

*WitnessKit* Class 8  
What does the Old  
Testament say about  
The Trinity ?  
The Messiah ?  
The Good Shepherd?

# Quick Review of Past Classes

- **Class 1:** If Spiritual truth exists, then Enlightenment Theism (built on the Bible) is a good place to look for it. Modernism and Postmodernism don't have the tools for the search.
- **Class 2:** Schaeffer's Search Engine for Truth – Consider all options, evaluate options, then refine the search with the best option.
  - Origins:** Option 1 – absolute nothingness
  - Option 2 – impersonal beginning
  - Option 3 – Personal Beginning = Best Option

# Review of Past Lessons

- **Class 3:** The Human Soul
  - ▣ Option 1 – Illusion
  - ▣ Option 2 – An emanation of the physical brain
  - ▣ Option 3 – A separate entity from the brain, but manifested by it in this world = best option
- **Class 3:** Good and Evil
  - ▣ For good and evil to exist objectively, God must be Personal, Good, and not the source of evil. Human choices must be real. The Bible gives us exactly such an explanation.

# Review of Past Lessons

- **Class 4:** Evidence for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ by using the 4 + 1 Method. If/ because Jesus rose from the dead, Spiritual Truth exists and we can find it.
- **Class 5:** We can gain confidence in the Bible by understanding three kinds of data—nuggets of scientific truth hidden in the texts, the unity and diversity of the book, and the certainty that we have the original words.

# Review of Past Lessons

**Class 6:** We have confidence in the Canon—the choice of books in the Bible—from historical facts—

- the historical setting,
- the collection of documents,
- and the criteria for inclusion.

# Review of Past Lessons

**Class 7:** We have confidence in facts from the distant past in the Bible

- because of many clues before the events—  
from prophecies and fulfillment—
- and after the events—from archaeology.
- The same conclusion from two independent directions adds credibility to the book.

# We have already seen

- An abundance of evidence from various directions of thought.
- When independent streams of evidence all converge to the same truth, faith in that truth is **reasonable** faith.
- All the evidence points to the Bible as God's message to us.
- All the evidence should inspire us to search for God with all our hearts, and to search in the Bible.
- Persist in the search.

# This Lesson: God's Identity as Complex Unity

We have seen the amazing consistency in the scriptures revealed by thematic unity among diversity of authors over 1400 years of writing.

- Today we want to address **theological unity between the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures.**
- If God is the ultimate Author of both, they should agree in important ways.
- The most important issue is the Trinity.
- Do the Old Testament and New Testament say the same things about God?



# God's Identity Revealed in Scripture

- Historically, the word *Trinity* was not coined until after the New Testament was complete, but *Trinity* expresses an idea found there. The idea is so complex, it is almost impossible to grasp.
- The question before us is whether the Old Testament and New Testament are consistent regarding God's identity.
- Perfect consistency would point toward a GOOD God.

# God's Identity Revealed in Scripture

- If you read the Bible in time order, it is clear that the information about God's identity is quite definite from the beginning,
  - ▣ and that information also grows through the course of the Scriptures.
- The early information is **consistent with** the later information, but the later information has more detail.

# God's Identity Revealed in Scripture

- In Genesis 1 we see God as a complex unity, as Personal, (as having MIND) and having immense power and creativity and concern for His creation. **His Spirit hovers over His creation. His creation was originally good because He is good.**
- By chapter 3 we know that God is **just and merciful and that He hates evil.** Each succeeding event tells us more about Him, but the things we learn supplement rather than contradicting previous information.

# A very early Psalm

Written by Moses spells out that God has always been alive and will always be alive.

Before the mountains were brought forth,  
Or ever You had formed  
the earth and the world,  
Even from everlasting to everlasting,  
You *are* God.

□ Psalms 90:2 (NKJV)

# Early in the Bible



We see that God is concerned about His creation, and that He is our Provider. He created the world and set the world in motion, and He created the systems that work for meeting the needs of living things. Psalm 104 describes how God cares for the living creatures in His world. The Psalm describes God's arrangement of different ecological niches for different species, and that He arranged for the large predators to prowl at night for the safety of human beings at work in the day.

