

ANOTHER JESUS,
ANOTHER GOSPEL



The real truth about God
and His Son
with
Answers to Objections

“He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

And Simon Peter answered and said, **Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.**

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed [it] unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

And I will give unto thee **the keys of the kingdom of heaven:** and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

Matthew 16:15-19

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Chapter 1

The Fear of Falsehood

“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.” 2 Corinthians 11:3

In his letter to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul outlines the only true gospel, calling it “the simplicity that is in Christ”. However, wary of others coming along to teach another gospel, he writes:

“For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or [if] ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with [him].” 2 Corinthians 11:4

Paul feared that after sharing the simple truth about God and His Son, others would come along to preach a false gospel, proclaiming another Jesus, and another spirit. The worst of all being, “ye might well bear with [or accept] him [the false teacher]”!

Sadly, that’s exactly what’s happened today.

The Seventh-day Adventist church was raised up in the truth regarding God and his Son. This is the movement – established in 1844 – that continues till the end through those who are faithful. Though today, the church no longer holds to the beliefs of its founding pioneers. Instead, it holds to a doctrine which the fallen churches believe. Today, the Seventh-day Adventist church proclaims a trinity god. Another gospel has come in.

Friends, the doctrine of the trinity is not a minor issue. It's the central, foundational belief of the church today. As fundamental belief #2, the trinity is second only to the church's faith in the Holy Scriptures. That's how significant this doctrine is!

So again I implore you; don't be deceived into thinking that this is a minor matter. Either what I'm sharing with you today is the false gospel, or the doctrine of the trinity is.

Most certainly, the two beliefs couldn't be further apart from each other. As you'll soon discover, one teaching is based purely upon passages of plain scripture, while the other is formed upon suppositions and speculative theories. Friends, study carefully; there is no middle ground.

Chapter 2

Metaphors and Role-Plays

Adventist Church Fundamental Belief Number 2 - The Trinity
“There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three **coeternal** Persons....”¹

There isn't a single verse in the Bible which teaches that God is a unity of three coeternal persons. By contrast, the Bible declares:

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God [is] one LORD:”
Deuteronomy 6:4

Furthermore, in the New Testament, Jesus is asked: “which is the first [greatest] commandment of all?” (Mark 12:28) And the Lord answers by quoting from Moses, as we've just read:

“Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is **one** Lord:” Mark 12:29

Additionally, in his letter to the Corinthians, the apostle Paul clearly outlines who the one God is:

“But to us [there is but] **one God, the Father**, of whom [are] all things....” 1 Corinthians 8:6

In Ephesians, Paul states:

¹ “28 Fundamental Beliefs,” General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, last modified 2015, <https://www.adventist.org/fileadmin/adventist.org/files/articles/official-statements/28Beliefs-Web.pdf>.

“One God and Father of all, who [is] above all, and through all, and in you all.” Ephesians 4:6

James also writes:

“Thou believest that there is **one God; thou doest well:...”**
James 2:19

And finally, we read the words of Jesus Himself.

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee **the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.”** John 17:3

By comparing John 17:3 with Mark 12:29, it becomes abundantly clear that when Jesus quoted the Shema of Israel (“Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord”), He was referring to His Father, “the only true God”.

The Father is the source of all life, including his Son’s (John 5:26). This is why Jesus is called the “only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18). He is equal with God in nature. Moreover, the Bible tells us that the Father created all things through His Son (Ephesians 3:9, Hebrews 1:2).

Finally, as the Bible repeatedly teaches, the Holy Spirit is the very personal presence of the Father and Son. (Romans 8:9, Galatians 4:6, John 20:22, John 14:23.) It is *their* spirit, and not a mysterious, third being.

In spite of these statements, Gordon Jenson, a leading theologian from Andrews’ University, writes:

“A plan of salvation was encompassed in the covenant made by the Three Persons of the Godhead, who possessed the attributes of Deity equally. In order to eradicate sin and rebellion from the universe and to restore harmony and peace, one of the divine Beings accepted, and entered into **the role of the Father, another the role of the Son...**”²

This quote originates in the *Adventist Review*, 1996, as part of the church’s annual special edition paper, *Readings for the Week of Prayer*. As you may know, this yearly edition is sanctioned by the conference to be read in every Adventist church throughout the world.

In this light, Jenson’s words mark the orthodox teaching of the Seventh-day Adventist church. And via this statement alone, Jenson and the Adventist Church are declaring that there is no Father and Son. By their interpretation, “one of the divine Beings accepted, and entered into the role of the Father, another the role of the Son”.

Furthermore, in Pr Max Hatton’s *Understanding the Trinity*, we read:

“The Father-Son relationship in the Godhead should be understood in a **metaphorical sense, not in a literal sense.**”³

A metaphor is a symbol, a figure of speech, an image, or an allegory. In essence, it’s not real. You see, once you teach three co-eternals, you cannot believe in a real Father and Son. It’s for this reason that the SDA church teaches a role-play; a relationship only to “be understood in a metaphorical sense”.⁴

² Gordon Jenson, “Jesus, the Heavenly Intercessor,” *Adventist Review* (October 31, 1996): 12.

³ Max Hatton, *Understanding the Trinity* (Grantham: Autumn House, 2001), 97.

⁴ *Ibid.*

Furthermore, in holding to this teaching, trinitarians are forced to reject plain passages of Scripture spoken by Christ himself, and even those spoken by the Father in heaven. In their rejection of the simple gospel, they're forced to introduce *another* gospel.

But friends, Scripture must always harmonise with Scripture. Even the Spirit of Prophecy must harmonise with Scripture because it's inspired by the same Holy Spirit. No personal bias should ever allow the two to contradict.

Reconsider the previous statements of our Adventist church leaders. No Scriptural evidence is supplied. When one is making these types of statements - which are being distributed worldwide - solid Scriptural support must be shown, and that which does not contradict other Scripture!

Notice the counsel we're given in *The Great Controversy*:

“The truths most plainly revealed in the Bible have been involved in doubt and darkness by **learned men, who, with a pretense of great wisdom, teach that the Scriptures have a **mystical, a secret, spiritual meaning not apparent in the language employed**. These men are false teachers... **The language of the Bible should be explained according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed... If men would but take the Bible as it reads**, if there were no false teachers to mislead and confuse their minds, a work would be accomplished that would make angels glad and that would bring into the fold of Christ thousands upon thousands who are now wandering in error.”** {GC 598}

Friends, when you're told that the Father-Son relationship is metaphorical; that Jesus isn't literally the Son; and that He doesn't have

a literal Father, remember who's speaking in John 3:16. We often forget that these are the very words of Christ, and that this is the gospel which has to transcend to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. The gospel which any child can understand! Certainly, you don't need a theologian to tell you what "only begotten" means. It's a simple truth.

"For God so loved the world that he gave **his only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Consider this other exceptionally plain passage:

"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that **God sent his only begotten Son into the world**, that we might live through him." 1 John 4:9

Inspiration declares that to know God is to love Him and that you come to love God by believing in who He is and what He's done for you. Friends, God sent his only begotten Son into the world to save you. Not someone playing the role of a Son. Not a metaphor. His only begotten Son.

"He that **spared not his own Son**, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Romans 8:32

These are all plain statements. They are not metaphors. They are not symbolic. Indeed, God wants to make this truth so clear that He speaks twice from heaven concerning this very issue. Interestingly, the Father's voice is recorded only three times in the entire New Testament, and for two of those times, He testifies that Jesus is His beloved Son. Notice the words He speaks at Christ's baptism.

“And lo a voice from heaven, saying, **This is my beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:17

I don't think people realise how serious it is to call God the Father and His Son a metaphor. Remember, this is God the Father who's speaking. Are we going to say that His words are not to be taken literally? How else am I meant to understand a voice from heaven saying: “this is my beloved Son”?

Simply look to the mount of transfiguration where Christ was glorified before Peter, James, and John.

“While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, **This is my beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.” Matthew 17:5

Lying at the very core of the gospel is the Father's gift to humanity. The gift of His only begotten Son as the atonement for our sins. But what are the SDA leaders teaching in regard to this precious truth?

“The Father–Son relationship in the Godhead should be understood in a **metaphorical** sense, **not in a literal sense.**”⁵

Today, trinitarians declare that the Father-Son relationship is metaphorical. That it wasn't *literally* God's Son who was sent to die. And it wasn't *literally* the Father who sent him, but one who “entered into the **role** of the Father, [and] another the **role** of the Son.”⁶

⁵ Max Hatton, *Understanding the Trinity* (Grantham: Autumn House, 2001), 97.

⁶ Gordon Jenson, “Jesus, the Heavenly Intercessor,” *Adventist Review* (October 31, 1996): 12.

By this teaching, theologians are undermining the infinite sacrifice of God and His Son, and are concealing the great love which the Father has expressed towards us.

What's more, the doctrine of the trinity fails to supply one verse as evidence for a metaphorical Father and Son. Yet Christ, the Father, the apostles, and the Spirit of Prophecy each testify of the same truth. Our Father is *not* a metaphor.

Chapter 3

Revealing or Concealing

“Satan is determined that men shall not see the love of God which led Him to give **His only-begotten Son** to save a lost race;” {1SM 156}

How does Satan prevent us from seeing the love of God? Through a trinity doctrine. A doctrine which dismembers the core of the gospel, and the very hope of man’s salvation. In John 3:36, we find clear conditions for man’s access into everlasting life.

“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” John 3:36

By asserting a metaphorical Father and Son, the trinity denies Jesus as the only begotten Son of God. Conversely, our salvation depends upon us accepting this very fact!

“He that believeth on him is not condemned: **but he that believeth not is condemned already**, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”
John 3:18

Here is a challenge. If you believe that God is a unity of three co-eternal persons - as fundamental belief number 2 states - then provide one verse of Scripture which clearly teaches this definition.

As a surety, you won't find a single text. Theologians know there's no scripture to support their teaching. Yet still they insist that the Father-Son relationship is metaphorical, merely a role-play.

Conversely, Jesus declares:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave **his only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

The Father declares:

“And lo a voice from heaven, saying, **This is my beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:17

“While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, **This is my beloved Son**, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.” Matthew 17:5

The apostles declare:

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God **sent his only begotten Son into the world**, that we might live through him.” 1 John 4:9

“He that spared not **his own Son**, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” Romans 8:32

And the Spirit of Prophecy declares:

“The Eternal Father, the unchangeable one, gave his only begotten Son, tore from his bosom Him who was made in the express image of his person, and sent him down to earth to reveal how greatly he loved mankind.” {RH July 9, 1895}

The truth about God is intricately connected with how greatly He loves you and me. Yet through the trinity doctrine, ministers of the gospel have made God a liar.

“He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.” 1 John 5:10

That’s how far scripture goes in appealing to us to accept this beautiful gospel truth. That if you don’t believe “the record that God gave of his Son”, you make God a liar. Of course, we know God cannot lie. So why is it so hard to believe His plain, loving words: **“And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”?** (Matthew 3:17).

In Matthew 16, Jesus asks His disciples a most pertinent question:

“He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?”
Matthew 16:15

Then, speaking on behalf of the twelve...

“Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I

say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and **upon this rock I will build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matthew 16:16-18

Notice how Jesus responds to Peter's confession. There are three important points to be learned.

1. Jesus blesses Peter for the answer he gives.
2. Jesus states that Peter's confession was revealed to him by the Father himself.
3. Jesus declares that Peter's confession ("Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God") is the foundation of the Christian church.

Can you see how vitally important this truth is? Christ's church is built upon it and "the gates of hell shall not prevail against it". It's for this reason that the trinity destroys the very foundation of God's church! It denies that Jesus is truly the Son of God, and therefore denies the words of the Father, the confession of the apostles, and the promise of Jesus Christ.

Also, keep in mind that trinitarians teach that the Son is only a metaphor. Thus, according to their teaching, the entire Christian church is built upon something that is not real. Amazing! The greatest truth in the Bible – a truth so solid that Jesus calls it the "rock" upon which He will build His church – is according to the trinitarian, only a metaphor.

By contrast, consider how important this truth about the Son of God was to the apostle Peter. In 2 Peter 1, we read the final will and

testimony of this very apostle. As Peter is about to die, there's one thing that he wants you to remember.

“Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting [you] in remembrance; Knowing that shortly I must put off [this] my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath showed me. Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance. For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty. **For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. And this voice which came from heaven we heard,** when we were with him in the holy mount.” 2 Peter 1:13-18

Once again we see what Peter's faith was built upon. Just before his martyrdom, Peter records the single most important truth for the church to hold onto.

Think about it. This is the apostle who walked with Jesus from the beginning of His ministry. He could have written about Christ's miracles, His teachings, the upper-room experience, the cross, His resurrection, or Pentecost. Yet an aged Peter who is about to die pens for us the most vital truth of Christ's entire ministry. That he, along with James and John, saw Jesus transfigured and heard the Father's voice: “this is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”. Indeed, Peter's final words are an earnest confession, to which he adds: “and this voice which came from heaven we heard”.

Dear friends, who are you going to believe? The words of the Father Himself? Or the words of Adventist leaders who deny a literal Father and Son? Notice who it is that denies the Father and Son.

“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? **He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.**” 1 John 2:22

John affirms that it’s the spirit of antichrist which denies the Father and the Son. It comes from Rome. And Rome, from Babylon.

