



HIS UNDIMINISHED DEITY

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





His Undiminished Diety

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His Undiminished Diety

SERMON REFERENCE: Matthew 1:20-23

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2378

Matthew 1:21-23 says, “She (Mary) shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins.’

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, ‘Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which, being interpreted, is God with us.’”

Who was this Child born of a virgin? Who is this One that we call Jesus?

Adrian Rogers says, “Not only is He the Son of God, He is God the Son.”

In order to know who Jesus is, we have to acknowledge the doctrine of the Trinity—God in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We may not understand the mystery of the Trinity, but that is a good thing! If we were to understand God, we would lack confidence in Him. We cannot cram the God of the universe and His mysterious ways into our human intellect. The Trinity cannot be understood... it must be believed.

We can see the manifestation of the Trinity unfold throughout Scripture. Genesis 1:1 says, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” The Hebrew word for “God” here is a plural translation.

John 1:1 says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” And verse 14 says, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...”

Jesus became a singular manifestation of the plural God, a visible one-third of the invisible Trinity: God the Son.

Our destiny rides on the unchanging ministry of the Trinity.

Adrian Rogers says, “You are selected by the Father. He loved you before you were ever born. You were saved by the Son. You are sealed by the Spirit.”

Because of the Christmas story, we as children of God have been given a new benediction: God loves you. Jesus saved you. The Holy Spirit empowers you.

LIFE APPLICATION

Do you believe the Babe of Bethlehem is the God of Genesis One? Do you believe Jesus is God the Son? Today, examine your heart, worship God, and thank Him for the Gift of Jesus Christ.



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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The baby born in Bethlehem was God in human flesh.
- b) Any so-called "Jesus Movement" that is not church-centered is not a Jesus Movement.
 - i) Ephesians 3:21
- c) Any so-called church that is not Jesus-centered is not a true church.
- d) Matthew 1:20-23
 - i) Who was this child born on Christmas Day?
- e) There is only one right answer and many wrong answers to the question: Who is this one we call Jesus?
 - i) There are those who say Jesus was a great man.
 - (1) Jesus is more than just a great man, and we've missed it all if we just tip the hat to Jesus.
 - (2) He is not "Jesus the Great"; He is Jesus the one and only.
 - ii) Others speak of Jesus as a moral teacher.
 - (1) As C.S. Lewis stated, a mere man who said the things that Jesus said and claimed to be God would not be a great moral teacher. Either He was and is the Son of God, or else He was a lunatic or something worse.
 - iii) Still others say that He is a prophet or messenger of God.
 - (1) Jesus Christ is not a prophet or messenger; He is God in human flesh.
 - iv) New Agers call Jesus a mystic medium.
- f) Not only is Jesus the Son of God; Jesus is God the Son.
 - i) Jesus is God manifest in the flesh.
- g) Matthew 1:20-22
 - i) The doctrine of the Trinity is the great Christian distinctive: one God in three persons.
 - (1) God the Father
 - (2) God the Son
 - (3) God the Holy Spirit
 - ii) To misunderstand the Trinity is to lead to heresy.
 - iii) If we miss the Trinity, then we have missed the meaning and the message of the Bible: that God is a God of three in one and one in three.
- h) God the Father and God the Son are described the same way in Scripture.
 - i) The most holy name for God in the Old Testament is the great "I AM."
 - (1) Exodus 3:14
 - (a) God showed Himself to Moses as the great "I AM."
 - (b) There was never a time when God was not.
 - ii) In the New Testament, Jesus used the same name to describe Himself.
 - (1) John 8:56-58



