches the doctrine: 'When I first began to study the Bible years ago, the doctrine of the trinity was one of the most complex problems I had to encounter. I have never fully resolved it for it contains an aspect of mystery. Though I do not totally understand it to this day, I accept it as a revelation of God.... To explain and illustrate the trinity is one of the most difficult assignments to a Christian.' The reason it is so difficult is because it is *not true!* "

Is God A Trinity?

Page 15

"The ancient idea of monotheism was shattered by the sudden appearance of Jesus Christ on the earth. Here was someone who claimed He was the Son of God. But how could He be? The Jewish people believed for centuries that there was only one God. If the claims of 'this Jesus' were accepted, then in their minds their belief would be no different from that of the polytheistic pagans around them. If He were the Son of God, their whole system of monotheism would disintegrated.

"When Jesus plainly told certain Jews of His day that He was the Son of God, some were ready to stone Him for blasphemy (John 10:33).

"To get around the problem of a plurality in the Godhead, the Jewish community simply rejected Jesus. And to this day, Orthodox Jews will not accept Jesus' Messiahship. However, the more liberal Jews will at least admit that He was a great man - maybe even a prophet.

"But the 'new' Christian religion was still faced with the problem. How would proponents explain that there was only one God, not two?

"The determining impulse to the formulation of the doctrine of the Trinity in the church was the church's profound conviction of the absolute Deity of Christ, on which as on a pivot the whole Christian concept of God from the first origin of Christianity turned' (*International Standard Biblical Encyclopedia*, article 'Trinity,' p. 3021).

"But the Deity of Christ does not mean that a doctrine of the Trinity is necessary, as we shall see in Chapter Two."

Pages 15-19

"Many of the early church fathers were thoroughly educated in Greek philosophy, from which they borrowed, such non-biblical concepts as dualism and the immortality of the soul. However, most theologians, for obvious reasons, are generally careful to point out that they did not borrow the idea of the Trinity from the Triads of Greek philosophy or those of the ancient Egyptians and Babylonians.

"But some are not so careful to make such a distinction. 'Although the notion of a Triad or Trinity is characteristic of the Christian religion, it is by no means peculiar to it. In Indian

religion, e.g., we meet with the trinitarian group of Brahma, Siva, and Visnu; and the Egyptian religion with the trinitarian group of Osiris, Isis, and Horus, constituting a divine family, like the Father, Mother and Son in medieval Christian pictures. Nor is it only in historical religions that we find God viewed as a Trinity. One recalls in particular the Neo-Platonic view of the Supreme or Ultimate Reality, which was suggested by Plato...’ (*Hasting’s Bible Dictionary*, Vol. 12, p. 458).

“Of course, the fact that someone else had a Trinity does not in itself mean that the Christians borrowed it. McClintock and Strong make the connection a little clearer.

“‘Toward the end of the 1st century, and during the 2nd, many learned men came over both from Judaism and paganism to Christianity. These brought with them into the Christian schools of theology their Platonic ideas and phraseology’ (article ‘Trinity,’ Vol. 10, p. 553).

“In his book, *A History of Christian Thought*, Arthur Cushman McGiffert points out that the main argument against those who believed that there was only one God and that Christ was either an adopted or created being was that their idea did not agree with Platonic philosophy. Such teachings were ‘offensive to theologians, particularly to those who felt the influence of the Platonic philosophy’ (*ibid.*, p. 240).

“In the latter half of the third century, Paul of Samosata tried to revive the adoptionist idea that Jesus was a mere man until the Spirit of God came upon Him at baptism making him the Anointed One, or Christ. In his beliefs about the person of Jesus Christ, he ‘rejected the Platonic realism which underlay most of the Christological speculation of the day’ (*ibid.*, p. 243).

“At the end of his chapter on the Trinity, McGiffert concludes: ‘...It has been the boast of orthodox theologians that in the doctrine of the Trinity both religion and philosophy come to highest expression’ (Vol. I, p. 247).

“The influence of Platonic philosophy on the Trinity doctrine can hardly be denied.

“However, trinitarian ideas go much further back than Plato. ‘Though it is usual to speak of the Semitic tribes as monotheistic; yet it is an undoubted fact that more or less all over the world the deities are in triads. This rule applies to eastern and western hemispheres, to north and south. Further, it is observed that, in some mystical way, the triad of three persons is one.... The definition of Athanasius (a fourth-century Christian) who lived in Egypt, applied to the trinitaries of all heathen religions’ (*Egyptian Belief and Modern Thought*, by James Bonwick, F.R.G.S., p. 396).

“It was Athanasius’ formulation for the Trinity which was adopted by the Catholic Church at the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325. Athanasius was an Egyptian from Alexandria and his philosophy was also deeply rooted in Platonism.

“‘The Alexandria catechetical school, which revered Clement of Alexandria and Origen, the greatest theologians of the Greek Church, as its heads, applied the allegorical method to the explanation of Scripture. *Its thought was influenced by Plato*: its strong point was theological speculation. Athanasius and the three Cappadocians had been included among its members...’ (*Ecumenical Councils of the Catholic Church*, by Hubert Jedin, p. 29).