In Adventism, there are two main beliefs concerning the trinity.

- 1) Tritheism: 3 gods
- 2) Trinitarianism: 1 god in 3 persons

Both beliefs are false. Both deny that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God. And both deny that the Holy Spirit is the personal Spirit of the Father and Son. The second belief – which we are dealing with – is most verily a Roman Catholic teaching. In the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, we read:

“The **three** divine Persons are **only one** God...”⁷

Moreover, a comparative analysis of Pr Hatton’s *Understanding the Trinity*, and the *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church*, reveals that this is exactly what the SDA church teaches today.

⁷ Australian Catholic Bishops Conference, trans., *Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church* (Strathfield: St Pauls Publications, 2008), 39.

<u>SDA Publication:</u> <i>Understanding the Trinity</i>	<u>Rome's Publication:</u> <i>Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church</i>
"(Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) are all part of the One God" p117	" one God in three persons , the consubstantial trinity... By nature one God"
"three persons in one essence " p132	"Each of the persons is that supreme reality, viz., the Divine substance, essence or nature"
"each person is distinct in relation to the others" p130	"the Church's faith also professes the distinction of persons. "
" all participate to some degree in what is done " p131	" the Divine persons are also inseparable in what they do. "
"The being of the Godhead is thus one and indivisible. " p130	"In adoring the Holy Trinity, life-giving, consubstantial, and indivisible "
"(Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) are all part of the One God who acts. When one Member acts, His action has the quality of them all acting because they are the One God. " p117	" Inseparable in what they are , the Divine persons are also inseparable in what they do. "
" The three Persons are, therefore, the one God. " p133	" The three divine Persons are only one God. "

Both the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Roman Catholic Church teach:

- "one god in three persons",
- "three persons in one essence",

- the “distinction of persons”,
- that this one god is “indivisible”, and that
- “the three persons are therefore the one God”.

How can anyone read the above comparisons and not acknowledge that the trinity of the SDA church is the same trinity as that of Rome? For further evidence, consider the Athanasian Creed (which originated in approximately 500 AD). The creed – cherished by Catholicism – provides a thorough description of the doctrine of the trinity. It states:

“That we worship **one God in Trinity**, and Trinity in Unity, neither confounding the persons, nor dividing the substance....For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Spirit....So the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. And yet they are not three gods, but one God...And in the Trinity none is before or after another; none is greater or less than another, but **all three Persons are co-eternal together and co-equal**. He therefore that will be saved must think thus of the Trinity.”⁸

Now, compare this creed with the fundamental beliefs of the Adventist church. What does the SDA church proclaim?

“There is one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a unity of three **co-eternal** persons....”⁹

Likewise, commenting on the Athanasian Creed in his book *Understanding the Trinity*, Max Hatton states:

⁸ “The Athanasian Creed,” beginningCatholic.com,

<http://www.beginningcatholic.com/athanasian-creed.html>

⁹ “28 Fundamental Beliefs,” General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, last modified 2015, <https://www.adventist.org/fileadmin/adventist.org/files/articles/official-statements/28Beliefs-Web.pdf>.

“this formula has served Christians well for about two millennia.”¹⁰

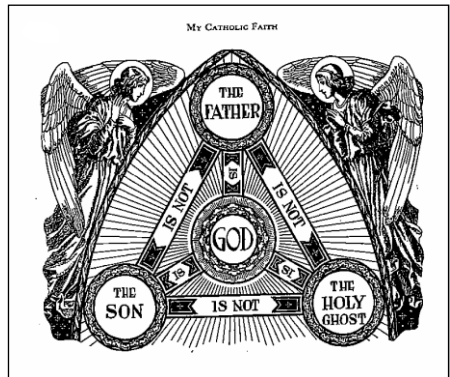
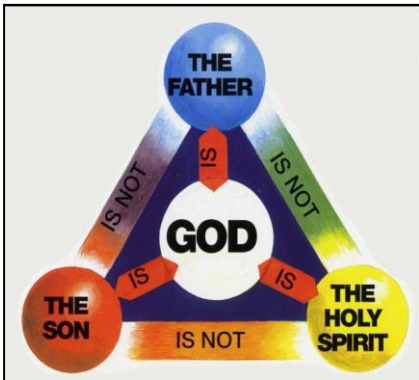
Friends, what has the Scripture taught us?

“...He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.”
1 John 2:22

Most certainly, as outlined by the Spirit of Prophecy:

“Protestants are losing the mark of distinction that distinguished them from the world, and **they are lessening the distance between themselves and the Roman power.** They have turned away their ears from hearing the truth; they have been unwilling to accept light which God shed upon their pathway, **and are therefore going into darkness.**” {ST February 19, 1894}

Nevertheless, if you still maintain that the Adventist Trinity is different to that of Rome’s, consider the two illustrations below.



¹⁰ Max Hatton, *Understanding the Trinity* (Grantham: Autumn House, 2001), 14.

The illustration on the left is taken from the Seventh-day Adventist publication *New Pictorial Aid for Bible Study*.¹¹ On the right, is an image from *My Catholic Faith*, a text which seeks to explain the Catholic understanding of the trinity.¹²

Both churches employ the triquetra – a symbol of equality, unity, and eternity – to denote the nature of their god. As you can see, the pictorial explanation given by the Seventh-day Adventist Church is an exact replica of that offered by the Catholic and Protestant churches. It's the same trinity.

¹¹ Frank Breaden, *New Pictorial Aid for Bible Study* (Maryland: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 2008), 75.

¹² Louis LaRavoire Morrow, *My Catholic Faith* (Wisconsin: My Mission House, 1949), chapter 11.

Chapter 4

The Father of All

“But to us [there is but] one **God, the Father, of whom [are] all things**, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom [are] all things, and we by him.” 1 Corinthians 8:6

In 1 Corinthians 8:6, we find a truly simple yet remarkable statement. Here, the apostle Paul proclaims that there is “one God; the Father, of whom are all things”. Paul certainly wasn’t an advocate of ‘one-god-in-three-persons’.

Furthermore, in John 17:3, we’re given Christ’s prayer for you and me. Rest assured, this prayer is not symbolic. Neither is it figurative. They’re the words of the Son in communion with His Father.

“**And this is life eternal**, that they might know thee **the only true God**, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” John 17:3

Here, Jesus declares the exact same message that Paul shares in 1 Corinthians 8:6. And in Ephesians 4:6, we find harmony again.

“**One God and Father of all**, who [is] above all, and through all, and in you all.” Ephesians 4:6

As surely as the Father is the one true God, Jesus Christ is His only begotten Son. In Proverbs 30:4, Solomon ponders the days of creation, and asks:

“...who hath established all the ends of the earth? what [is] his name, and **what [is] his son's name**, if thou canst tell?”
Proverbs 30:4

Here, the wisest man who's ever lived points to God's Son as a Son before creation. Not a Son merely at Bethlehem, but a Son who existed before the Earth was made. And the prophet Isaiah declares:

“For unto us a child is born, unto us **a son is given...**” Isaiah 9:6

Indeed, this prophecy is the John 3:16 of the Old Testament. The child who was born in Bethlehem is that Son who is given “unto us”. The only begotten Son of God.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son...For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”
John 3:16,17

In order for the Father to send His Son into the world, Jesus had to be a Son before Bethlehem. This is exactly what the following text reveals.

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that **God sent his only begotten Son into the world**, that we might live through him.” 1 John 4:9

And in the Spirit of Prophecy, we find harmony again.

“The Eternal Father, the unchangeable one, **gave his only begotten Son**, tore from his bosom Him who was made in the express image of his person, **and sent him down to earth** to reveal how greatly he loved mankind.” {RH July 9, 1895}

Once again we see that Jesus was a Son before Bethlehem, and it was that Son who was sent down from heaven. John also declares:

“...and we beheld his glory, **the glory as of the only begotten of the Father...**” John 1:14

“No man hath seen God at any time; **the only begotten Son**, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared [him].” John 1:18

Many today are denying what these verses really mean. They refuse to accept that Jesus is *truly* the Son of God. For this reason, God (in his mercy) makes it incredibly plain.

“And when the centurion, which stood over against him, saw that he so cried out, and gave up the ghost, he said, **Truly this man was the Son of God.**” Mark 15:39

Friends, what does ‘truly’ mean? What more can God do? So far, we’ve seen perfect harmony throughout the Old and New Testaments, as well as the Spirit of Prophecy that God sent his only begotten Son into the Earth. Then, to allow no room for doubt, scripture states: “**Truly, this man was the Son of God!**”

Now, if you still refuse to believe that Jesus is truly God’s begotten Son, take careful note of John 3:18:

“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because **he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**”

John 3:18

The Bible repeatedly admonishes us that eternal life depends upon us knowing the Father and Son.

“And this is life eternal, that they might know thee **the only true God**, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.” John 17:3

Consider the dictionary definition for the word ‘only’.

On"ly (?), a. [OE. only, anly, onlich, AS. ānlic, i.e., onelike. See One, and Like, a.]

- 1. One alone; single; as, the only man present; his only occupation.**
- 2. Alone in its class; by itself; not associated with others of the same class or kind; as, an only child.**¹³

When Jesus calls the Father “the only true God”, that is exactly what He means. Yet like Catholic Rome, Seventh-day Adventist leaders are proclaiming the exact opposite of that which Christ has made incredibly plain. Notice again these statements from the Adventist church and the Church of Rome.

¹³ “Only,” Webster’s Revised Unabridged Dictionary 1913, [http://1913.mshaffer.com/d/search/ words.word.only](http://1913.mshaffer.com/d/search/words.word.only).

<p align="center"><u>SDA Publication:</u> <i>Understanding the Trinity</i></p>	<p align="center"><u>Rome's Publication:</u> <i>Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church</i></p>
<p>“three persons in one essence” p132</p>	<p>“Each of the persons is that supreme reality, viz., the Divine substance, essence or nature”</p>
<p>“The three Persons are, therefore, the one God.” p133</p>	<p>“The three divine Persons are only one God.”</p>

The Bible states that the Father is the only true God. Yet both the SDA church and Rome declare that God is an essence of three distinct persons. By contrast, Paul asserts:

“But to us [there is but] one **God, the Father, of whom [are] all things**, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom [are] all things, and we by him.” 1 Corinthians 8:6

The reason why the Father is the only true God is because the Father is the originator of all things. He is the sovereign of the universe. All things came from God, including his Son!

At this point, you may be asking: isn't Jesus our creator? This is true. But take a closer look at what Paul is teaching.

“And to make all [men] see what [is] the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in **God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:**” Ephesians 3:9

“Hath in these last days spoken unto us by [his] Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, **by whom also he made the worlds;**” Hebrews 1:2

Yes, Jesus created all things. That is true. But the deeper truth is that the Father created all things through His Son. Furthermore, as Hebrews 1:2 points out, Jesus was God’s Son at the time when He created the worlds! That’s exactly what Solomon states in Proverbs 30:4.

“...who hath established all the ends of the earth? what [is] his name, and **what [is] his son's name**, if thou canst tell?” Proverbs 30:4

Jesus was God’s Son long before he became a Son in Bethlehem. This is also firmly established by Old Testament prophecy.

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, [though] thou be little among the thousands of Judah, [yet] out of thee shall he come forth unto me [that is] to be ruler in Israel; **whose goings forth [have been] from of old**, from everlasting.” Micah 5:2

Nevertheless, the question of when Jesus was begotten – throughout the ages of eternity - remains a mystery beyond our comprehension. Inspiration declares:

“God has told us that He did do it, and we are to accept the Word of God just as it reads. **And although we may try to reason in regard to our Creator, how long He has had existence, where evil first entered into our world**, and all these things, we may reason about them until we fall down faint and

exhausted with the research when there is yet an infinity beyond.” {7BC 919.5}

Now, you may be wondering; doesn't Jesus possess eternal life of Himself? Again, this is true. But from where did He receive His eternal life?

“For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;” John 5:26

Jesus received His life from the Father. And what type of life does the Father have? Eternal life. Divine life. The life that the Father gave to His Son is not the life of humanity, but of everlasting Divinity! That's the reason He is a Creator, and the reason He possesses eternal life.

In the next chapter, we will consider *how* Christ received that Divine, eternal life.

Chapter 5

A Real Divine Father, a Real Divine Son

“Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by **inheritance** obtained a more excellent name than they.”
Hebrews 1:4

It was by inheritance that Christ received the Divine life of His Father!
Expanding upon this verse, Sister White proclaims:

“A complete offering has been made; for "God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son,"-- not a son by creation, as were the angels, nor a son by adoption, as is the forgiven sinner, but **a Son begotten in the express image of the Father's person, and in all the brightness of his majesty and glory, one equal with God in authority, dignity, and divine perfection.**” {ST May 30, 1895}

The statement above is not in reference to Christ’s birth in Bethlehem, where He was born a helpless babe in fallen humanity. It says: “a Son begotten in the express image of the Father’s person, and in all the brightness of his majesty and glory”. Here, Sister White is referring to Christ’s birth in eternity, before creation (Micah 5:2).

In studying the 1888 message, one will find an abundance of evidence in support of this very point. In *Christ and his Righteousness* alone, E.J. Waggoner states five times that Christ had a beginning, uplifting Jesus as the Divine Son of God. Consider this simple statement:

“The Scriptures declare that Christ is “the only begotten son of God.” He is begotten, not created.”¹⁴

You see, Jesus received (by inheritance) a more excellent name than the angels. A divine name. Remember Christ’s words in the epistle of John:

“For as the Father hath life in himself; **so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;**” John 5:26

To further illustrate the life Christ inherited from His Father, consider a human father-son relationship.