# One purpose of the time of wandering in the wilderness in Exodus–

To learn by experience that God is our Provider.  
Deuteronomy 8:2-3

<sup>2</sup> And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. <sup>3</sup> And he humbled you and let you hunger and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. (ESV)

# Even in the Worst of Times

God is the Provider. Lamentations 3:21-25 describes Jeremiah's feelings after the fall of Jerusalem to Nebuchadnezzar, when only a small population survived.

**21 But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:  
22 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; 23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 24 "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." 25 The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. (ESV)**

# So how does

The Trinity  
as an idea

appear in the Scriptures?

Is it a new idea specific to the New Testament, or was the idea there all along?

Is God described in the New Testament the SAME God described in the Old Testament?

Is the entire Bible talking about the same Deity?

The answer is yes! And here is a starting study for being able to defend that idea.



# We can know that the Bible is

Three truths about who God is

**Trustworthy** by discovering three truths about God's identity:

1. God's identity as a complex Unity in the Hebrew Scriptures.
2. The identity of Messiah as more than human in the Hebrew Scriptures.
3. The identity of the Good Shepherd.

# Truth #1: God's Complex Unity in the Hebrew Scriptures.

- **Isaiah 48:11-17** God does not give His glory to another. God is the First and the Last. God is creator of the earth and heavens. ... From the first God has not spoken in secret.
- Then the speaker changes, without changing.  
“From the time it took place, **I** was there. And now the **LORD GOD** has sent Me and His Spirit.”
- This passage reveals the same truth as John chapter 1 – that Messiah is God and with God, and was present in the beginning with God.

# In Context: Isaiah 48:11-17

<sup>11</sup> For My own sake, for My own sake, I will do *it*; For how should *My name* be profaned? And I will not give My glory to another. <sup>12</sup> "Listen to Me, O Jacob, And Israel, My called: I *am* He, I *am* the First, I *am* also the Last. <sup>13</sup> Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, And My right hand has stretched out the heavens; *When* I call to them, They stand up together. <sup>14</sup> "All of you, assemble yourselves, and hear! Who among them has declared these *things*? The LORD loves him; He shall do His pleasure on Babylon, And His arm *shall be against* the Chaldeans.

# Isaiah 48:11-17

<sup>15</sup> I, *even* I, have spoken; Yes, I have called him, I have brought him, and his way will prosper. <sup>16</sup> "Come near to Me, hear this: **I** have not spoken in secret from the beginning; From the time that it was, **I** was there. And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit Have sent Me." <sup>17</sup> Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, The Holy One of Israel: "I *am* the LORD your God, Who teaches you to profit, Who leads you by the way you should go. Isaiah 48:11-17 (NKJV)

(The "Sent One" is another way of saying Messiah.)

# Truth #1: God's Complex Unity in the Hebrew Scriptures.

For comparison, John 1:1 and following says, “In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with **God**, and the **Word** was **God**. He was in the beginning with **God**. And all things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being....”

Then in verse 14 it says, “And the **Word** became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the **Father**, full of grace and truth.”

These are parallel passages.

# Truth #1: God's Complex Unity in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Also for comparison, Genesis 1:2 describes the **Holy Spirit** as being **God** and as being present in the beginning.

“<sup>2</sup> The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters.” Genesis 1:2 (NKJV)

The complex unity of God's identity is thus visible in the Hebrew Scriptures as well as the Greek.

# Truth #1: God's Complex Unity in the Hebrew Scriptures.

Isaiah 48:16 lists the Persons of God's complex unity: "the Lord GOD and His Spirit Have sent Me." The Persons are the Lord GOD, His Spirit, and the Sent One—Messiah.

*Elohim* is a word for God in Hebrew that is plural, but takes a singular verb, and thus also expresses His complex unity.

# Truth #1: God's complex unity in the Hebrew Scriptures

- The Hebrew Scriptures explain the ministry of the Holy Spirit on the earth with a different focus than in the Greek Scriptures.
- The Holy Spirit is present to empower human beings for specific ministries or missions. (Exodus 31:3, Judges 14:6,19; I Samuel 10:9-10; 16:13-14)
- The Holy Spirit is present for guidance and protection of God's people. Psalm 143:10, Isaiah 63:7-14.