- (a) There was never a time when Jesus was not.
 - i) The Holy Spirit is not an influence emanating from God.
 - i) In the Christmas story, the Holy Spirit overshadows Mary.
 - (1) The Holy Spirit is also God because Jesus is the Son of God according to the flesh.
 - ii) The Holy Spirit is not an "it;" He is a person.
 - (1) Ephesians 4:30
 - (a) You cannot grieve an influence; you can only grieve a person.
 - iii) Acts 5:3-4
 - (1) We see in this passage the deity of the Holy Spirit.
 - (2) When Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit, they lied to God.
- 2) THE UNFATHOMABLE MYSTERY OF THE TRINITY (1 Timothy 3:16)
 - a) The mystery of the Trinity cannot be understood; it must be believed.
 - i) How can the finite understand the infinite?
 - ii) The mystery of the Trinity goes beyond logic, philosophy, science and mathematics.
 - (1) There are many things in the natural realm we do not understand, as well.
 - (a) We do not understand how out of the muck and mire of dirt a beautiful flower can grow.
 - (b) We do not understand infinity.
 - (c) We do not understand eternity.
 - iii) Do not try to prove the Trinity; believe it because God settles it in His Word.
 - b) The Trinity is an unfathomable mystery, but it is nonetheless true.
 - c) People will try to use illustrations to describe the Trinity; but there is only one God, and there is nothing to compare Him to.
 - i) Isaiah 40:18
 - ii) We should not make the mistake of saying, "God is like this..."
 - (1) There is only one God.
 - d) We see reflections of His Trinity in everything:
 - i) Time – past, present and future
 - ii) Space – height, width and depth
 - iii) Each is distinguishable, but all are inseparable.
 - (1) We cannot have height without width, etc.
 - (2) These are reflections but not proofs.
 - e) People will sometimes use false analogies to try to describe the Trinity.
 - i) For instance, you may be a husband, a father and a grandfather.
 - (1) This is called modalism.
 - ii) The Trinity is not God acting in three ways; it is God in three persons.
 - f) Isaiah 55:8-9
 - g) Don't try to explain the Trinity; you'll lose your mind. Don't deny it; you'll lose your soul.
 - h) We know the Trinity by divine revelation as we open the Word of God.
 - 3) THE UNFOLDED MANIFESTATION OF THE TRINITY (Matthew 1:22-23)



- a) We see throughout Scripture that God has manifested Himself as triune.
 - i) God has revealed His triune nature in the Old Testament prophecies.
 - (1) Genesis 1:1
 - (a) The Hebrew word for God used in this passage is “Elohim,” which is a plural noun.
 - (b) The writer of Genesis, through divine inspiration, also used a singular verb with the plural noun.
 - (c) This shows the triune God acting as a unity.
 - ii) John 1:1-3
 - (1) The “Word” is the biblical description of Jesus.
 - (2) The babe of Bethlehem is the mighty God of Genesis 1.
 - (a) Nothing was made without Jesus Christ.
 - iii) Deuteronomy 6:4-5
 - (1) In this great confession of Israel, we see the Trinity.
 - (a) When the writer stated, “Jehovah our Elohim is one Lord,” he used the word “echad” for the word “one.” The English translation of “echad” means a plural one.
 - (2) There are other examples in the Old Testament where “echad” is used:
 - (a) Genesis 2:24
 - (i) This speaks of when a husband and wife come together as one flesh.
 - (b) Genesis 11:6
 - (i) At the Tower of Babel, God said, “The people is one.”
 - (c) Numbers 13:23
 - (i) Many grapes, yet one cluster.
 - (ii) This is a plural unity.
 - b) The Son of God is not only present in the New Testament, but He is also in the Old Testament.
 - i) Daniel 3:25
 - (1) Jesus was in the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.
 - ii) Proverbs 30:4
 - (1) His name is Jehovah, and His Son’s name is Jesus.
 - iii) Psalm 2:6-7
 - (1) Jesus is speaking in this passage.
 - iv) Isaiah 9:6
 - (1) The name of the baby born in Bethlehem is the “Mighty God.”
 - (2) The name translated as “Mighty God” in this passage literally means “The God-Man.”
 - (3) This passage in Isaiah was written 700 years before Christ was born.
 - v) Isaiah 10:21
 - (1) This passage is referring to Jehovah, and Jesus is called Jehovah.
 - c) Matthew 28:19
 - i) This Great Commission would be blasphemous if Jesus Christ is not God.
- 4) THE UNCHANGING MINISTRY OF THE TRINITY (Matthew 1:20-21)
 - a) The Holy Trinity – God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost – work together in our salvation.
 - i) We are selected by the Father.