A Human Father	A Human Son
Human Being	Human Being
Mortal	Mortal
Intelligence	Intelligence
Reason	Reason
Will	Will
Physical Nature	Physical Nature
Spiritual Nature	Spiritual Nature

In this instance, is the son any less human than the father? No. The son inherited the very nature of his father from birth. They are identical in nature. But could the son have existed without the father? No, certainly not. Because the son *received* his life from his father!

¹⁴ Ellet Joseph Waggoner, *Christ and His Righteousness* (California: Pacific Press Publishing House, 1890), 21.

Bearing these principles in mind, consider the relationship that exists between our heavenly Father and His only begotten Son as highlighted by the following table.

God the Father	God's Son (Jesus Christ)
Divine	Divine
Immortal	Immortal
Eternal	Eternal
Omnipotent	Omnipotent
Omniscient	Omniscient
Omnipresent	Omnipresent
Physical Nature	Physical Nature
Spiritual Nature	Spiritual Nature

Is the Son any less Divine than the Father? No. Jesus inherited the very nature of His Father from birth. A Divine nature.

Take note; God the Father also has a physical nature. Daniel saw the Ancient of days sitting upon a throne “whose garment *was* white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool” (Daniel 7:9). Isaiah saw him seated high and lifted up, as the “train [of his robe] filled the temple” (Isaiah 6:1). And John also saw him, as the “one [who] sat on the throne” (Revelation 4:2).

Unquestionably, God the Father has a physical nature. He's not an essence. And He had a Son. From the message of 1888, we read:

“The word was ‘in the beginning.’ The mind of man cannot grasp the ages that are spanned in this phrase. **It is not given**

to men to know when or how the Son was begotten; but we know that he was the Divine Word, not simply before He came to this earth to die, but even before the world was created.”¹⁵

So, how far back did Christ exist before the incarnation?

“Christ shows them that, although they might reckon His life to be less than fifty years, yet His divine life could not be **reckoned by human computation.** The existence of Christ before His incarnation is not measured by figures.--*Signs of the Times*, May 3, 1899.” {Ev 616.1}

While we cannot measure the length of Christ’s divine life before the incarnation, we are to accept His declaration that he came forth from God.

“Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for **I proceeded forth and came from God...**” John 8:42

Friends, from this verse alone, we can see that the Father and Son are not co-eternal beings, as fundamental belief #2 would have you believe. On the contrary, Jesus is telling you that He “proceeded forth and came from God”!

The word “proceeded” means to be born, to issue forth from. It doesn’t mean simply to be sent. Jesus was born of God. In the ages of eternity, Christ had a beginning. But does that make Jesus a lesser God?

¹⁵ Ellet Joseph Waggoner, *Christ and His Righteousness* (California: Pacific Press Publishing House, 1890), 9.

Certainly not. For Jesus inherited the very Divinity of God the Father!

Indeed, Jesus Christ is God. The Bible is filled with passages which denote just that.

“Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence...” Psalm 50:3

“And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.” John 20:28

Yes, Jesus is God. But Scripture also declares that Jesus Himself has a God and Father.

The disciples declare:

“Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...”
1 Peter 1:3

“Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...”
Ephesians 1:3

“The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ...”
2 Corinthians 11:31

The Son declares:

“...I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and [to] **my God,** and your God.” John 20:17

“Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God...and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the

name of the city of **my God**, [which is] new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from **my God...**" Revelation 3:12

"...surely my judgment [is] with the LORD, and my work with **my God.**" Isaiah 49:4

"...yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and **my God** shall be my strength." Isaiah 49:5

And even the Father declares:

"But unto the Son [he saith], Thy throne, **O God**, [is] for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness [is] the sceptre of thy kingdom." Hebrews 1:8

"And, Thou, **Lord**, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:" Hebrews 1:10

Now notice what the Father says in verse 9.

"Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; **therefore God, [even] thy God**, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows." Hebrews 1:9

What perfect harmony! The disciples, Jesus, and the Father Himself all testify that Jesus has a God and Father.

Friends, if God were a trinity, the truths we've just read would be blasphemy, because the trinity teaches a unity of three co-eternal and co-equal divine beings. Yet these inspired verses all teach that although Jesus is rightly called God, He Himself has a God and Father.

The same Paul who declares “Jesus Christ is Lord” (Philippians 2:11) also testifies “there is but one God, the Father” (1 Corinthians 8:6). Friends, are you going to charge the apostle Paul with believing in two gods? Paul also said this about Jesus:

“Who is the image of the invisible God, **the firstborn** of every creature:” Colossians 1:15

What a powerful testament! Christ is called both “the image of the invisible God”, and “the firstborn” of every creature. Now notice what the Greek Lexicon says in relation to this verse.

“Christ is called the firstborn of all creation, **who came into being through God** prior to the entire universe of created things...”¹⁶

Colossians 1:15 teaches us that while Christ is equal with God (for He is the image of the invisible God); He came into being through God (as the first born of all creation). That’s why Paul states “to us, there is but one God, the Father”. Because the Father is the originator of all life! So why is Christ called “Lord”, you may ask? Because Christ was truly begotten of the Father, and thereby inherited His exact Divine nature. As Sister White asserts, “He is the express image of the Father’s person”! {RH November 8, 1898}

Furthermore, in Hebrews 1:6, the apostle Paul calls Jesus “the firstbegotten” **who was brought into the world**, just as John declares in 1 John 4:9. Yet surprisingly, some brethren still claim that Christ was a Son from Bethlehem alone.

¹⁶ “Thayer’s Greek Lexicon: G4416 – prototokos,” Blue Letter Bible, <https://www.blueletterBible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?strongs=G4416>.

On page 34 of *Patriarchs and Prophets*, Sister White depicts the war in heaven. At this point, the Earth is not yet created. Nevertheless, God places His Son upon the throne and confers authority upon Him. The Father instructs the rebellious angels to obey His Son's voice as verily as they do His own. Does that sound like co-eternals in heaven to you?

What's more, the same brethren who teach that a co-eternal being took the role of a Son at Bethlehem claim that this role was purely for the working out of the plan of salvation. But notice what 1 Corinthians 15:28 says about the Son once the plan of salvation is complete.

“And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.” 1 Corinthians 15:28

From the days before creation, to the future heavenly Jerusalem, Christ will always be God's only begotten Son. And lovingly, willingly, He will subject Himself to His Father's will.

As we saw earlier, Jesus is rightly called God. But the Bible also teaches that He Himself has a God and Father. Thus, God is not a mysterious, indivisible essence of three co-eternals. Rather, God the Father had a Son, and by nature, the Son inherited the Divinity of His Father.

Please understand this point. The Divinity of God is the Spirit of God. There is only one Divinity, and therefore only one Spirit. God the Father is the original source of this Divinity, as His titles vividly point out:

“Ancient of days” (Daniel 7:9).

“Only true God” (John 17:3).

“Most High God” (Psalms 78:56).

“Sovereign of the universe” {PP 34}.

“Thou Son of the Most High God” (Mark 5:7).

In Mark 5:7, it’s the demons who are speaking. Satan knows who the Most High God is. And even the devils acknowledge that Christ is truly the “Son of the Most High God”! Indeed, the devils believe and acknowledge the truth, while the trinitarian teaches:

“There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three **coeternal** persons....”¹⁷

The following table outlines the doctrine of the trinity, in light of the statements previously given.

God the Father	god the Son	god the Holy Spirit
Divine Person	Divine Person	Divine Person
Eternal (no beginning)	Eternal (no beginning)	Eternal (no beginning)
Omnipotent, etc.	Omnipotent. etc.	Omnipotent, etc.

According to trinitarians, ‘god the Son’ – a term not once recorded in the Holy Scriptures or in the Spirit of Prophecy – is the source of his own divinity. He is co-eternal with the other two persons. Thus, he

¹⁷ “28 Fundamental Beliefs,” General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, last modified 2015, <https://www.adventist.org/fileadmin/adventist.org/files/articles/official-statements/28Beliefs-Web.pdf>.

does not have a beginning, and his son-ship is only a metaphor, a role-play.

Please note; the moment one believes in the trinity, and its term 'god the son', they must acknowledge that they believe in two gods. Why? Because the trinitarian denies that 'god the son' had a beginning. They teach that he is divine and has always existed. Thus, by being unrelated to the Father, he bears his own separate divinity. This makes two divinities, or two gods! This objection cannot be answered.

To make matters worse, the trinitarian then believes in god the Spirit; a third divine co-eternal person. This leaves us with three individual god beings. This is a polytheistic religion. *Another* gospel.

Chapter 6

Their Spirit, the Holy Spirit

So far, we've seen that the Father is the "only true God" and that Jesus Christ is "the only begotten Son of the Father". Now, let's see how the Bible describes the Holy Spirit.

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the **Spirit of God** dwell in you. Now if any man have not the **Spirit of Christ**, he is none of his." Romans 8:9

"...God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father." Galatians 4:6

"But when they shall lead [you], and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: **for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.**" Mark 13:11

And who is "the Holy Ghost"? Notice the same passage in Matthew's gospel:

"But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. **For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.**" Matthew 10:19-20

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: **but holy men of God spake [as they were] moved by the Holy Ghost.**” 2 Peter 1:21

Now, who was it that inspired the prophets?

“Of which salvation the prophets have inquired and searched diligently...Searching what, or what manner of time **the Spirit of Christ which was in them** did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.” 1 Peter 1:10-11

“For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the **supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,**” Philippians 1:19

“And when he had said this, **he breathed on [them]**, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost:**” John 20:22

In summary, we may conclude the following.

1. The Spirit of God is the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9).
2. God sends forth “the Spirit of his Son into your hearts”. It’s not somebody else (Galatians 4:6).
3. The Holy Ghost is the Spirit of the Father (Mark 13:11, Matthew 10:19-20).
4. The Holy Spirit that inspired the prophets is the Spirit of Christ (2 Peter 1:21, 1 Peter 1:10-11).

5. The Holy Spirit comes direct from Christ. It's his very breath, character, and life (John 20:22).

Moreover, in John 20:22, we're given unmistakable insight into where the Holy Spirit proceeds from. How else is one to understand this verse?

“And when he had said this, **he breathed on [them]**, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost:**” John 20:22

Where did the Holy Spirit come from? John says: “he [Christ] breathed on them”. It's Christ's own breath; it came from inside of Him!

Expanding on this verse, Sister White proclaims:

“Before the disciples could fulfill their official duties in connection with the church, **Christ breathed His Spirit upon them.**” {DA 805}

The Holy Spirit is not a third co-eternal person. Christ breathed on his disciples and said: “receive ye the Holy Ghost”. It's a most beautiful illustration because it's practical.

Please note, this is the same Spirit we find in the story of creation.

“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness [was] upon the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God** moved upon the face of the waters.” Genesis 1:2

Some people interpret this to mean that the Holy Spirit – a third divine being - was moving upon the waters. But the verse states that it was “the Spirit of God” which moved upon the waters. How does David describe the Spirit in creation?

“**By the word of the LORD** were the heavens made; and all the host of them **by the breath of his mouth....**” Psalms 33:6

Notice the word: “breath”. This is the same Hebrew word that is translated as “spirit” in Genesis 1:2!

spirit^{H7307}

H7307 ruwach *roo'-akh*

from 'ruwach' (7306); wind; breath, by resemblance spirit, but only of a rational being (including its expression and functions):--air, **breath, mind, spirit** wind. ¹⁸

The word literally means ‘breath’. So, what was it that moved upon the face of the waters? “The breath of his mouth”. It was Christ’s breath, His spoken word, which moved upon the waters.

“For he **spake**, and it was [done]; he **commanded**, and it stood fast.” Psalms 33:9

Therefore, the Spirit of God is the spoken word of God. It’s not another being. In fact, the Holy Spirit is even described as being the personal presence of God and Christ.

¹⁸ “Lexicon: Strong’s H7307 – ruwach,” Blue Letter Bible, <https://www.blueletterBible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?t=kjv&strongs=h7307>.

“Whither shall I go from **thy spirit?** or **whither shall I flee from thy presence?** If I ascend up into heaven, thou [art] there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou [art there]. [If] I take the wings of the morning, [and] dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; **Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.**” Psalms 139:7-10

‘Cast me not away from **thy presence**; and take not **thy holy spirit** from me.” Psalms 51:11

“For **the eyes of the LORD** run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of [them] whose heart [is] perfect toward him...” 2 Chronicles 16:9

“The LORD [is] in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne [is] in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.” Psalms 11:4

Notice how the Spirit of Prophecy harmonises with Scripture:

““The Lord's throne is in heaven” (Psalm 11:4); yet by His Spirit He is everywhere present. He has an intimate knowledge of, and a personal interest in, all the works of His hand.” {Ed 132}

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God. It's His presence. It's His word. It's not somebody else. In the following parallel statements, we discover that the Spirit of God is also the mind of God.

“Who hath directed **the Spirit of the LORD**, or [being] his counsellor hath taught him?” Isaiah 40:13

“For who hath known **the mind of the Lord?** or who hath been his counsellor?” Romans 11:34

So, the Holy Spirit is God's word, His presence, and His mind. And it's the Spirit of God and Christ that speaks through the disciples.