# Truth #1: God's complex unity in the Hebrew Scriptures

- The Hebrew Scriptures promise the gift of the **Holy Spirit** to all believers in the future, in Joel 2:27-29—which we will read in just a moment.
- The Greek Scriptures relate the fulfillment of that promise in Acts 2, and explain His presence as necessary for salvation (from that time onward) in Romans 8:7-15.

# Truth #1: God's complex unity in the Hebrew Scriptures

- The Hebrew Scriptures promise the gift of the **Holy Spirit** to all believers in the future, in Joel 2:28-29.<sup>28</sup> "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on **all flesh**; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions.<sup>29</sup> And also on *My* menservants and on *My* maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. (NKJV)

The fulfillment of that promise is in Acts 2, and Romans 8:7-15 explains His presence as necessary for salvation (from that time onward.)

“<sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. <sup>8</sup> So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. <sup>9</sup> But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. <sup>10</sup> And if Christ *is* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin, but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. Romans 8:7-11 (NKJV)

Because the Holy Spirit comes into every believer's life after Acts 2,

the New Testament gives much more information about the gift of the Holy Spirit to us.

# Truth #1: God's Complex Unity

The Holy Spirit's Presence on earth is made known in the Hebrew Scriptures, where God is pictured as filling heaven and earth, yet as dwelling with Israel in the temple.

This is not a contradiction because of the truth of God's complex unity.

# Truth #1: God's Complex Unity

God's Spirit was never visual except in the glory that filled the temple and tabernacle and the cloud that guided the Israelites, and in the tongues of fire that rested upon the disciples and the sound of a mighty wind in Acts 2. The idea of Spirit is like breath—**not** a physical body but **the breath** that can fill one and not be seen. God's Spirit is His invisible local Presence.

# Word Study

The Hebrew word for spirit is ***ruach***.

רוח

- It means *breath, wind, spirit*.
- The Greek word for spirit is ***pneuma***. Πνευμα
- It means *wind or spirit*.
- I Timothy 1:17 describes God as invisible.  
“Now to the King eternal, immortal, **invisible**,  
the only God, be honor and glory forever and  
ever. Amen.”
- Jesus described the Spirit similarly in John 3.

# Truth #1: God's Complex Unity

In the New Testament, believers are compared in metaphor to the temple, where we become God's temple on earth because of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17--<sup>16</sup> Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? <sup>17</sup> If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple. (ESV)



# Truth #1: God's Complex Unity

The Holy Spirit fills our lives just as the mighty rushing wind filled the place where the disciples were gathered in Acts 2.

The Holy Spirit is our Source for all that is good and for all that we can accomplish of eternal value.

As His temple, we receive spiritual gifts from Him to empower us for ministry or missions, according to Romans chapter 12. The same complex unity is seen in God's identity in both sets of Scripture.

# Truth #1: God's Complex Unity

We also have commands –

- ▣ Not to quench His Spirit, I Thessalonians 5:19,
- ▣ Not to grieve His Spirit, Ephesians 4:30, and
- ▣ Not to neglect the spiritual gifts and ministries God gives, I Timothy 4:10, Colossians 4:17.

# Truth #1: God's Complex Unity

- So we can see in the Old Testament that God's complex unity included God the Father, our Creator, and God the Holy Spirit as One AND Messiah as One with God. The Holy Spirit gives life.
- "The Spirit of God has made me and the breath of the Almighty has given me life." Job 33:4
- The breath of the Almighty gives people understanding, according to Job 32:8.

# We can know that the Bible is

Three truths  
about who  
God is

- **Trustworthy** by discovering three truths about God's identity:
  1. God's identity as a complex Unity in the Hebrew Scriptures.
  2. **The identity of Messiah as more than human in the Hebrew Scriptures.**
  3. The identity of the Good Shepherd.

## Truth #2: Messiah is more than merely human in the Hebrew texts.

Psalms 2:7,12 (NASB) “I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD; He said to Me, “Thou art My Son,

Today I have begotten Thee.” ...