- (1) He loved us before we were ever born.
- ii) We are saved by the Son.
- iii) We are sealed by the Spirit.
- b) 2 Corinthians 13:14
 - i) God loves us, Jesus saves us and the Holy Spirit empowers us.

5) CONCLUSION

- a) We get it all when we receive Jesus.
- b) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- c) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16



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I wish that you would take God's precious Word and turn with me please to Matthew chapter 1. There again, we're going to find a Christmas story. We have been talking about the Lord Jesus Christ under the heading, "Come, Let Us Adore Him." And we've talked about His unequaled birth. One Sunday we talked about why Jesus was born of a virgin. Then we talked about His unblemished life. Nobody, nobody ever lived the life that the Lord Jesus Christ lived. Today we're going to be talking about His undiminished deity. We're going to be talking about the fact that this baby, this baby born so long ago, was God in human flesh.

I remember some years ago, back in the 60's there was a movement among young people. Many of them had come out of the drug culture and the hippie culture. But it was called "The Jesus Movement." And there were kids, many of them barefooted, many of them holding Bibles about this big, going around doing what they called Jesus yells, and they were cheering the Lord Jesus Christ, and they called themselves "The Jesus Movement."

Now, do you know the strange thing about that is this: that these kids, I'll call them kids, and I loved them; I thank God; I never opposed "The Jesus Movement." I had much rather have a young man or woman giving a cheer for Jesus than smoking pot. Now I never fought that. I was glad for it. Many of them were unguided, untutored, but why did they call themselves "The Jesus Movement?" In contradistinction to the churches! You talk about stolen thunder; that anyone would come along and call themselves a Jesus Movement as over against the organized church, for they operated outside of the organized church. Now let me say this, friend. That is an indictment to any church.

Brother Whitmire asked me a long time ago, "Pastor, it would help me if you would tell me before you preach, the subject, so I could line the music up with it." And that's a good idea. Folks, sometimes I don't know far enough ahead of time what I'm going to preach to let him know. That's honest confession, but it's good for the soul. And so I just say, "Jim, listen. If you're in doubt, you don't know what I'm going to preach, just sing about Jesus." Just sing about Jesus and it will fit, it will match because, listen to me. The Jesus kids missed it a tad because any so-called Jesus Movement that is not church-centered is not a Jesus Movement. The Bible says In Ephesians chapter 3 verse 21, "To Him be glory in the church." Amen? But let's turn that around. Any so-called church that is not Jesus-centered is not a true church. Any church that is not Jesus-centered is not a true church.

With that in mind, let's look at the Christmas story here, and we're going to look in Matthew chapter 1 beginning in verse 20 on through verse 23. It speaks about Joseph, and it says, "While he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary, thy wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins.' Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 'Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth



a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel, which, being interpreted, is God with us.” I love that passage of Scripture.

Now who was this Child born that day? Who is this One that we call Jesus? There’s one right answer; there are many wrong answers. For example, there are those who say that Jesus was a great man. Well, beyond any peradventure, any shadow of a doubt, He was a great man, but if you just tip the hat to Jesus Christ, you’ve missed it all. H. G. Wells, the noted historian, made a list of the ten greatest men in history, and Jesus Christ was number one on that list. He talked about Charlemagne the Great, and Peter the Great, and Alexander the Great. But Jesus is more than Jesus the Great. He’s Jesus the One and Only. The late Dr. Criswell, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas, Texas, said this, “To compare the greatest men on earth like Alexander or Caesar or Shakespeare with Jesus is like comparing a grain of dust to the whole universe, like comparing a mole hill to Mount Everest in the Himalayas.” And I say, “Amen” to that.