"But when they shall lead [you], and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for **it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.**"
Mark 13:11

"But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For **it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father** which speaketh in you." Matthew 10:19-20

"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but **holy men of God spake [as they were] moved by the Holy Ghost.**" 2 Peter 1:21

"Searching what, or what manner of time the **Spirit of Christ which was in them** did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow."
1 Peter 1:11

Friends, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and Christ.

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the **Spirit of God** dwell in you. Now if any man have not the **Spirit of Christ**, he is none of his." Romans 8:9

Ultimately, the Holy Spirit is the breath, presence, mind, right hand of power (Divinity), and eyes of the Lord. It's for this reason that the Spirit is called the:

“Spirit of Christ” (Peter 1:11),

“Spirit of His Son” (Galatians 4:6),

“Spirit of your Father” (Matthew 10:20),

“Spirit of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:19), and

“Spirit of God” (Matthew 3:16).

Of a certainty, the word “of” is possessive. The Spirit belongs to God. It’s not somebody else. Notice the following passage from the book of Daniel.

“And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith **his spirit was troubled**, and his sleep brake from him.” Daniel 2:1

We don’t read the phrase: “his spirit was troubled”, and think that somebody else was troubled. It was Nebuchadnezzar’s mind that was troubled! We have no difficulty accepting this. So why then, when we read “the Spirit of God”, do we feel the need to detach the Spirit, and turn it into a third person? For this is precisely what the trinity teaches, as clearly outlined by Pr Max Hatton below.

“The Holy Spirit is a Person of the Trinity; He is not the Father, neither is He the Son. He is One of the co-eternal three.”¹⁹

“The Holy Spirit takes the place of Jesus...He is the Counselor of John 14:16.”²⁰

¹⁹ Max Hatton, *Understanding the Trinity* (Grantham: Autumn House, 2001), 119.

²⁰ Ibid, 104.

The trinity teaches that the Holy Spirit is someone else. Now, let's examine the passage which Pr Hatton refers to in the quote above.

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but **ye know him**; for **he dwelleth with you**, and **shall be in you**.” John 14:16-17

Speaking of the Comforter which will come at Pentecost, Jesus says to His disciples: “ye know him”. How? “For he dwelleth with you”.

The Comforter isn't a stranger. He's dwelling with the disciples at that very moment. He's been living with them, eating with them, and travelling with them. He's with them in the present-tense. That's why Jesus tells the disciples “ye know him”. And in the very next verse, Jesus plainly tells them who that Comforter is.

“I will not leave you comfortless: **I will come to you**.”
John 14:18

Jesus says: “I”, who am already dwelling with you, “I”, whom you already know, “I will come to you”. Does this sound like somebody else taking His place? Jesus continues:

“At that day ye shall know that I [am] in my Father, and ye in me, and **I in you....and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him**.” John 14:20-21

The disciples understood who the Comforter was. The disciples believed Him when He promised: “I will come to you”. They simply wanted to learn by what means He would come to them.

“Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, **how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us**, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and **we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**” John 14:22-23

Christ was leaving the disciples physically, but He was coming to dwell with them spiritually. That’s why the world wouldn’t recognise Him, but those who knew Him personally would. The very love, joy, and peace that the disciples had experienced with Him in person, was to abide with them still through His Spirit. Christ promises:

“If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and **we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**” John 14:23

By contrast, the trinity asserts:

“The Holy Spirit is a Person of the Trinity; **He is not the Father, neither is He the Son.**”²¹

Friends, what does the Bible say?

“**...I will come** to you.” John 14:18

“**...I in you.**” John 14:20

“**...manifest myself** to him.” John 14:21

“**...there am I** in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20

“**...I will never leave thee**, nor forsake thee.” Hebrews 13:5

²¹ Max Hatton, *Understanding the Trinity* (Grantham: Autumn House, 2001), 119.

“... he breathed on [them], and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.” John 20:22

“...God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts....”
Galatians 4:6

Friends, hold fast to the promises of Jesus Christ. Remember the last words He says to His church. His parting promise to you is this:

“... lo, I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.” Matthew 28:20

As Christ is ascending up to heaven, He wants to assure His followers that He'll remain with them. He's not sending someone else to take His place. He says: **“I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world”**.

Friends, this is the Comforter who is with us right now. Not some mysterious being that we do not know, who never partook of our humanity, and can never understand the trials that we're meeting with every day.

No. The Comforter is someone who walked this Earth for thirty-three and a half years. Who met every trial and temptation “as is common to man” (1 Corinthians 10:13) and who learnt “obedience by the things which He suffered” (Hebrews 5:8). It is He who has become “the author and finisher of our faith” (Hebrews 12:2).

Remember, “while Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above, He is still by His Spirit the minister of the church on earth” {DA 166}.

It is He who promises:

“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”
John 14:18

“...**I will never leave thee**, nor forsake thee.” Hebrews 13:5

“For where two or three are gathered together in my name,
there am I in the midst of them.” Matthew 18:20

And if you're still unsure, consider these two quotes from Sister White.

“We want the Holy Spirit, **which is Jesus Christ.**” {Lt66-1894
(April 10, 1894) par. 18}

“All professions of Christianity are but lifeless expressions of
faith until **Jesus imbues the believer with his spiritual life,**
which is the Holy Ghost.” {3SP 242.2}

Throughout this study, we've learnt that there is only one true God,
the Father. We have also learnt that Jesus is His only begotten Son,
born in the express image of the Father's person, and in all His
brightness and glory. Finally, we've seen that the Holy Spirit is the
Spirit of God and Christ.

This is the true gospel. The gospel that is given “for the perfecting of
the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of
Christ:” (Ephesians 4:12). And it's this gospel which will bring us into
the “unity of the faith, and of the **knowledge of the Son of God**, unto a
perfect man” (Ephesians 4:13).

This is what Paul calls “the simplicity that is in Christ” (2 Corinthians
11:3). May we all confess with Peter and the apostles: “Thou art the
Christ, the Son of the living God” (Matthew 16:16).

Amen.

Answers to Objections

1 John 5:7 – page 53

Matthew 28:19 – page 56

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John 1:1 – page 64

Isaiah 9:6 – page 70

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Objection: 1 John 5:7

“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.” 1 John 5:7

The trinitarian Objects: The verse states that the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost are one. This teaches a trinity of three co-eternal persons.

Inspiration Answers: The verse doesn't say these three are a trinity, nor that they are one god. It simply says: they are one. We are admonished not to add onto God's word (Proverbs 30:6).

1 John 5:7 begins with the words: “for there are three that **bear record** in heaven”. The Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost are one in the record they bear. Notice also the following verse.

“And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and **these three agree in one.**”
1 John 5:8

Please note, when 1 John 5:7 says “these three are one”, it refers to the record they bear. They are one in witness and testimony. Now, what is the record they're united in?

“Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?” 1 John 5:5

If one interprets 1 John 5:7 to teach a trinity of three co-eternals, they deny that Jesus is truly the Son of God. This is because the trinity teaches that Jesus is only a metaphorical son. Yet only two verses prior,

we're admonished that the only way to overcome the world is to believe that Jesus is "the Son of God"!

Furthermore, in verse 6 we read:

"This is he that came by water and blood, [even] Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth." 1 John 5:6

Notice that the Spirit also bears witness that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.²² Now in verse 9, we see the Father's testimony of His Son.

"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son." 1 John 5:9²³

And what if we don't believe the record which God gave of His Son? John continues:

"He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son." 1 John 5:10

Friends, how important is it to believe in the Son of God? John once again affirms:

"And this is the record, that 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 of God hath not life." 1 John 5:11-12

²² For a more in-depth study on this verse, please see the sermon *By Water and Blood* on www.acts321.org.

²³ See also Matthew 3:17 and Matthew 17:5.

Let us not forget the testimony of Jesus Himself, as penned by the same author.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave **his only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

It’s interesting to note that in 1 John 5:7, the term John uses for the Son is “the Word”. This is important because in John’s gospel, he tells us exactly who the Word is.

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of **the only begotten of the Father**,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

Thus, one could rightly translate 1 John 5:7 as: “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the word [the only begotten of the Father], and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.” 1 John 5:7

We have seen that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost are one in the record they bear, and that record is “that Jesus is the Son of God” (1 John 5:5). Amazing! The very text which trinitarians use to teach a trinity of three co-eternal persons (and thereby deny that Jesus is the Son of God) actually testifies to the record that Jesus *is* the Son of God. Moreover, the same chapter clearly states that our eternal life depends on us believing this truth.

“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life...”
1 John 5:13

Objection: Matthew 28:19

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”
Matthew 28:19

The trinitarian Objects: This list of three names (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost) reveals a trinity of three co-eternal persons.

Inspiration Answers: Christ lists three names (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost), yet never implies that they belong to a trinity of three co-eternal persons. Rather, He continually declares that the Holy Ghost (the Spirit) is the Spirit of God Himself.

In fact, Matthew 28:19 reinstates the truth about the Father-Son relationship. As concerning the Holy Spirit, we’ve already learnt that it is the personal Spirit of the Father and Son. Consider these next twelve points as a summary of what we’ve learnt so far.

- The Spirit emanates “from the source of all power” {DA 679}.
- The Spirit proceeds from the Father (John 15:26).
- The Spirit is the beams of God’s glory {DA 112.1}.
- The Spirit is the presence and power of God {ST, November 23, 1891 par. 1}.
- The Spirit is the breath and word of God (Genesis 1:2, Psalm 33:6,9).

- God sends forth the Spirit of his Son into our hearts (Galatians 4:6).
- The Spirit is the Spirit of the Father and Son (Romans 8:9).
- Jesus says “we will come and make our abode with you” (John 14:23).
- “This refers to the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ” {14MR 179.2}.
- The Saviour is our comforter {8MR 49.3}.
- The Spirit of Christ inspired the prophets (1 Peter 1:11).
- The Spirit “proceeds from the only begotten Son” {RH, April 5, 1906 par. 16}.

Trinitarians use Matthew 28:19 to teach a trinity of three co-eternal persons. Yet in denying a literal Father and Son, they destroy the very essence of the passage they quote! Remember these statements made by Adventist theologians...

“A plan of salvation was encompassed in the covenant made by the Three Persons of the Godhead, who possessed the attributes of Deity equally. In order to eradicate sin and rebellion from the universe and to restore harmony and peace, one of the divine Beings accepted, and entered into **the role of the Father, another the role of the Son...**”²⁴

²⁴ Gordon Jenson, “Jesus, the Heavenly Intercessor,” *Adventist Review* (October 31, 1996): 12.

“The Father-Son relationship in the Godhead should be understood in a **metaphorical sense, not in a literal sense.**”²⁵

“Jesus became the Son of God at his human birth...”²⁶

This is the very opposite of what Matthew 28:19 is teaching.

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”
Matthew 28:19

Here, Christ instructs his followers to “go ye therefore, and teach all nations”. He instructs them to baptise others into the truth concerning the Father, His Son, and their Holy Spirit. Notice the parallel passage in Mark’s gospel.

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

Now, what is the principle truth of the gospel that is to be preached to every creature? According to Jesus, it’s John 3:16.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

And of this gospel, Mark writes: “he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16). Friends, this is what Christ instructs His disciples to teach in Matthew 28:19. It’s into this gospel that we are to baptize, and be baptized.

²⁵ Max Hatton, *Understanding the Trinity* (Grantham: Autumn House, 2001), 97.

²⁶ *Ibid*, 34.

Matthew 28:19 is calling us to believe in the Father who had an only begotten Son and sent Him from heaven to die for our sins. Consider the testimony of the converted Christian.

“Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because **he hath given us of his Spirit.** And we have seen and do testify that **the Father sent the Son [to be] the Saviour of the world.** Whosoever shall **confess that Jesus is the Son of God,** God dwelleth in him, and he in God.” 1 John 4:13-15

Friends, notice how important it is to believe the true gospel.

“Who is he that overcometh the world, **but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?**” 1 John 5:5

After Jesus declared John 3:16, He added this warning.

“He that believeth on him is not condemned: **but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.**”
John 3:18

Amazing! The very text which trinitarians use to teach a trinity (of three co-eternals) condemns them because they do not believe “in the name of the only begotten Son of God”.

Furthermore, Matthew 28:19 calls us to be baptised “**in the name** of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost”. *The Strong's Concordance* defines ‘name’ as this:

3686. onoma a "name" [authority, character]:²⁷

To this end, Sister White proclaims:

“Christ has made baptism the sign of entrance to His spiritual kingdom. He has made this a positive condition with which all must comply who wish to be acknowledged as **under the authority of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**” {Ev 307.1}

²⁷ “Lexicon: Strong’s G3686 – onoma,” Blue Letter Bible,
<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongsg=G3686&t=KJV>

Objection: John 16:13

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.” John 16:13

The trinitarian Objects: The Spirit is referred to as “he”, so it must be referring to someone else.

Inspiration Answers: Jesus commonly speaks of himself in the third person. Therefore, use of the word “he” doesn’t necessitate a separate person.

Consider the following verses.

“I tell you that **he** will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall **he** find faith on the earth?”
Luke 18:8

In Luke 18:8, Christ is talking about Himself in the third person. By this alone, you cannot assume that use of the word “he” in the Bible necessarily points to someone else. A similar example is given in the gospel of John.