Do homage to the Son, lest He become angry and you perish in the way, ...how blessed are all who take refuge in Him!” --- **Here in the Psalm as a**

**whole, we see that the Son was declared begotten of God long before the Incarnation.**

**We also see that the Son is either **our refuge—in Whom we place our trust—or our judge.****

# In Context: Psalm 2

- <sup>1</sup> Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?
- <sup>2</sup> The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together,  
Against the LORD and against His Anointed, *saying*,
- <sup>3</sup> "Let us break Their bonds in pieces  
And cast away Their cords from us."
- <sup>4</sup> He who sits in the heavens shall laugh;  
The LORD shall hold them in derision.
- <sup>5</sup> Then He shall speak to them in His wrath,  
And distress them in His deep displeasure:

# Psalm 2

<sup>6</sup> "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."

<sup>7</sup> "I will declare the decree:

The LORD has said to Me,

'You are My Son,

Today I have begotten You.

<sup>8</sup> Ask of Me, and I will give *You*

The nations *for* Your inheritance,

And the ends of the earth *for* Your possession.

<sup>9</sup> You shall break them with a rod of iron;

You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.' "

# Psalm 2

<sup>10</sup> Now therefore, be wise, O kings;  
Be instructed, you judges of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> Serve the LORD with fear,  
And rejoice with trembling.

<sup>12</sup> Kiss the Son, lest He be angry,  
And you perish *in* the way,

When His wrath is kindled but a little.

**Blessed *are* all those who put their trust in Him.**

Psalms 2:1-12 (NKJV)



## Truth #2: Messiah is more than merely human in the Hebrew texts.

The New Testament elaborates...

- Messiah serves as our refuge by being our Advocate with the Father, according to 1 John 2:1-3. He is our Defense Attorney. If He has taken away our sins, He is exactly the right one to plead our case.
- He makes intercession for us now. Hebrews 7:25.

## Truth #2: Messiah is more than merely human in the Hebrew texts.

- Psalm 89:20-29 The Son of David is declared God's firstborn and one whose descendants are established forever, and his throne as the days of heaven. (Believers are His descendants by adoption—Galatians 4:4-7) So Messiah is eternal and He gives us eternal life.
- The New Testament letter to the Hebrews is a great book which explains some of these issues in detail. Hebrews pulls together the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures.

## Truth #2: Messiah is more than merely human in the Hebrew texts..

- Isaiah 48:11-17 God does not give His glory to another. God is the First and the Last. God is creator of the earth and heavens. ... From the first God has not spoken in secret.
- Then the speaker changes, without changing.  
“From the time it took place, I was there. And now the LORD GOD has sent Me and His Spirit.”
- This passage reveals the same truth as John chapter 1 – that Messiah is God and with God, and was present in the beginning with God.

## Truth #2: Messiah is more than merely human in the Hebrew texts.

- Psalm 110:1-7 Messiah is David's Lord, a priest forever, and yet incarnate—human.
- Zechariah 6:13 Messiah is a priest on His throne. Even though Messiah is from the lineage of David, He is also a priest who intercedes for us.

## Truth #2: Messiah is more than merely human in the Hebrew texts.

- Isaiah 9:6-7 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God**, **Eternal Father**, Prince of Peace. ...
- (For Messiah to have the right to titles of Deity, and for God to be One, God must be a complex Unity and must include Messiah in that complexity.)

## Truth #2: Messiah is more than merely human in the Hebrew texts.

- ...There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:6-7
- For Messiah's throne to last forever, Messiah must be Eternal Father, worthy of that title, included in the complexity of God's Personage.

# Truth #2: Messiah is more than merely human in the Hebrew texts.

## Isaiah 11:1-12

“A shoot from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots, and the Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him....

## Characteristics

- Messiah is of the lineage of David
- Messiah has the Spirit of the LORD resting on Him.

# Truth #2: Messiah is more than just human in the Hebrew texts.

## Isaiah 11:1-12

With righteousness  
He will judge the  
poor. ...

He will strike the  
earth with the rod  
of His mouth. ...

## Characteristics

He is righteous in  
judgment. He  
rescues the afflicted.

He speaks and it is so  
– He strikes the  
earth in judgment by  
His words.



# Truth #2: Messiah is more than just human in the Hebrew texts.

## Isaiah 11:1-12

The wolf will dwell  
with the lamb...  
The earth will be  
full of the  
knowledge of the  
LORD as the waters  
cover the sea. ...