Now some say, “He was a great man.” Others speak of Him as a moral teacher, but as C.S. Lewis said, “We don’t have the option of just simply calling Him a moral teacher and moving on.” Let me tell you what C.S. Lewis said in one of his greatest passages, “I’m trying here to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people say about Him, ‘I’m ready to accept Jesus Christ as a great teacher, but I don’t accept His claim to be God.’ That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things that Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher; he would be either a lunatic, on the level of a man who says he’s a poached egg, or else he would be the devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was and is the Son of God or else a mad man or something worse. You can show Him up for a fool. You can spit at Him. You can kill Him as a demon. Or you can fall at His feet and call Him ‘Lord and God.’ But let none of us come away with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He’s not left that open to us.” Those are good words, aren’t they?

Now others say, “Well, you know, He’s more than a moral teacher; He’s a prophet; a messenger of God. The Koran of Islam says that about the Lord Jesus Christ. The Koran teaches and I quote, “Jesus was only a messenger of Allah.” No. He was more than a messenger of Allah. He is God in human flesh. Others, New Agers, say, “He’s so, some sort of a mystic medium.” That Jesus is a channel to know God, and so they do what they think is concourse with the Almighty through their mystic Jesus, their crystal Christ, who is but a demon imitating the Lord Jesus Christ. There are demons who call themselves Jesus.

We’d better understand just who this Jesus is. Let me tell you flat out without any stutter, stammer, apology, quibble, Jesus is God in human flesh. That’s who the Lord Jesus is: God manifest in the flesh. Not only is He the Son of God, He is God the Son.

That brings us to a doctrine that we need to emphasize more these days than ever before, and that is the doctrine of the Trinity. I want you to see in this passage that we’ve read the Holy Trinity. For example, if you look here in Matthew chapter 1 and verses 20 to 22, “Fear not to take unto thee Mary, thy wife; for that which is conceived in her is of,” now underscore this if you don’t mind marking your Bibles, “the Holy Ghost.” underscore that, “the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a Son,” underscore



that, "a Son, thou shalt call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet." Underscore "the Lord." And there you have the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God in three persons.

Look up here and let me tell you something. We're going to be a little deeper than normal. The doctrine of the Trinity is the great Christian distinctive, the great Christian distinctive: one God in three persons. Now to misunderstand this is to lead to heresy. Whether it be the heresy of the Jehovah's Witnesses, whether it be the heresy of Islam, whether it be the heresy of Unitarianism, or whether it be the heresy of some other group. If you miss the Trinity, you have missed the meaning, the message of the Bible: that God is a God of three in one and one in three.

Our Jewish friends, and this church loves Israel, our Jewish friends miss the message. In their emphasizing the unity of God, they fail to understand that even the Hebrew Bible teaches that this God, the God of the Bible, is a triune God. And we're going to show you that from the Word of God. Now our Jewish friends believe that Yahweh, Jehovah, is God, the one God, the Lord, and they are right. He is God the Father. But in the Bible there is also God the Son. Now let me show you how God the Father is described in the Bible.

What is the most holy name for God in the Old Testament? It is the great I AM. If you don't mind putting something in your margin, put Exodus chapter 3 and verse 14, "And God said unto Moses," now Moses is saying, "Lord, if I've got to introduce You to these people, whom shall I say, who shall I say that You are? Who are You? "And God said unto Moses, 'I AM that I AM.'" "I AM that I AM." Not I was, not I will be; "I AM the great I AM. There was never was a time when I was not. 'I AM that I AM.'" That is the holy, mystical, wonderful name of Jehovah God. Now remember, that's how God showed Himself to Moses. Have you got it?

Now the Pharisees had Jesus on the grill, these Pharisees in whom the milk of human kindness had curdled. These Pharisees, who were envious of the Lord Jesus Christ, actually sneered at Jesus. They insinuated that He was born of fornication, and Jesus had spoken of Abraham, and here's what they said, and put this down, in John chapter 8 verses 56 to 58. Jesus is speaking to those Jewish Pharisees, and here's what He said to them, "Your father, Abraham, rejoiced to see My day; and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto Him, 'Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?'" Now listen to this and don't miss it, "Jesus said unto them, 'Verily, verily,'" now, folks, when Jesus says "verily, verily," you listen. Listen, "Jesus said, 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was, I AM.'"