“Jesus...said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him? And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen **him**, and it is **he** that talketh with thee.” John 9:35-37

Here again, Christ refers to Himself as “him” and “he”. And speaking of the Spirit, Jesus says: “he shall not speak of himself”. Now, notice the parallels between this verse and what else Jesus says of Himself in the gospel of John.

Third Person – John 16:13	First Person – Parallel Verses
<p>“...he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak...”</p>	<p>“For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.” John 12:49, 50.</p>
	<p>“...the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.” John 14:10..</p>
	<p>“...and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.” John 14:24.</p>
	<p>“...but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.” John 8:28.</p>

During His ministry, Jesus spoke only the words which His Father gave to Him. That’s why in John 16:13, He states: the Spirit “shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak”. Ever since the fall, all communication between God and man has been through Christ. Even in heaven now, Christ is speaking the words of

His Father. The fulfilment of John 16:13 is most verily seen in Revelation 1:1.

<p>“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.” John 16:13.</p>	<p>“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass...” Revelation 1:1.</p>
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Without doubt, the Spirit of truth in John 16:3 is the Spirit of Christ.

In Revelation chapter 2, John distinctly teaches that Christ is the Spirit which speaks to the churches.

“And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; **These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;**” Revelation 2:8

Who is “the first and the last”? Who “was dead, and is alive”? It is none other but Christ. Thus, John reveals that it is Christ who writes to the church in Smyrna. But how does Christ speak? John admonishes:

“He that hath an ear, let him hear **what the Spirit saith unto the churches...**” Revelation 2:11

It is through His Spirit that Christ speaks unto the churches. In this light, the Spirit of truth is He “which was dead, and is alive” (Revelation 2:8), who speaks not His own words, but His Father’s.

Objection: John 1:1

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1

The trinitarian Objects: The Word was God. Therefore, Jesus is a co-eternal, divine being.

Inspiration Answers: The Word is “the only begotten of the Father” (John 1:14). This is why Christ is equal with God, and can rightly be called God. Yet Jesus Himself testifies that the Father is “the only true God” (John 17:3).

To whom does “the beginning” refer to? The next three words reveal: “in the beginning **was the Word**”. Trinitarians have two approaches to escaping the fact that the term “in the beginning” is in reference to “the Word”.

On the one hand, they claim that “in the beginning” refers to creation. But creation – as mentioned in John chapter 1 – doesn’t appear until verse 3. It simply says: “in the beginning was the Word”, which is Christ.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” John 1:1

“The same was in the beginning with God.” John 1:2

“All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.” John 1:3

Notice how creation comes by the Word, who was “in the beginning”. This beginning cannot refer to creation. It refers to the Word. Who is the Word? Verse 14 tells us.

“And the **Word** was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of **the only begotten of the Father**,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

To the honest Bible student, this is straightforward. Trinitarians know this, and so they try another approach. They claim that the word “the” is not the definite article, as it is not a part of the original text. Therefore, according to trinitarians, “the beginning” is not a beginning, because the word “the” is missing. They know that if “the beginning” refers to Christ, it would contradict their theory of three co-eternals.

Interestingly, trinitarians contradict themselves regardless. In the following four verses, the word “the” does not appear in the original text. Yet who is going to deny that in these four passages, a literal beginning is referred to?

Wasn't there a beginning when God made Adam and Eve?

“...he which made [them] at **the** beginning made them male and female,” Matthew 19:4

What about the earthquakes, famines, plagues, and wars which are spoken of in Matthew 24; do not these events have a beginning? Of course they do! Jesus says so Himself:

“All these [are] **the** beginning of sorrows.” Matthew 24:8

Did not Jesus know about Judas from the beginning of his ministry?

“...For Jesus knew from **the** beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him.” John 6:64

Wasn't there a beginning to Satan's murderous plan? Indeed, he began his life as a holy angel!

“...He was a murderer from **the** beginning...” John 8:44

In all four of these passages, the word “the” is not in the original text. Yet all would agree that the word “beginning” marks a literal starting point for the events described.

Furthermore, notice how the Strong's Concordance defines the word 'beginning'.

“ἀρχή from G756; a **commencement**, or (concretely) chief (in various applications of order, time, place, or rank):— **beginning...**”

Commenting on John 1:1, the Thayer's Greek Lexicon defines the word 'beginning' as:

“beginning, origin; a. Used absolutely, of the beginning of all things:”²⁸

Clearly, the word “beginning” is in reference to Jesus: “in the beginning was the Word”. Yet now, the trinitarian will argue that the Word was God, and that God has no beginning. This is true. But notice the correct rendering of John 1:1.

²⁸ “Thayer's Greek Lexicon: G746 – arche,” Blue Letter Bible,
<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongsg=G746&t=KJV>

en 1722 arch 746 hn 2258 o 3588 logov 3056
 In beginning was the Word
 kai 2532 o 3588 logov 3056 hn 2258 prov 4314
 and the Word was with
 ton 3588 **yeon 2316** kai 2532 **yeov 2316** hn 2258
 the God and God was
 o 3588 logov 3056
 the Word.

Notice how the word "God" (theos) in John 1:1 is spelt differently both times? The first time the word is used, it is a noun. It refers to God the Father. The second time the word is used, it is an adjective. It means that the Word was Divine, or the same as God. Notice the following translation by James Moffatt, Hugh J. Schonfield and Edgar Goodspeed.

"...and the Word was divine."

Today's English Version reads:

"...and he was the same as God."

The Revised English Bible reads:

"...and what God was, the Word was." John 1:1

Furthermore, consider how E.J. Waggoner, from the 1888 message, explains John 1:1.

“The word was ‘in the beginning.’ The mind of man cannot grasp the ages that are spanned in this phrase. **It is not given to men to know when or how the Son was begotten;**”²⁹

Similarly, from Uriah Smith, we’re told:

“God alone is without beginning, **at the earliest epoch when a beginning could be, a period so remote that to finite minds it is essentially eternity, appeared the Word** ‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.’ John 1:1.”³⁰

John 1:1 is not the first time we’re told that the Divine Son had a beginning.

“And the Son of God declares concerning Himself: **“The Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way,** before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting. . . . When He appointed the foundations of the earth: then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him: and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.” Proverbs 8:22-30.” {PP 34.1}

Friends, it’s Christ who’s speaking in Proverbs 8:22, and He declares: “the Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way”. The passage goes on to say that this happened “before His works of old” (creation). This is exactly what John 1:1-3 is teaching. In John 1:1, “the beginning” (of the Word) refers to a time before all creation.

Interestingly, Matthew chapter 1 and Luke chapter 3 each outline the human genealogy of Jesus. Both chapters span many generations. In

²⁹ Ellet Joseph Waggoner, *Christ and His Righteousness* (California: Pacific Press Publishing House, 1890), 9.

³⁰ Uriah Smith, *Looking Unto Jesus* (1898), 10.

John 1:1, we find the Divine genealogy of Christ. Of course, the apostle needs only one verse: “in the beginning was the Word”. At a time before creation, God the Father brought forth a Son. Christ Himself is telling you: “**the Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way,** before His works of old” (Proverbs 8:22).

Furthermore, Micah 5:2 propounds: Christ’s “goings forth [have been] from of old”; from the days of eternity (margin). Therefore, the Word – the only begotten of the Father – was brought forth from the days before creation; before time even existed. And that’s why it can’t be computed by human minds. On this point, Sister White declares:

“Christ shows them that, although they might reckon His life to be less than fifty years, yet His divine life could not be **reckoned by human computation**. The existence of Christ before His incarnation is not measured by figures.--*Signs of the Times*, May 3, 1899.” {Ev 616.1}

What a marvel is the wisdom of God! The very verse which trinitarians use to teach a trinity of three co-eternals clearly teaches that the Word, the Son of God, had a beginning! And John 1:14 reveals exactly who the Word is.

“And **the Word** was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the **only begotten of the Father**), full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

With this in mind, John 1:1 could easily be read like this: “in the beginning was [the only begotten of the Father]”.

What a glorious truth!

Objection: Isaiah 9:6

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

The trinitarian Objects: Christ is called “The mighty God, The everlasting Father”. This teaches a trinity of three co-eternal persons.

Inspiration Answers: The prophecy of Isaiah 9:6 foretells the love of God in giving His Son to the world. It also describes Christ’s ministry; life, teachings, and miracles. No part of this verse infers a trinity god.

If one interprets this verse to mean that Christ is the “Everlasting Father”, who is the Son that is given? To teach that Christ is both the Father and Son is Unitarianism and not Trinitarianism. Neither of these teachings is correct.

Incidentally, Jesus is never called any of these names in the New Testament. These are titles describing His life, ministry, and character. The Hebrew word for ‘name’ is ‘shem’ (H8034). In the Thayer’s Greek Lexicon it’s defined as:

“an appellation, as a mark or memorial of individuality; by implication honor, **authority, character**.”³¹

Consider the word “Wonderful” as used in Isaiah 9:6. This word particularly refers to one who would do wonderful things, such as a

³¹ “Thayer’s Greek Lexicon: H8034 – shem,” Blue Letter Bible, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H8034&t=KJV>

worker of miracles. And throughout His ministry, Jesus truly fulfilled the meaning of this word.

Now, consider the word “Counsellor”. In His life and ministry, Jesus was the greatest teacher, counsellor, and comforter the world has ever seen. Concerning the term, “The mighty God”, let us see how the apostle Luke describes Jesus.

“And they were all amazed at **the mighty power of God**. But while they wondered every one at all things which Jesus did, he said unto his disciples,” Luke 9:43³²

Additionally, the term “The Prince of Peace” is perfectly fulfilled in Christ’s life, and especially in His death and resurrection. The apostle Paul writes:

“For **he is our peace**, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition [between us];”
Ephesians 2:14³³

And what about the term: “the everlasting Father”? We know that Adam is the father of the human race. But Jesus is called “the last Adam” (1 Corinthians 15:45-49).³⁴ Indeed, Christ is rightly called “the everlasting Father”, not because He is God the Father, but because He is the second Adam, and therefore the new Father of the born-again children of God!³⁵

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.” 1 Corinthians 15:22

³² See also Luke 19:37.

³³ See also Ephesians 2:17.

³⁴ See also Romans 5:15-18.

³⁵ See also Hebrews 2:13.

Friends, how can one use Isaiah 9:6 to teach a trinity when the verse itself begins by saying: “For unto us a child is born, **unto us a Son is given**”? The trinitarian doesn’t even believe that God has a Son to give!

Without a doubt, Isaiah 9:6 is the John 3:16 of the Old Testament. Through the gospel prophet, God declares: “unto us [the world] a Son is given” (Isaiah 9:6). And in proclaiming the everlasting gospel, Jesus echoes those very words:

“For God so loved the world [us], that he gave his only begotten Son....” John 3:16

Objection: Isaiah 44:6

“Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I [am] the first, and I [am] the last; and beside me [there is] no God.” Isaiah 44:6

The trinitarian Objects: In Isaiah 44:6, the speaker calls Himself “redeemer” and then declares “besides me there is no God”. Since Jesus is our Redeemer, He must be the one true God.

Inspiration Answers: Isaiah 44:6 says nothing about a trinity god. A careful study of this verse alongside other relevant passages in Isaiah will reveal that it’s God the Father who’s speaking in Isaiah 44:6. This harmonises perfectly with Jesus’ words in John 17:3: “that they might know thee the only true God”.

It is important to note that there is one person speaking in this verse, and not two. This is how the verse correctly reads: “Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his [Israel’s] redeemer the LORD of hosts...”

Additionally, just because the word “redeemer” is used in Isaiah 44:6, it doesn’t mean that it’s in reference to Christ. The Father is also called the Redeemer.

In Isaiah 63:8, the Father is called “Saviour”.³⁶ And in Isaiah 63:9 we’re told that it’s the Father who “redeemed” Israel. Of this we can be sure, because the Son is mentioned separately as “the angel of His presence” in the same verse. Now, notice verse 16 of the same chapter:

³⁶ See also 1 Timothy 1:1.

“Doubtless thou [art] our father, though Abraham be ignorant of us, and Israel acknowledge us not: thou, **O LORD, [art] our father, our redeemer;** thy name [is] from everlasting.”

Isaiah 63:16

Let us also examine Isaiah 49:7. Here, God the Father is speaking and He calls Himself “the Redeemer of Israel”. For a most beautiful insight into this passage, please see *The Desire of Ages*, page 678 and 679.

Ultimately, one cannot apply Isaiah 44:6 to Christ purely on the assumption that He is called the Redeemer, since we have just seen that this title rightly applies to God the Father.

Furthermore, the speaker states: “beside me [there is] no God”. This alone eliminates the other two supposed members of the co-eternal, co-equal trinity! Now, notice verse 8 of the same chapter. The question is asked:

“...Is there a God beside me? yea, [there is] no God; I know not [any].” Isaiah 44:8

In this verse, it’s clear that one person is speaking, and that the speaker is contrasting Himself (the one true God) against the vast array of heathen gods. This is the crux of the entire passage. That there is one true God of Israel, unlike the multiplicity of gods which exist in the heathen nations. Notice verse 24:

“Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I [am] the LORD that maketh all [things]; that stretcheth forth the heavens **alone**; that spreadeth abroad the earth **by myself**;” Isaiah 44:24

Why does the speaker say that He made the heavens and Earth “alone”, and “by myself”? As revealed in Hebrews 1:2 and Ephesians 3:9, “God created all things by Jesus Christ”. Indeed, the Father is the originator of all life. He is the One “of whom are all things”. Consider Revelation 4:11:

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.” Revelation 4:11

The One who is worshipped in heaven as the Creator of all things is the Father, since even Christ received His life from the Father (John 5:26). It is the Father who is sitting on the throne in Revelation 4:11.³⁷ It is the Father who receives the praise: “thou [art] the God, [even] thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth” (Isaiah 37:16).