## Characteristics

He restores the  
peacefulness of  
creation and the  
worldwide  
knowledge of  
God—only God  
can do those  
things.

# Truth #2: Messiah is more than just human in the Hebrew texts.

## Isaiah 11:1-12

On that day, the Lord will recover the second time with His hand the remnant of His people who will remain...and will assemble the banished ones of Israel.  
...

## Characteristics

His appearance as righteous judge will occur after bringing Israel back to their land the second time. (Which, happened after World War 2...)

# We can know that the Bible is

Three truths about who God is

- **Trustworthy** by discovering three truths about God's identity:
  1. God's identity as a complex Unity in the Hebrew Scriptures.
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# Truth # 3: The Identity of the Good Shepherd

Ezekiel 34:1-31 The false shepherds are human leaders who mistreat the people. Verse 31 defines the flock as God's people and the **Good Shepherd** as **God**. Verses 15-16 say that the Good Shepherd will feed His flock in good pasture and will lead them to rest.

# Truth # 3: The Identity of the Good Shepherd

He will seek the lost, bring back the scattered, bind up the broken, and strengthen the sick, but He will feed the wicked with judgment.

Verses 23 and 24 say **Messiah** is their Prince and their **Good Shepherd**.

So here we see God and Messiah **BOTH** called **The Good Shepherd**.

# Jesus' Expression of the Good Shepherd Prophecies

In John 10:1-30, Jesus said that He is the **Good Shepherd**. In verse 24, the leaders in Jerusalem asked Him to tell them plainly if He is Messiah. He said that He told them, and He continued with the description of Himself as the **Good Shepherd**.

# Jesus' Expression of the Good Shepherd Prophecies

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them , and they shall never perish; and no one shall snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father’s hand. I and the Father are One.”

# Jesus' Expression of the Good Shepherd Prophecies

- The same super-imposing of God and Messiah as the Good Shepherd is seen in John 10 as in Ezekiel 34.
- The same literary method in both places shows that
  - ▣ the complex Unity of God's identity includes Messiah.



# The Good Shepherd and the Gentiles—“Sheep not of this fold”

In John 10:14-18 Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd; ... and I lay down My life for the sheep.

And I have other sheep not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they shall hear My voice, and they shall become one flock, with one shepherd.”

# The Good Shepherd and the Gentiles—“Sheep not of this fold”

- In these words, Jesus incorporates another prophecy about Messiah in the Good Shepherd explanation – that He must also seek and save the lost Gentiles.
- According to Isaiah 49:1-6, it is TOO SMALL a thing for Messiah to restore Israel alone. God will also make Messiah a light to the Gentiles so that His salvation will reach to the end of the earth.

# The Good Shepherd and the Gentiles—“Sheep not of this fold”

Jesus continued in John chapter 10: “For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one has taken it away from Me, but I lay it down on My own initiative. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This commandment I received from My Father.”

# Implications of John 10

- Only God has authority over life and death. Only God-with-us, Immanuel, could have authority to lay down His life and to TAKE IT UP AGAIN.
- The Resurrection of Jesus Christ proved His claim of being The Good Shepherd, of being Messiah, and of Messiah's being a member of the Trinity.

# The Good Shepherd and the Gentiles—Isaiah 49:1-7

Messiah is described being formed in the womb by God to be God's Servant. Messiah restores the preserved ones of Israel and raises up the tribes of Jacob. It is too small a thing for Him to stop there. He also is a light of the Gentiles so that God's salvation reaches to the end of the earth.

# Isaiah 49:1-20

Messiah Is The Good Shepherd for both Jews and Gentiles! He is the Good Shepherd for EVERYONE!

In verses 1-7, He brings salvation to the Gentiles. In verses 8-20 Messiah brings Israel back to the land. In verses 9-10, as their Good Shepherd, He provides their pasture and springs of water as they are on their way home.

In verses 14-16, Zion feels forsaken, but the LORD says He has inscribed her on the palms of His hands. He will never forget Zion.



The idea of the Trinity is hard to understand.

That should not surprise us.