Did you catch that? What is the great, holy name of God in the Old Testament? He is the great "I AM." They said, "Have you seen Abraham?" He said, "Before ever Abraham ever got here, 'I AM.'" There never was a time when He was not, Jesus the Son of God. After this, the Bible says In John 8:59, "They took up stones to stone Him." Because why? They didn't miss the message. It was blasphemous to them that He would so identify Himself with the great I AM. God the Father is God; God the Son is God; and God the Holy Spirit is God.

Now in this Christmas story we see the Holy Spirit who overshadows Mary. He was the One who caused the pregnancy in Mary. He also is God because Jesus is the Son of God according to the



flesh. “Pastor Rogers, don’t you agree with others that the Holy Spirit is just an influence emanating from God?” No. The Holy Spirit is a person. Never speak of the Holy Spirit as “it.” Don’t talk about me and say, “It wore a dark suit this morning.” The Holy Spirit is a person who feels, who wills, who acts, who lives, who can be abused. In Ephesians 4 verse 30 the Bible says, “Grieve not the Spirit of God whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption.” You can’t grieve an influence; you can only grieve a person. And you can only grieve a person who loves you. The neighbors’ kids will vex you; your own children will grieve you, Amen? You only grieve somebody who loves you.

Let me give you a Scripture, proof text here, speaking of the deity of the Holy Spirit: Acts chapter 5 verses 3 and 4. There were some people named Ananias and Sapphira who had lied to the apostles and to the early church, and here’s the Scripture, “But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost,’” underscore the phrase “to lie to the Holy Ghost,” “and to keep back part of the price of the land? While it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power?” Now notice this. Listen carefully. He’s already said, “You’ve lied to the Holy Ghost,” and then listen. “Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.” Did you catch it? “Why did you lie to the Holy Ghost? You lied to God.” The Father is God. The Son is God. The Holy Ghost is God. One in three, three in one. “Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty, God in three persons, blessed Trinity.” You’ve sung it so many times. Do you know what you’re singing?

Three things we’re going to notice this morning. First of all, I want us to think about the unfathomable mystery, the unfathomable mystery of the Trinity. Now we’ve already shown you the Trinity in the Christmas story, but look if you will in First Timothy 3 verse 16. We referenced this last Sunday. “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness.” God was manifested in the flesh. You say, “Pastor Rogers, I don’t understand it.” Well, hip, hip, hurray. I’m glad you don’t understand it. I’m glad I don’t understand it! I’m glad nobody understands it, because it cannot be understood; it must be believed. I wouldn’t have any confidence in a God that I could understand.

John Wesley said, “How can a worm understand a man?” How can we understand God? How can the finite know the infinite? How can we unpick the mysteries of the Holy Trinity? It’s not given to us to understand; it is given to us to believe. It is a mystery. It goes beyond logic. It goes beyond philosophy. It goes beyond science. It goes beyond mathematics. Don’t think that you’re going to have to cram God into the little suitcase of your intellect in order to understand Him. There are many things in the natural realm you don’t understand. You don’t understand how out of the muck and the mire of dirt a beautiful flower can grow. But there’re other things that you don’t even begin to understand.

Which of you understands infinity, something that never ends, like space? Who in this building can understand eternity, something that never begins and never ends? Our minds just stop because everything we know has a beginning and an ending. Everything we know has a starting place and an ending place. But there is infinity. There is eternity. These things, very frankly, are beyond us. Don’t try to prove the Trinity. You’ll never prove the Trinity. Throw away your test tubes, put away your computer and your slide rules, bow down in the dust, open the Bible, and say, “I believe it because God settles it in His Word.” No, this is an unfathomable mystery, but it is nonetheless true. We don’t



have to understand everything.

You know, people race their theological motors to try to illustrate the Trinity, and they say, "It's like this, it's like that." We try to compare God to something. Well, there's only one God, so there's nothing to compare Him to. A girl had a boyfriend, but she went out with another boy one night, and she confessed to her boyfriend, "I went out with Henry and Henry kissed me." He said, "He did? I'll teach him." She said, "You couldn't teach Henry anything." You can compare one kiss with another kiss, but you can't compare God with anything because there is no other God.