And in 1 Corinthians 15:28 we read:

“And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.” 1 Corinthians 15:28

³⁷ Compare this with 2 Kings 19:15.

Objection: Isaiah 48:16

“Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there [am] I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.”
Isaiah 48:16 (KJV)

The trinitarian Objects: Christ states: “God, **and** his Spirit, hath sent me”. Therefore, God, and the spirit are separate persons.

Inspiration Answers: Christ states: “God, and **his** Spirit, hath sent me”. As evidenced by the pronoun “his”, the Spirit is God’s spirit; it belongs to Him.

Consider how Isaiah 48:16 reads in other translations.

“And now the Sovereign LORD has sent me, **with his** Spirit.”
NIV – New International Version

“... and now the Lord Jehovah hath sent me, **and his** Spirit.”
ASV – American Standard Version

“... and now the Lord God has sent me, and **given me his** spirit.”
BBE – Bible in Basic English

“... and now Adonai ELOHIM has sent me **and his** Spirit.”
CJB – Complete Jewish Bible

"... and now the Lord God hath sent me, **and his** spirit."
RHE – Douay Version

"... And now the Lord GOD has sent me, **and his** Spirit."
ESV – English Standard Version

"... and now the Lord GOD has sent me, **and his** Spirit."
HNV – Hebrew Names Version

"...And now the Lord GOD has sent Me, **and His** Spirit."
NAS – New American Standard

"... Now, the Lord God has sent me **with his** Spirit."
NCV – New Century Version

"... And now the Lord God has sent me **and his** spirit."
NRS – New Revised Standard

"... And now the Lord GOD has sent me **and his** Spirit."
RSV – Revised Standard Version

"... And now the Sovereign LORD has sent me, **endowed with his** Spirit."

TNIV – Today's New International Version

Each Bible translation declares that God sent His personal Spirit with Jesus into the Earth. So then, it's not the Spirit - as a third person - who sent Jesus to us, but God the Father alone who sent Christ, "endowed with his Spirit". (TNIV) This is made abundantly evident throughout the book of Isaiah.

“Behold my servant, **whom I uphold**; mine elect, [in whom] my soul delighteth; **I have put my spirit upon him**: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.” Isaiah 42:1

“**And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him**, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;” Isaiah 11:2

“**The spirit of the Lord GOD [is] upon me**; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to [them that are] bound;” Isaiah 61:1

Please note, the point made by the Father in Isaiah 42:1, and repeated by the prophet in the succeeding passages, is the same point made in Isaiah 48:16: “The Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me”. Jesus was sent by the Father, with the Father’s Holy Spirit. Thus we read; “and the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him”. Isaiah 11:2.

In Luke 4:18, we see the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy. A prophecy which the disciple vividly recalls:

“**The Spirit of the Lord [is] upon me**, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,” Luke 4:18

Objection: Another Comforter

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;” John 14:16

The trinitarian Objects: Jesus says that **another** Comforter will be given. Therefore, the Comforter (the Holy Spirit) must be a separate, third, co-eternal person.

Inspiration Answers: Jesus says: “I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you”. The Comforter (the Holy Spirit) is the Spirit of Christ Himself. It’s called “another”, as Jesus would no longer be a Comforter in the physical, human form (which the disciples had known), but a Comforter by His Spirit.

Trinitarians openly deny that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of the Father and the Son. In his book, *Understanding the Trinity*, Pr Max Hatton states:

“The Holy Spirit takes the place of Jesus...He is the Counselor of John 14:16.”³⁸

“The Holy Spirit is a Person of the Trinity; He is not the Father, neither is He the Son. He is One of the co-eternal three.”³⁹

Similarly, for Adventist speaker Tony Rykers, the Comforter of John 14 is another divine being, separate from Jesus. He states:

³⁸ Max Hatton, *Understanding the Trinity* (Grantham: Autumn House, 2001), 104.

³⁹ *Ibid*, 119.

“Jesus is the first Comforter obviously. If the Holy Spirit is another Comforter, it makes Him to be equal to Christ, therefore a divine being, another Comforter that will lead and guide each one of us.”⁴⁰

By contrast, Sister White comments on John 14:16, and with distinct opposition to the trinitarian position, proclaims:

“This refers to the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ, called the Comforter.” {14MR 179.2}

In other places she also writes:

“The Saviour is our Comforter.” {8MR 49.3}

“Jesus the Comforter.” {19MR 297.3}

“Let them study the seventeenth of John, and learn how to pray and how to live the prayer of Christ. **He is the Comforter.**” {RH, January 27, 1903 par.13}

While the trinitarian argues that the Holy Spirit is someone else, Sister White affirms that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Christ Himself.

“He Impresses Hearts.--**The Lord Jesus standing by the side of the canvasser**, walking with them, is the chief worker. If we recognize Christ as the One who is with us to prepare the way, **the Holy Spirit by our side** will make impressions in just the lines needed.”--Manual for Canvassers, p. 40. (1902)

⁴⁰ Tony Rykers, “The Godhead and the Holy Spirit”, *Sabbath Sermons*, <http://sabbathsermons.com/2013/10/22/the-godhead-and-the-holy-spirit-part-1/>

With earnest appeal to the vital importance of this truth, Sister White writes:

“The reason why the churches are weak and sickly and ready to die, is that the enemy has brought influences of a discouraging nature to bear upon trembling souls. **He has sought to shut Jesus from their view as the Comforter...**” *{RH August 26, 1890}*

In each of the preceding Spirit of Prophecy statements, Sister White proclaims that Jesus Christ is the Comforter of John 14:16. Yet for some unknown reason, the trinitarian still maintains that it's somebody else. And according to the sure word of Prophecy, it's for this reason that the “churches are weak and sickly and ready to die”. Friends, it's the enemy who teaches that the Holy Spirit is a third co-eternal person. It's the enemy who seeks “to shut Jesus from their view as the Comforter”. What does Jesus say?

“I will not leave you comfortless: **I will come to you.**”
John 14:18

Do you remember what the disciples asked Jesus after He said these words?

“Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, **how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world?**”
John 14:22

Christ's answer was this:

“...If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” John 14:23

On this truth, the disciples firmly stood. In *The Great Controversy* we read of the Saviour's final instruction to His disciples, and their joy in experiencing Christ's personal presence on the Day of Pentecost.

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel," adding, "Lo, I am with you alway" (Mark 16:15; Matthew 28:20); when on the Day of Pentecost **the promised Comforter descended** and the power from on high was given and **the souls of the believers thrilled with the conscious presence of their ascended Lord...**" {GC 350.1}

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit which the disciples received on the Day of Pentecost was "the conscious presence of their ascended Lord"! What a blessing it is to read Christ's final words: "lo, I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). The disciples understood that Jesus was their Comforter. In fact, they were thrilled that Jesus was still with them, and they received the early rain. Those who receive the latter rain will believe the same truth as the early disciples. They too will believe that Christ is their Comforter.

Objection: Monogenes

The trinitarian Objects: The Greek word for ‘begotten’ is ‘monogenes’. It refers to Christ as being unique or special, not as a literal begotten Son.

Inspiration Answers: The word ‘monogenes’ is employed nine times in the New Testament and every single time, it’s in reference to a parent and child. The word is always translated as ‘begotten’ in the KJV, and never as ‘unique’, or ‘special’.

‘Monogenes’ is the word used in each of the five following verses. In every case, it’s in reference to Jesus being the only begotten Son of God.

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten [*monogenes*] of the Father,)...” John 1:14

“No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten [*monogenes*] Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared [him].” John 1:18

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten [*monogenes*] Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

“He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten [*monogenes*] Son of God.” John 3:18

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten [*monogenes*] Son into the world, that we might live through him.” 1 John 4:9

The reason why the word ‘monogenes’ has become so controversial is because the trinitarian cannot accept that Christ is truly the only begotten Son of God. They cannot accept its simple definition – only begotten - because it reveals that Jesus was born, and therefore had a beginning. To this end, they postulate that ‘monogenes’ means ‘only’ or ‘unique’, disregarding the second half of the word altogether. Consider how the Greek word is defined by the *Strong’s Concordance*.

Monogenes (G3439) is a combination of two Greek words.

G3441 and G1096; only-born i.e. sole.:- only (begotten, child)⁴¹

The first part of the word is ‘monos’:

Monos – 3441

Sole, single, only.

The second part of the word is ‘ginomai’:

Ginomai – 1096

To generate - be born, to come into being.⁴²

⁴¹ “Lexicon: Strong’s G3439 – monogenes,” Blue Letter Bible, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongsg=G3439&t=KJV>.

⁴² “Lexicon: Strong’s G1096 – ginomai,” Blue Letter Bible, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongsg=G1096&t=KJV>.

Therefore, ‘monogenes’ can rightly be translated as ‘only generated’. Thus, the *Strong’s Concordance* defines ‘monogenes’ as “only begotten”.

The New American Standard Bible (NASB) also defines ‘monogenes’ as “only begotten”. And according to the NAS Exhaustive Concordance, the second part of the word ‘monogenes’ is ‘genos’ (G1085).⁴³

‘Genos’ means ‘born’ or ‘offspring’. And the root word for ‘genos’ (G1085) is ‘ginomai’ (G1096), which we have already seen means to generate, to be born, or to come into being.

So regardless of whether one uses the KJV or the NASB, both translations render ‘monogenes’ as “only begotten”. And both the Strong’s Concordance, and the NAS Exhaustive Concordance define the second part of the word as either ‘ginomai’ (G1096) or ‘genos’ (G1085) respectively. And these words mean either “to come into being” or to be “born”.

For further evidence, consider how the term ‘genos’ is employed in Acts 18:24, and Acts 17:28-29. The word is translated as ‘born’ and ‘offspring’ in that order. Therefore, you can rightly translate ‘genos’ as ‘born offspring’. And in light of the first part of the word (‘mono’), that’s exactly how John 3:16 reads in the King James Version and the NASB: “only begotten”.

In the book of Hebrews, we find another Greek word that’s used for Jesus. The word is ‘gennaō’ (G1080), which means: “to procreate, to bear, beget, bring forth, conceive”. Consider its usage in Hebrews 1:5.

⁴³ “NAS Exhaustive Concordance: G3439 – monogenes,” Biblehub, <http://biblehub.com/greek/3439.htm>

“...Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten [*gennaō*] thee...”
Hebrews 1:5

Now we see a second word - outside of ‘monogenes’ - which means ‘begotten’; “to procreate” and to “bring forth”. It’s interesting to note where the apostle Paul is quoting from in Hebrews 1:5. Indeed, he is quoting from the Old Testament scriptures; the Hebrew word (yalad) spoken in Psalms 2:7. ‘Yalad’ (H3205) means to “beget, bear, birth, born, bring forth, calve, be delivered, travail”.⁴⁴

“I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou [art] my Son; this day have I begotten [*yalad*] thee.” Psalms 2:7

‘Genos’, ‘yalad’ and ‘gennaō’ all mean one thing: to be born. In Hebrew and in Greek, in both the Old and New Testaments, God is proclaiming that He has an “only begotten Son”!

Come with me again to Hebrews chapter 1.

“And again, when he bringeth in the **firstbegotten** [*prototokos*] into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.” Hebrews 1:6

Here we find another Greek word for “firstbegotten” as it relates to Jesus Christ. It is ‘prototokos’ (G4416). And from the Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon, we read:

⁴⁴ “Lexicon: Strong’s H3205 – yalad,” Blue Letter Bible,
<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=H3205&t=KJV>

“Christ is called, firstborn of all creation, who came into being through God prior to the entire universe of created things”.⁴⁵

In John chapter 16, we find yet another word which identifies Christ as the only begotten Son of God. Here, Jesus is speaking to His disciples, and He outlines two actions which have taken place: his coming “forth from the Father” and his coming “into the world”.

“For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out [*exerchomai*] from God.”
John 16:27

“I came forth [*exerchomai*] from the Father, and am come into [*erchomai*] the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father.” John 16:28

Jesus plainly tells the disciples that He came forth (*exerchomai*) from the Father. Notice how the disciples respond to this truth. They even use the same Greek word.

“... we believe that thou camest forth [*exerchomai*] from God.”
John 16:30

After the disciples’ confession, Jesus prays to the Father on their behalf. In His prayer, Jesus confirms that the disciples have received His testimony, and surely believe that He came out (*exerchomai*) from God.

“For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received [them], and have known surely that I

⁴⁵ “Thayer’s Greek Lexicon: G4416 – protokotos,” Blue Letter Bible, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G4416&t=KJV>.

came out [*exerchomai*] from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me." John 17:8

The two actions which Jesus describes in John 17 have different words and meanings. But each time it's written: "I came out from God", "I came forth from the Father", "thou camest forth from God", and "I came out from thee", the same Greek word is used.