# *Elohim* Present at the Creation

- *Elohim* has always been One in essence and Father, Son-Messiah, and Holy Spirit in Persons:
- Present at the creation, where the Spirit of God hovered over the waters, and where God spoke light into existence, and where the Son is described in John chapter one as the Word who was with God and who was God.



# The Comparison of Trinity to Light



Light is photons, waves, and electromagnetic fields. The electromagnetic field is not the photon. The photon is not the wave in the electromagnetic field. The wave is not the field. Yet the photon, the wave, and the field are all light.

It is very difficult to really understand the physics of light. God is more complicated and difficult to understand than light, being the One who created light.

# The Comparison of Trinity to Light

If a concept of God presents Him as less complex than light, that concept cannot be correct. The Creator of anything must be more complex than His creation.

# As C. S. Lewis said, in **MERE CHRISTIANITY,**

“If Christianity was something we were making up, of course we could make it easier. But it is not. We cannot compete, in simplicity, with people who are inventing religions. How could we? We are dealing with Fact. Of course anyone can be simple if he has no facts to bother about.”

# Human Expectations:



We would expect God to be more complex than people and to be more complex than light. We should expect NOT to be able to fully understand Him.

The difficulty understanding the Trinity is lovely.

It matches spiritual reality.

It matches the entire Bible's explanations.

# In Whose Image?

- Skeptics sometimes claim that people created God in their image, rather than that God created people in His image.
- The Trinity demonstrates that they are wrong. People would not create a God so difficult to understand. They would create a god like the Greek and Roman gods of old, who really were like people, foibles and all, or a simple, one-dimensional god.

# Human Expectations:

- The idea of Trinity / *Elohim* is consistent with God's identity as presented both in the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures.
- The early church did not “make up” a new religion.

# Human Expectations:

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- The early church spent about 300 years being persecuted. They presented the concept of the Trinity to the world because they believed it to be true, and they were standing for truth, not fiction, under persecution.

# Implications:

- Because God is Trinity / *Elohim*, Messiah could die for our sins without violating any aspect of justice.
- God can be merciful and just at the same time.
- He is perfect. Good has a Source.
- God can hate evil and expect us to hate evil, and yet be merciful to the repentant.



# Implications:

- Acts 20:28 God purchased the church with His own blood. He was not requiring an innocent other mere human to die in penalty for our sins. Rather, it was His own innocent blood shed for us.

# Implications: John 10:17

- God the Father could not justly REQUIRE another Person of the Trinity to lay down His life as a substitute for us, but He could LOVE Him for being willing to do so. Jesus received that command and the Father loved Him for receiving it.
- The Judge paid the penalty for our sins. He can forgive those who accept His payment, while remaining just.

# Implications:

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- The unity and diversity of all creation has its source in the combined unity and diversity of the Trinity.
- God was able to relate lovingly as Persons within the Trinity even before creation. John 17:24.
- Love has always been real.

Jesus Christ said,

*“If you abide (**STAY**) in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine, and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”--John 8:31b-32*

# Homework Class 8 Set 1

Read Chapter 11 in THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT.

- According to the chapter, what are some characteristics we would expect in a book if God is the Author?
- Does the Bible match this description?
- Do other religious books match this description?

# Homework Class 8 Set 1

As you read through chapter 11, find these references:

- List references where the Bible explained God's authorship.
- Read Leviticus 26:46 and 27:34. List more references from chapter 11 where God commanded someone to write the words of Scripture.

# Homework Class 8 Set 1

- List references where Jesus validated the Old Testament and the New Testament.
- List references where New Testament writers validated each other's books.
- List references where God's word is described as truth. God explained that He cannot lie.
- The references are helpful for finding information during discussions with skeptics. Try to memorize at least the book name and chapter number for each item. It may help to make a chart of topics and locations in Scripture.

# Homework Class 8 Set 1

- Give examples of information in the Bible that we would not otherwise have, based on the idea of Isaiah 55:6-11.
- Discuss the accuracy and consistency of the Bible.
- Discuss the beauty of the Bible.