Let me give you a verse. Put it down. Isaiah 40 verse 18, "To whom, then, will ye liken God?" Don't ever make the, the mistake of saying God is like this. "To whom will you liken God?" One kiss may be different or like another kiss, but there's only one God, one God.

Now we see reflections of His Trinity in everything. Reflections, but not proofs. Time and space, that makes our universe. Time is what? Past, present, and future. Space is height, width, and depth. All belong together. Each is distinguishable, but all are inseparable. You can't have a past without a present, you can't have a present without a future, and you can't have a future without a past. Each are distinguishable, all are part of one. And yet they are distinguishable, and yet they are inseparable; not a proof of the Trinity, only a reflection. Space: height, width, and depth. You can't have height without width, you can't have width without depth, you can't have depth without height. Each is distinguishable. All are inseparable. Why? Because they're reflections of the great God who made everything, God in three persons. And this is the unfathomable mystery.

Now sometimes we use false analogies. Someone may say, "Well, oh, it's easy to understand. It's like Pastor Rogers. He is Joyce's husband, he is my pastor, and he is Angela's grandfather." No, we're not, that's called modalism. It's not God acting in three ways; it is God in three persons. Well, you say, "Pastor Rogers, I don't understand that." Yes, that's true. Isaiah 55 verses 8 and 9, "For My thoughts are not your thoughts; neither are your ways My ways", saith the Lord. 'For as the Heavens are higher than the earth,'" by the way, how high is that? "As the Heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." A wise man said, "Don't try to explain the Trinity; you'll lose your mind. Don't deny it; you'll lose your soul." How do we know it? By divine revelation as we open the Word of God. The only knowledge we have of the Most High, is He discloses Himself to us.

Now here's the second thing I want you to see. I want you to see not only the unfathomable mystery, but I want you to see the unfolded manifestation of the Trinity. If God is a triune God, then you would expect Him to manifest Himself, which indeed He has done. You see, again, in our Scripture, Matthew 1 verses 22 and 23, "Now all of this was done, that it might be, fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet." Now God has given us the Old Testament prophecies, and there He, He unfolds these things. We see them. Now Muslims claim to believe the Old Testament. Jews believe the Old Testament. Jehovah's Witnesses claim to believe the Old Testament. Why don't we go to the Old Testament and see if we can find the Trinity there?

Well, we do, on the front door in the first verse. Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth." You say, "Pastor, I see no Trinity there." Well, stay with me. The Hebrew word



for God there is “Elohim,” and it is a plural noun. “El” is the singular appellative for God, the singular name for God, “El.” And then if you add the “IM” to it and make it “Elohim,” then that pluralizes it. For a seraph is one angel; seraphim, angels. A cherub is one angel; cherubim, more angels. It is the plural noun. But this plural noun could be translated, “In the beginning Gods.” Well, we know there’s only one God, but yet the Holy Spirit inspired Moses to write down “Elohim,” Gods, plural. But then, almost in bad grammar, except for divine inspiration, he uses a singular verb. Gods, Elohim, created the Heavens and the earth. Now what is this? It is God acting as a unity, the triune God.

With that in mind, remember that the baby of Bethlehem was the one who created the manger and the very stable in which He was born. John 1 verses 1 through 3. Remember it said now, “In the beginning, beginning God created the Heavens and the Earth.” Gods? Now listen to this, John 1, 1 through 3, “In the beginning was the Word.” That’s the Bible name or description of Jesus. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God.” Okay. Now wait a minute. “And the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him,” without whom? Without Jesus, “was not anything made that was made.” Do you see it? Now listen. What I’m trying to say is this: that the babe of Bethlehem is the mighty God of Genesis 1.