The word is 'exerchomai' (G1831), and it means: "to *issue* (literally or figuratively): - come-(forth, out), depart (out of), escape, get out, go (abroad, away, forth, out, thence), proceed (forth), spread abroad".

Thayer's Greek English Lexicon defines 'exerchomai' as "**to come forth physically, arise from, to be born of**".⁴⁶

By contrast, the word used when Christ says: "I...am come into the world", is 'erchomai' (G2064), which simply means: "to come from one place to another". Therefore, when Christ says: "I came forth [*exerchomai*] from the Father", He is not saying that He was sent from God, as in 'erchomai', but that He literally proceeded forth from Him; that He was born of the Father!

To this end, we've seen six different words in the Hebrew and Greek which all mean to be born, and are all used in the context of Jesus Christ. Monogenes, genos, yalad, gennao, prototokos, and exerchomai. Now, let us consider the Aramaic translation.

The Peshitta Bible is arguably the best Bible translation next to The King James. Some scholars even place it above The King James, having been translated from Aramaic and Syriac manuscripts. It translates John 1:14 as: "a glory like that of the **first-born** of the Father" and John

⁴⁶ "Thayer's Greek Lexicon: G1831 – exerchomai," Blue Letter Bible, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongsg=G1831&t=KJV>.

1:18 as: “the **first-born** of God”. And in John 3:16, 18, and 1 John 4:9, it similarly uses the term “**only begotten Son**”.

Now, notice the consistency in these passages written by Paul and John, as they each declare that Jesus is the only begotten Son of God.

“And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world...” Hebrews 1:6

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world...” 1 John 4:9

In direct opposition to this truth, trinitarian pastor Max Hatton states:

“Jesus became the Son of God at His human birth...”⁴⁷

What did we just read in Hebrews 1:6?

“He **bringeth in** the firstbegotten into the world.” Hebrews 1:6

“God **sent** his only begotten Son into the world.” 1 John 4:9

Jesus didn’t become a son at His human birth. He was a Son before the world was even made! That’s why he says “I proceeded forth (exerchomai) and came from God” (John 8:42). And that’s why we read that Christ is “made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they” (Hebrews 1:4).

Jesus obtained a more excellent name than the angels, because He inherited the divine nature of His Father through birth. Yet in Hebrews

⁴⁷ Max Hatton, *Understanding the Trinity* (Grantham: Autumn House, 2001), 34.

2:9-16, we read of Jesus being made “a little lower than the angels”, when He took on our fallen human nature (“the seed of Abraham”) in Bethlehem.

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels...that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.” Hebrews 2:9

“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same...” Hebrews 2:14

“For verily he took not on [him the nature of] angels; but he took on [him] the seed of Abraham.” Hebrews 2:16

Hebrews 2 refers to Christ’s humanity. He took part in our flesh and blood, and was made a little lower than the angels because of it. By contrast, in chapter 1 - which refers to Christ’s Divinity – Paul states that He has “obtained a more excellent name” than the angels. He’s made much better than the angels, because He bears the Divine nature of His Father which He inherited from birth. Hebrews 1 is all about Christ’s Divinity, as the only begotten Son of God.

Remember what we learnt about the word ‘yalad’, as used in Psalms 2:7? This word plainly means to be born. Now notice how Paul translates this word into the Greek in the New Testament. Paul rightly translates ‘yalad’ as ‘gennao’, which as we’ve already seen means to be born.

“For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten [*gennao*] thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?” Hebrews 1:5

In the very next verse, Paul reveals that Christ was a Son before He came into the world.

And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten [*protokotos*] into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him." Hebrews 1:6

Quoting from Psalms 2:7, Paul asks: to whom of the angels has the Father said "thou are my Son, this day have I begotten thee"? Indeed, those words belong only to Jesus. No angel is called the begotten of the Father, and hence, Jesus was made "so much better than the angels" (Hebrews 1:4)!

And please don't misinterpret what I'm teaching to mean that the Son was created. Notice how E.J. Waggoner clarifies this point in his book, *Christ and His Righteousness*.

"The Scriptures declare that Christ is "the only begotten son of God." He is **begotten, not created**."⁴⁸

The Spirit of Prophecy also confirms this truth.

"God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son,"-not a son by creation, as were the angels, nor a son by adoption, as is the forgiven sinner, but a Son **begotten** in the express image of the Father's person..." {ST May 30, 1895}

In Hebrews 1:6, Christ is called "the firstbegotten" (*protokotos*) before His birth in Bethlehem.

⁴⁸ Ellet Joseph Waggoner, *Christ and His Righteousness* (California: Pacific Press Publishing House, 1890), 29.

In Hebrews 1:4, Paul writes that Christ was “made [*ginomai*] so much better than the angels”. We have already seen that this refers to His birth in eternity, and not in Bethlehem, for at Bethlehem He was made “lower than the angels”. Yet notice how the same word is used in reference to Christ’s literal birth in Bethlehem.

“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made [*ginomai*] of a woman, made [*ginomai*] under the law,” Galatians 4:4

Obviously, the term “made of a woman” indicates Jesus’ human birth. And it’s that same word (*ginomai*) which is used in Hebrews 1:4. It means: “to come into existence, begin to be, receive being”. So when we read in Hebrews 1:4 that Jesus was made (*ginomai*) higher than the angels, this refers to His literal birth in eternity. That’s why Paul continues in verse 6 to declare: the Father “bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world”. To this end, we can be sure that Jesus was His begotten Son before the world was made. It’s a literal, and not figurative, relationship.

Every passage in the Bible which deals with the Father-Son relationship bears no suggestion that it’s to be understood metaphorically. Rather, each passage is in reference to the love of God in giving us His only begotten Son. By contrast, trinitarians make the very heart of the gospel a metaphor and thereby destroy its power!

Please note; when speaking of James and John, the Bible calls them “the sons of thunder”. Mark 3:17. Did lightning strike the ground and beget James and John? No. The term is clearly figurative; employed to illustrate their violent, zealous temperaments. Yet no such language is ever used in reference to the Father and Son.

On the contrary, every verse which deals with their relationship carries a word from the Greek or Hebrew which means to be born of, or proceed forth from, as we've just seen.

What's more, by denying that Jesus is truly begotten, you diminish the great expression of the Father's love towards humanity. As 1 John 4:9 exclaims, "in this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him". Furthermore, in Luke 12:9, Jesus states: "but he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God."

Friends, the doctrine of the trinity is built upon such a denial as this. Max Hatton writes:

"The terms Father and Son when related to Jesus can hardly be literal.... The Father-Son relationship in the Godhead should be understood in a metaphorical sense, not in a literal sense".⁴⁹

In complete opposition to this statement, Jesus implores:

"Also I say unto you, Whosoever shall confess me before men, him shall the Son of man also confess before the angels of God:"
Luke 12:8

"...the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels." Revelation 3:5

⁴⁹ Max Hatton, *Understanding the Trinity* (Grantham: Autumn House, 2001), 97.

Some argue that this discussion on the trinity/Sonship of Christ is unimportant. Yet notice how eternally significant it really is.

“But he that denieth me before men shall be denied before the angels of God.” Luke 12:9

Friends, our eternal life is at stake. It is only to those who confess Christ’s name, as the only begotten Son of God, that obtain His promise: “the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life” (Revelation 3:5).

Objection: The Heavenly Trio

“The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fullness of the Godhead, making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and believe in Christ as a personal Saviour. There are three living persons of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers --the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit--those who receive Christ by living faith are baptized, and these powers will co-operate with the obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in Christ.” Special Testimonies, Series B, No. 7, pp. 62, 63. (1905) {Ev 615.1}

The trinitarian Objects: Sister White states: “there are three living persons of the heavenly trio”. This is a trinity of three co-eternal persons.

Inspiration Answers: In the statement above, Sister White calls the Spirit the Comforter. In numerous other statements, she repeatedly reveals that the Comforter is “Christ Himself”. Therefore, the heavenly trio consists of the Father, his only begotten Son, and the Spirit of God and Christ (Romans 8:9).

To begin with, let us examine the first part of Sister White’s statement.

“The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fullness of the Godhead...” {Ev 615.1}

Here we learn that the Comforter could only be sent “after He [Christ] ascended to heaven”. So, while Christ is in heaven with His Father, the Comforter is on Earth. In the following statement Sister White explains exactly who this Comforter (the Holy Spirit) is.

“Christ declared that after his ascension, he would send to his church, as his crowning gift, the **Comforter, who was to take his place. This Comforter is the Holy Spirit,—the soul of his life, the efficacy of his church, the light and life of the world. With his Spirit Christ sends a reconciling influence and a power that takes away sin.**” {RH, May 19, 1904 par. 1}

The Holy Spirit is “**the soul of his life**”! By “**His Spirit**”, Jesus is our Comforter. It’s not somebody else.

The reason why Sister White uses the term ‘person’ is because she wants to personalise the Spirit; to make men realise that it is Christ Himself who is with them today, as much as in the days of the apostles. The Holy Spirit is not just an essence or vapour; it is the breath, presence, mind, right hand of power, and eyes of the Lord!

So then, is Sister White saying that the Holy Spirit is Christ Himself?

“Cumbered with humanity, **Christ** could not be in every place personally; therefore it was altogether for their advantage that He should leave them, go to His father, and send the Holy Spirit to be His successor on earth. **The Holy Spirit is Himself** divested of the personality of humanity and independent thereof. He would represent Himself as present in all places by His Holy Spirit, as the Omnipresent.” {14MR 23.3}

Friends, how much plainer can God make it? Sister White writes: “the Holy Spirit is Himself [Jesus]”. Further, she states that the Holy Spirit is “divested of the personality of humanity”. Divested means to be separated or stripped off from. Thus, “the Holy Spirit is [Christ] Himself” divested of physical form, and “independent thereof”! It’s for this reason that she calls the Comforter “the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ”. {14 MR 179.2} That’s how Jesus works in the hearts of “those who receive Christ by living faith” {EV 615}.

Does that sound like a third co-eternal person to you? In case you’re still in doubt, consider this precious statement from *The Desire of Ages*:

“All who consecrate soul, body, and spirit to God will be constantly receiving a new endowment of physical and mental power. The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. **Christ gives them the breath of His own spirit, the life of His own life.**” {DA 827.3}

As we’ve just seen, the Holy Spirit is “the life of His own life”. It is Christ Himself, “divested of the personality of humanity”. {14 MR 23.3} Bearing this in mind, Sister White clarifies exactly who the heavenly trio is.

“They have **one God and one Saviour; and one Spirit—the Spirit of Christ**—” {9T 189.3}

Now, our statement in objection also mentions “three great powers”. Remember the statement we saw in the *The Desire of Ages*, page 166?

“**While Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above, He is still by His Spirit the minister of the church on earth.** He is

withdrawn from the eye of sense, but His parting promise is fulfilled, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."" Matthew 28:20. {DA 166}

Take note; there are only two Divine beings. Christ is ministering before His Father in the sanctuary above. Yet it is still Jesus, "by His Spirit", ministering to the church on Earth. Here we see complete harmony with the Spirit of Prophecy and the Bible. **There are three great powers working in man's behalf, but only two Divine Beings.**

Friends, notice how perfectly this harmonises with the Bible.

"Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and **we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**" John 14:23

While the Father and Son minister for us in heaven, it is still the Spirit of God and Christ (Romans 8:9, John 15:26, Galatians 4:6) which abides with us on Earth.

Objection: The Third Person of the Godhead

“Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of **the Third Person of the Godhead**, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power.”
{DA 671.2}

The trinitarian Objects: The term ‘Third Person of the Godhead’ presents the Holy Spirit as a third, co-eternal person.

Inspiration Answers: The term ‘third Person of the Godhead’ refers to the glorified life of Christ. It is not a separate, co-eternal person. It is “Himself, divested from the personality of humanity” {14MR 23.3}.

Once again, the compilers have chosen to capitalise the letter ‘T’ in the word “third” to infer an incorrect meaning. Let us examine the original letter from which our statement is drawn from.

“Evil had been accumulating for centuries, and could only be restrained and resisted by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, the **third** person of the Godhead, who would come with no modified energy, but in the fullness of divine power. Another spirit must be met; for the essence of evil was working in all ways, and the submission of man to this satanic captivity was amazing.” {Letter 8, 1896, p. 1 (To "My Brethren in America," February 6, 1896.)}

To interpret these passages to mean that the Holy Spirit is someone else, apart from God and Christ, incites many contradictions. Sister White clearly states that the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and Christ.

“While Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above, He is still by His Spirit the minister of the church on earth.” {DA 166}

“Christ breathed His Spirit upon them.... The impartation of the Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ.” {DA 805}

“The inexhaustible supplies of heaven are at their command. Christ gives them the breath of His own spirit, the life of His own life.” {DA 827}

“Direct from the throne issue the beams of His glory.” {DA 112}

“By the Spirit the Saviour would be accessible to all....He comforts them with His own presence. When for the truth's sake the believer stands at the bar of unrighteous tribunals, **Christ stands by his side.”** {DA 669.2}

“By the Spirit, He said, He would manifest Himself to them.” {DA 670}

Not only do these statements all come from *The Desire of Ages*, where the ‘third Person of the Godhead’ statement is made, but in the self-same paragraph, she outlines exactly who the third person is!