“In order to explain the relationship of Christ to God the Father, the church fathers felt that it was necessary to use the philosophy of the day. They obviously thought that their religion would be more palatable if they made it sound like the pagan philosophy that was extant at the time. These men were versed in philosophy, and that philosophy colored their understanding of the Bible.

“It was the doctrine of the Trinity - colored by the philosophy of the time - that was accepted by the Church in the early part of the fourth century - over three hundred years after Christ’s death.

“Even theologians recognize that the Trinity is a creation of *the fourth century*, not the first!

“‘There is recognition on the part of exegetist and Biblical theologians, including a constantly growing number of Roman Catholics, *that one should not speak of Trinitarianism in the New Testament without serious qualification*. There is also the closely parallel recognition - that when one does speak of unqualified Trinitarianism, *one has moved from the period of Christian origins to say, the last quadrant of the 4th century*. It was only then that what might be called the definitive Trinitarian dogma ‘one god in three persons’ became thoroughly assimilated into Christian life and thought’ (*New Catholic Encyclopedia*, article “Trinity.” Vol. 14, p. 295).”

Pages 19-20

“It was at the Council of Nicaea in A.D. 325 that two members of the Alexandrian congregation, Arius, a priest, who believed that Christ was not a God, but a created being; and

Athanasius, a deacon who believed that the Father, Son and Spirit are the same being living in a threefold form (or in three relationships, as a man may be at the same time a father, a son and a brother), presented their cases.

"The Council of Nicaea was not called by the church leaders, as one might suppose. It was called by the Emperor Constantine. And he had a far-from-spiritual reason for wanting to solve the dispute that had arisen.

"In 325 the Emperor Constantine called an ecclesiastical council to meet at Nicaea in Bithynia. In the hope of securing for his throne the support of the growing body of Christians he had show them considerable favor and it was to his interest to have the church vigorous and united. The Arian controversy was threatening its unity and menacing its strength. He therefore undertook to put an end to the trouble. It was suggested to him, perhaps by the Spanish bishop Hosius who was influential at court, that if a synod were to meet representing the whole church both east and west, it might be possible to restore harmony. Constantine himself of course neither know or cared anything about the matter in dispute but he was eager to bring the controversy to a close, and Hosius' advice appealed to him as sound' (*A History of Christian Thought*, Vol. I, p. 258).

"The decision as to which of the two men the church was to follow was a more or less arbitrary one. Constantine really didn't care which choice was made - all he wanted was a united church. (Arius was banished, but later recalled by Constantine, examined and found to be without heresy).

"The majority of those present at the council were not ready to take either side in the controversy. 'A Clearly defined standpoint with regard to this problem - the relationship of Christ to God - was held only by the attenuated group of Arians and a far from numerous section of delegates, who adhered with unshaken conviction to the Alexandrian (Athanasius') view. The bulk of the members occupied a position between these two extremes. They rejected the formulae of Arius, and declined to accept those of his opponents...the voting was no criterion of the inward conviction of the council' (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11th ed., "Nicaea, Council of," p. 641).

"The council rejected Arius' views, and rightly so, but they had nothing with which to replace it. Thus the ideas of Athanasius - also a minority view - prevailed. The rejection of Arianism was not blanket acceptance of Athanasius. Yet the church in all the ensuing centuries has been 'stuck,' so to speak with the job of upholding - right or wrong - the decision made at Nicaea.

"After the council the Trinity became official dogma in the church, but the controversy did not end. In the next few years more Christians were killed by *other Christians* over that doctrine than were killed by all the pagan emperors of Rome. Yet, for all the fighting and killing, neither of the two parties had a biblical leg to stand on."

Page 42

"Belief in a Trinity clouds the real purpose that God has in store for mankind. If we are taught that God is a closed Trinity of three persons, we lose sight of the fact that God's real purpose is to create many more members of the God Family."

Page 44

"Why has Satan palmed off the doctrine of the Trinity on the world? Because he doesn't want you to rule in his place! Satan was originally created to carry out God's rule on earth. But, he refused to serve the Creator and even fomented a rebellion to dislodge God from His position as Ruler over the whole universe (Ezek. 28:11-19; Isa. 14:12-14). A third of the angels united with Lucifer in that rebellion and were cast back down to this earth with him (Rev. 12:3-4) - having forever disqualified themselves and Satan from ruling in the government of God. However, Satan and his demonic cohorts remain in office until Christ actually returns.

"Yet being disqualified, they do not want anyone else ever to take their place. For that reason, during nearly 6000 years of man, they have tried to hide from all the world the breathtaking truth of God. If they can make you believe in the Trinity, you will be deceived into thinking that the Godhead consists of *only* three persons. You would then never in your wildest dreams ever imagine that you were created to be born into the God family - to actually have a part in ruling this earth!

"Satan wants you to think that God is a limited Trinity - not a *growing* family or Kingdom

into which we may, through the grace of God, enter.

“There you have it. That is the truth about the Trinity. God’s family isn’t closed to mankind as Satan would have you believe.

“It’s wide open to you, your family and all mankind. You can be made in the exact likeness of God at Christ’s return!”

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