Nothing was made without Him. You see it in the creation of the world. You see it in the great commandment that God gave to Israel. There is a commandment that God gave to Israel. Every orthodox Jew knows it by heart. It’s called the “Shema.” Here it is, Deuteronomy 6 verses 4 and 5, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord.” The Jews use this as the prime proof text for the unity of God. “The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy might.” The word “Lord” is a translation of the word “Yahweh,” or “Jehovah.” Jehovah is one Lord, or “the Lord our Elohim is one Lord.” “Jehovah our Gods is one Lord.” “Yahweh,” our “Elohim.” Don’t drop out on me now. What I’m trying to show you is this: that even in this great confession of Israel, here we have the Trinity. We have reflections of the Trinity here. Now when he says, “Jehovah our Elohim is one Lord,” he uses a word for one, “echad.” E-C-H-A-D, if we were to anglicize it, which means one, not a singular one, but a plural one.

You say, “How can you have a plural one?” Well, let me give you other places where this word is used. In Genesis chapter 2 verse 24. When the Bible speaks of husband and wife coming together, the Bible says, “They two shall be,” echad, “one flesh.” Now are they two or one? The answers yes. All right. Let me give it to you again. In Genesis 11 and verse 6 at the Tower of Babel, God says, “The people is one.” All of these? Yes, but one. The same word that’s used here, “The Lord our God is one Lord.” Look at it here in Numbers chapter 13 and verse 23, “One cluster of grapes.” Many grapes, yet one cluster. What it is, is a plural unity. And when, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord,” Jehovah our Elohim is one Jehovah. Has that got you scratching your head? Good. I’m happy.

Now, you say, “But, we don’t learn about God’s Son till we get to the New Testament.” No, you’re wrong. You learn about God’s Son in the Old Testament. Look in Daniel chapter 3 verse 25. Nebuchadnezzar looked into the fiery furnace, and, “He answered and said, ‘Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.’” Who walked with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego through that fiery furnace?



Jesus did. Look in Proverbs chapter 30 and verse 4. Here's a question for the ancients, "Who hath ascended up into Heaven, or descended? Who hath gathered the wind in His fists? Who hath bound the waters in a garment? Who hath established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if thou canst tell?" His name is Jehovah, and His Son's name is Jesus. That's the answer. God has a Son.

And what is God's purpose with His Son? Read in the Old Testament in Psalm chapter 2 verses 6 and 7. Here's what the Almighty says, "Yet have I set My King upon My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: The Lord hath said unto Me," Jesus is speaking, "Thou art My Son; this day have I begotten Thee." Now, folks, I'm talking Old Testament here. And then what about our Christmas verse? Isaiah chapter 9 and verse 6, "Unto us a child is born, and unto us a Son is given." The child born is the babe of Bethlehem; the Son given is the everlasting Jesus. "And the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor," now hold this right now, His name shall be called "The Mighty God." "Whose name?" The baby! "You're calling that baby the Mighty God?" Isaiah the prophet did. "El Gibbor." That's the name. "El Gibbor," the Mighty God.

Do you know what "El Gibbor" literally means? The God-man! That's Isaiah chapter 9 verse 6, 700 years before Jesus Christ is born. The God-man. Now the Jehovah's Witnesses will tell you, "Well that's not Jehovah God." Well then, turn over to the next chapter and look in Isaiah chapter 10 verse 21, "The remnant shall return, even the remnant of Jacob, unto the mighty God." And there, beyond the shadow of any doubt, it's talking about Jehovah. And yet Jesus is called Jehovah. Therefore, in the New Testament, when we come to the miracle story of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, it's no amazement to, to us that we see God the Spirit and God the Father and God the Son coming together in this wonderful Christmas story.

And the same, the same Gospel of Matthew that begins in Matthew chapter 1, speaking of the Holy Trinity, concludes in Matthew chapter 28, giving the Great Commission to the church. And listen, beginning in verse 19, Matthew 28 verse 19. Jesus is speaking, "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them," into, or, "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." When we baptize people, we baptize them with a Trinitarian formula: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Listen to me. Look at me. That would be blasphemous if Jesus Christ is not God, to put Himself on the same plane, to include the Holy Spirit, and to say, "Baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost," if Jesus is not co-equal and co-eternal with God the Father. Have you got it? Nod your head.