“Sin could be resisted and overcome only through the mighty agency of the Third Person of the Godhead...Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and

cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church." {DA 671.2}

Sister White states: "Christ had given His Spirit as a divine power". The third person of the godhead is not somebody else. Just a few pages later, Sister White states: "**abiding in Christ means a constant receiving of His Spirit**"! {DA 676} And what is His Spirit? From page 805, we read:

"The impartation of the Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ. It imbues the receiver with the attributes of Christ." {DA 805}

Sister White has just told us from *The Desire of Ages* that the Holy Spirit is Christ's Spirit. On page 671 and 676, she calls it "His Spirit", and on page 805, "the life of Christ". Now, notice again from the same book, the significance of Christ's life for the cause of humanity.

"The life that He laid down in humanity, He takes up again, and gives to humanity."{DA 787}

What a beautiful truth to be learnt from our quote in DA 671. It's by His Spirit that Jesus imparts His victorious life to humanity, that we might be partakers of the perfect life He lived.

Certainly, the third person of the godhead is the glorified humanity – that perfect life of Christ – which "He takes up again, and gives to

humanity". {DA 787} As we've just seen: "the impartation of the Spirit is the impartation of the life of Christ" {DA 805}.⁵⁰

⁵⁰ For further material, please see the sermon '*Who is the third person of the godhead*' on acts321.org.

Objection: Firstborn

The trinitarian Objects: ‘Firstborn’ means ‘chosen’ or ‘pre-eminent’; not to be born in a literal sense.

Inspiration Answers: ‘Firstborn’ is quoted nine times in the New Testament. It’s translated seven times as ‘firstborn’, and twice as ‘first-begotten’. Consider its usage in Colossians 1:15.

“Who is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn** [protokotos G4416] of every creature.” Colossians 1:15

Now, notice how Paul uses the same word (protokotos) in Hebrews 1:6.

“And again, when he bringeth in the **firstbegotten** [protokotos G4416] into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.” Hebrews 1:6

From the Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon, we read:

“Christ is called, **firstborn of all creation, who came into being through God prior to the entire universe of created things**”.⁵¹

The first time that ‘firstborn’ appears in the Bible is in Exodus chapter 12.

⁵¹ “Thayer’s Greek Lexicon: G4416 – protokotos,” Blue Letter Bible, <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lang/lexicon/lexicon.cfm?Strongs=G4416&t=KJV>

“For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the **firstborn** in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I [am] the LORD.” Exodus 12:12

Without doubt, the term ‘firstborn’ is to be rendered literally in this case. “All the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast”, were smitten that night. Yet of the firstborn of Israel, redemption was made. Is one to say that this is figurative too?

“And every **firstling of an ass** thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: and all the **firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem....**And it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that the LORD slew all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man, and the **firstborn of beast**: therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all that openeth the matrix, being males; but all the **firstborn of my children I redeem.**” Exodus 13:13,15

The dedication of “the firstborn of man among thy children” was a literal dedication. It was a ceremony given to Israel to ensure they’d never forget how God had led them out from Egypt. As a message that was to transcend to every generation, Israel could now redeem their children, because God had redeemed them out of Egypt. He had purchased them back.

Indeed, this was a literal dedication, to illustrate a literal redemption. And what is the origin of this dedication?

“The dedication of the first-born had its origin in the earliest times. God had promised to give the First-born of heaven to

save the sinner. This gift was to be acknowledged in every household by the consecration of the first-born son." {DA 51.1}

Friends, how can something that is literal have its origin in that which is figurative? Inspiration declares that "the dedication of the first-born" (which was literal) had its **origin** in the dedication of "**the First-born of heaven** to save the sinner"!

The word 'firstborn', used in reference to Christ, does not mean chosen, or pre-eminent. The Word of God does not employ it as a figure of speech. As literal as was the dedication of the first-born of Israel, is the dedication of the First-Born of the Father.

Objection: 1SM 344

“Christ, our Mediator, and the Holy Spirit are constantly interceding in man's behalf, but the Spirit pleads not for us as does Christ, who presents His blood, shed from the foundation of the world; the Spirit works upon our hearts, drawing out prayers and penitence, praise and thanksgiving.” {1SM 344.1}

The trinitarian Objects: There are two distinctly separate persons interceding in man's behalf: “Christ, our Mediator, and the Holy Spirit”, who work differently from each other. To this end, the Holy Spirit is the third co-eternal person of the trinity.

Inspiration Answers: We all acknowledge that Christ is interceding on man's behalf in heaven. And we have already learnt that it's Christ by His Spirit that is working here on Earth. Thus, the Holy Spirit is not a separate mysterious essence, but the personal Spirit of Christ Himself.

We cannot allow the Spirit of Prophecy to contradict itself. We have already seen numerous Spirit of Prophecy statements which prove that Christ is our Comforter, and that it's the Spirit of Christ which ministers to the church on Earth. In *The Desire of Ages*, Sister White writes:

“While Jesus ministers in the sanctuary above, He is still by His Spirit the minister of the church on earth. He is withdrawn from the eye of sense, but His parting promise is fulfilled, "Lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."” Matthew 28:20. {DA 166}

Here we see that while Christ is “constantly interceding in man’s behalf” in heaven, He is still by His Spirit “work[ing] upon our hearts, drawing out prayers and penitence, praise and thanksgiving” {1SM 344}. In the gospel of Mark, we find perfect Biblical harmony with this blessed truth.

“So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with [them], and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.” Mark 16:19-20

As we saw in 1SM 344, Mark is outlining two separate offices. The Lord is both standing “on the right hand of God” in heaven, and “working with them” on Earth. How does Christ work on Earth while ministering in the courts above? He does it by the Holy Spirit; “the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ”.

“Christ tells us that the Holy Spirit is the Comforter, and the Comforter is the Holy Ghost, "the Spirit of truth, which the Father shall send in My name."...This refers to **the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ**, called the Comforter.” {14MR 179.2}

Objection: Christ's Baptism

The trinitarian Objects: The Father speaks from heaven, Jesus Christ stands in the water, and the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove. Here is a trinity of three co-eternal persons.

Inspiration Answers: The Father speaks from heaven, Jesus Christ stands in the water, and the Holy Spirit descends in the form of a dove. In Matthew 3:16, it says: "he saw **the Spirit of God** descending like a dove". Furthermore, Inspiration calls the Spirit "the beams of His glory" (DA 112). The Holy Spirit is God's Spirit, not a third, co-eternal person.

After His baptism, Jesus prays on the banks of the Jordan. On this, Sister White writes:

"Never before have the angels listened to such a prayer. They are eager to bear to their loved Commander a message of assurance and comfort. But no; the Father Himself will answer the petition of His Son. **Direct from the throne issue the beams of His glory**. The heavens are opened, and upon the Saviour's head descends a dovelike form of purest light,—fit emblem of Him, the meek and lowly One.... The people stood silently gazing upon Christ. **His form was bathed in the light that ever surrounds the throne of God.**" {DA 112.2}

Notice what descends upon the Saviour's head? "Direct from the throne issue **the beams of His glory**." It is the glory of God, the Spirit

of God, which descends at Jesus' baptism. This is exactly what's described in John 15:26.

“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, [even] **the Spirit of truth**, which **proceedeth from the Father**, he shall testify of me:” John 15:26

The Spirit of truth, the Holy Spirit, “proceedeth from the Father”. What does “proceedeth” mean? It means “to go out from”. It's the same word that's used in Matthew 4:4 and Luke 4:22.

“But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that **proceedeth** out of the mouth of God.” Matthew 4:4

“And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which **proceeded** out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son?” Luke 4:22

The Spirit that descends in a dove-like form comes out from the Father. It is the Spirit of the Father. That's why Sister White says: “direct from the throne issue **the beams of His glory**”. Consider this next statement from *The Desire of Ages*, where Sister White points to the power of the Holy Spirit in the Christian life.

“It is His purpose that the highest influence in the universe, **emanating from the source of all power**, shall be theirs.”
{DA 679.3}

Where does this power come from? It “emanates”, “issues”, “proceeds” forth from God. And since Christ is the Son of God, the Divine Spirit also proceeds forth from Him.

“The Holy Spirit, which **proceeds** from the only begotten Son of God...” {RH, April 5, 1906 par. 16}

So what is the Holy Spirit? It’s the Spirit of God and Christ.

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the **Spirit of God** dwell in you. Now if any man have not the **Spirit of Christ**, he is none of his.” Romans 8:9

“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and **we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.**” John 14:23

““I will not leave you comfortless; I will come to you.” The divine Spirit that the world's Redeemer promised to send, is the **presence and power of God.**” {ST, November 23, 1891 par. 1}

Objection: Gave themselves

“The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave Themselves to the working out of the plan of redemption. In order fully to carry out this plan, **it was decided that Christ, the only-begotten Son of God**, should give Himself an offering for sin. **What line can measure the depth of this love?**” {CH 223}

The trinitarian Objects: Sister White’s use of the term ‘Godhead’ teaches a trinity of three co-eternal persons.

Inspiration Answers: Sister White uses the term ‘Godhead’ to describe three great powers (as explored in the previous chapter). To claim that ‘Godhead’ implies three co-eternal persons is to unavoidably deny the “depth of this love” which the self-same statement is seeking to express. God’s love is most decidedly revealed in that “Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, should give Himself an offering for sin”. In 1 John 4:9, we’re given explicit insight into the “depth of this love”.

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.” 1 John 4:9

The trinitarian claims that Christ does not have a beginning. Thus He cannot be a literal son. What’s more, believing in three co-eternals means that you don’t believe in the one gospel that can save you from your sins! This is very strategy which Satan employs.

“Satan is determined that men shall not see the love of God which led Him to give His only-begotten Son to save a lost race;” {1SM 156}

Now, our quote in question states: “the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave themselves to the working out of the plan of redemption.” Please note; this statement from *Counsels of Health* is a compilation, published in 1923. To give an incorrect meaning to the passage, the compilers have capitalised the letter ‘T’ in “themselves”. Friends, what right do men have to change the writings of God’s inspired messenger? Let us read the same passage in the original letter.

“The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit gave **themselves** to the working out of the plan of redemption. In order to fully carry out this plan, it was decided that Christ, the only begotten Son of God, should give Himself an offering for sin. What line can measure the depth of this love?” {AUCR April 1, 1901}

We have already learnt that the Spirit is the Spirit of God and Christ. And one cannot use the Spirit of Prophecy to contradict itself. As we saw earlier, the Spirit proceeds from the Father.

“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, [even] the Spirit of truth, which **proceedeth from the Father**, he shall testify of me:” John 15:26

“But no; the Father Himself will answer the petition of His Son. Direct from the throne issue the beams of His glory. The heavens are opened, and upon the Saviour's head descends a

dovelike form of purest light,—fit emblem of Him, the meek and lowly One.” {DA 112}

“It is His purpose that the highest influence in the universe, **emanating** from the source of all power, shall be theirs.” {DA 679}

The Holy Spirit proceeds, issues, and emanates forth from the Father. Yet it also proceeds forth from Christ.

“The Holy Spirit, which **proceeds** from the only-begotten Son of God...” {1SM 251}

The Spirit of Prophecy declares: “**in giving us His Spirit, God gives us Himself**”. {7T 273} Therefore, when Sister White states: they “gave themselves”; it’s not a mysterious, third being that did so. The Holy Spirit belongs to the Father and Son, for it comes from them. For “**in giving us His Spirit, God gives us Himself**”. {7T 273}

A Personal Appeal

Dear Reader,

We have examined every major passage in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy which is used to teach a trinity of three co-eternal persons. Yet not one of these passages proclaims such a definition. On the contrary, we've seen that the truth about the Father, His only begotten Son, and their Holy Spirit can plainly be taught from these same passages!

Furthermore, the terms, 'trinity', 'god the son', and 'god the spirit', is never once recorded in either the Bible or the Spirit of Prophecy. Please pay careful attention to this point.

The trinitarian does not have a single verse in all Scripture that teaches that God is a unity of three co-eternal persons. But as we have just seen, Scripture is abundantly clear in teaching that the Father is "the only true God"; that Jesus is "truly" the "only begotten Son", and that the Holy Spirit is "the Spirit of God" and "the Spirit of Christ".

Dear Reader, at the cross of Calvary, John 3:16 was fulfilled. It was here that God gave His only begotten Son. Interestingly, there were two classes of people at the cross that day. The majority were mocking Christ, crying: "if thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross" (Matthew 27:40). Yet amidst the scorn and derision of the crowd, the voice of a heathen soldier was heard. By faith, he proclaimed: "truly this was the Son of God" (Matthew 27:54).

This soldier confessed his faith, and inspiration declares that he was saved that day. While the others – priests, rulers and theologians who professed to have a great knowledge of God’s word – sealed their fate. They were eternally lost. And the majority followed in the path they made.

For us today, the call is no different. John 3:16 requires each one to make a stand. Will you side with that humble soldier and declare: “truly this was the Son of God”? Or will you follow the professed teachers of the day, who once again are denying that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God?

Like the heathen soldier and the Jewish priests, your decision will also determine your eternal destiny.

Amen.

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“Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that
Jesus is the Son of God?...

He that hath the Son hath life; [and] he that hath not the Son
of God hath not life.

These things have I written **unto you that believe on the
name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye
have eternal life,** and that ye may believe on the name of the Son
of God.”

1 John 5:5,12,13



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