All right. Now, let's move to the third and final thing. I want you to see the unchanging ministry of the Trinity. Now it is a mystery, a mystery manifested. But why all of this fuss about it? "Pastor, what difference does it make?" Well, your destiny rides on it. Your destiny rides on it. Listen again. Matthew chapter 1 verses 20 and 21, "But while he thought on these things, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, 'Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary, thy wife; for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins.'" The Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, works together in your salvation You are selected by the Father. He loved you



before you were ever born. You were saved by the Son. You are sealed by the Spirit. Altogether this is the way you're saved. That's the reason the apostle Paul said in Second Corinthians 13 verse 14, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all." God loves you. Jesus saved you. The Holy Spirit empowers you. That was the blessed benediction that Paul gave to that church.

George Duncan of England told a story to a friend who passed it on to me. He said back in the Second World War there was a man, a Britisher, very wealthy, who had a son. And that son got in the Royal Air Force, the RAF. He was shot down in flames and died; left this man, whose wife had previously died, immensely wealthy with no relatives, no other descendants. This boy was lost in the Battle for Britain. There came a time when the man himself died and he wrote a will. And his will said that his estate was to be sold and given to various charities. And he said, "My art collection is to be auctioned off." He had an incredible art collection. Sotheby's was going to do the auctioning.

The people came from all over, art collectors. Because it was a valuable collection, they were salivating with the opportunity to bid on it. And the auctioneer, the executor, said, "First of all, we're going to auction one painting." It was there on a tripod. They unveiled it. And it was a painting of a man. It was the wealthy man's son, the one who died. Few if any out there knew the boy. It was not a well-known artist. To them it was more or less valueless and nobody bid. But one man who was an old friend of the family, who knew the boy and had seen him grow up, thought it would be nice to have a painting of that lad. "I knew him. I watched him. I loved him." And he bid on it.

There was no other bid. The auctioneer said, "Do I hear any other bids? Very well, it is sold to this individual." And then he said, "The auction is over." They said, "No, there are other paintings." He said, "No." Then he said, "I was forbidden to tell you this, but it has been written in the will that whoever buys this picture gets with the picture the entire collection. Whoever gets the son gets all the rest." Friend, I want to tell you, God has a Son, and when you get Jesus, you get it all. You get it all when you receive Jesus.

*I've tried in vain a thousand ways,
My fears to quell, my hopes to raise;
When all I need, the Bible says, is Jesus.
My soul is night, my heart is steel;
I cannot see, I cannot feel,
For light and life I must appeal to Jesus.
He dies, He lives, He reigns, He pleads.
There's love in all His words and deeds.
All, all the guilty sinner needs is Jesus.
Though some will knock and some will blame,
In spite of sin, in spite of shame,
I'll go to Him because His name is Jesus.*

"Thou shalt call His name Jesus, Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." The God-man,



El Gibbor. Don't you love Him? What a Savior.

Bow your heads in prayer. Heads are bowed and eyes are closed. I want to invite you to invite Him into your heart. I want to lead you in a prayer. And in this prayer you can say an everlasting, "Yes" to Jesus Christ. And if you are not certain that you're saved or certain that you're not saved, today you can receive Him.

Would you pray this prayer? "Lord Jesus, I believe You're the Son of God, and God the Son. I believe You paid my sin debt with Your blood on that cross. Thank You for Your precious shed blood. I believe that God the Father raised You from the dead. You died to save me and promised to save me if I would trust in You. I do trust You. This moment, right now by faith, I open my heart and I receive You into my life as my Lord and Savior. Forgive my sin; cleanse me, save me, Jesus." Pray it from your heart, "Save me, Jesus. Save me."

Did you ask Him? Were you sincere? Then pray this way, "Thank You for saving me, Lord Jesus. I receive it by faith and that settles it. You're now my Lord and Savior. I don't look for a sign or ask for a feeling. I stand on Your Word. You cannot lie. Now I will live for You because You died for me. And help me never, ever to be ashamed of You. Give me the courage to make it public. In Your name I pray, Amen."



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