# Homework Class 8 Set 1

- Read I Thessalonians 4:1-8, Ephesians 4:25-32, 5:18-33, Romans 13:8-14, Proverbs 5:1-23, II Corinthians 5:17, I Corinthians 10:13, and I Corinthians 16:13-14, regarding the requirements of moral purity in the Bible. How does this compare to other religions?
- Discuss the universality of the Bible.

# Homework Class 8 Set 1

- Explain the meaning of inspiration of Scripture.
- Explain the meaning of inerrancy of Scripture.
- **What are some of the forms of theological dispute about the ideas of inspiration and inerrancy?**
- **How can they be answered?**

# Homework Class 8 Set 2

- Read I Chronicles 1:19.
- What did this verse say happened to the earth?
- Does this idea fit the modern concept of plate tectonics and formation of the continents?
- Read Chapter 12 of **THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT.**
- Define presupposition.

# Homework Class 8 Set 2

- How does the idea of God as author of natural laws address His ability to override natural laws?
- Which presupposition is more open-minded and less dogmatic – the idea that God cannot have done any miracles in history, or the idea that God might have done miracles in history that can be discovered by proper study to rule out natural causes?
- If a natural cause is found, does that automatically rule out miracle?

# Homework Class 8 Set 2

- If someone believes miracles are impossible, and his friends pray for his wife's healing from cancer, and she instantly goes into remission for no discernible reason, do you think the person will automatically change his presupposition?

# Homework Class 8 Set 2

- Presuppositions can be very stubborn things. To ask someone to change a presupposition is to ask them to exchange a basic tool in their way of interacting with reality for a different tool that they may find scary to use.
- A weight of evidence may be required so that they are convinced of the need for change.
- In the case of assuming a closed system of cause and effect that God cannot modify, what has to change in order to change that assumption?

# Homework Class 8 Set 2

- What is the presupposition that drives most of the criticism of the Bible? How does it control the outcome of the studies?
- What is wrong with that?
- Defense of the faith requires more than a few sound bites, because many people have to change their presuppositions in order to find salvation. Enough evidence is required to make such a foundational change reasonable. Study is GOOD.

# Homework Class 8 Set 3

- What two things are associated with a roaring ocean wave such as a tidal wave in Psalm 46?
- Would either of these be expected to produce a tidal wave if it occurred at the right place in the ocean?
- Why is God worthy of praise for giving us clues about His intelligence and His understanding of the way physical phenomena work?



# Homework Class 8 Set 3

- Read Chapter 13 in THE NEW EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT. List some strengths and weaknesses of archaeology.
- Explain the example of the water spout. How does this example demonstrate both the strengths and weaknesses of archaeology?
- What conclusions can be drawn from this example regarding the Biblical text?

# Homework Class 8 Set 3

- Briefly list evidence which supports each of the following Biblical narratives.

Creation: The flood: The tower of Babel:  
The Patriarchs Abraham, Isaac, and  
Jacob: Sodom and Gomorrah: The  
Exodus: The time of Saul, David, and  
Solomon: The Assyrian invasion of both  
the northern and southern kingdoms of  
Israel: Babylonian captivity:

# Homework Class 8 Set 3

- Even the most skeptical archaeologists sometimes inadvertently confirm the Biblical record. In a program on the Public Broadcasting Network, a skeptical archaeologist claimed no evidence for the worship of YHVH had been found in Israel prior to the temple era. Only Canaanite temples and altars had been found. The speaker used this fact to theorize that the Israelite nation did not exist until a late date.

# Homework Class 8 Set 3

- However, the instructions in the Torah regarding the building of altars would produce **exactly this result** if followed.
- The Israelites were told in Exodus 20: 24-26 NOT to use cut stones or steps in their altars. Thus altars made of natural stones would be scattered and not identifiable as altars over time.
- The tabernacle was composed of perishable materials, not stones. No temples were described for the worship of the LORD prior to Solomon's temple. Absence of artifacts in this case **cannot** be used as proof the nation did not exist. Absence of artifacts is the expected finding from the Scriptures.

# Homework Class 8 Set 3

- List some of the evidence that Moses authored the Torah – the first five books of the Bible.
- Try to obtain a copy of the BIBLICAL ARCHEOLOGY REVIEW article in March/April 1990 regarding “The Second Battle of Jericho,” by Bryant Wood. This article will update the textbook about the 1400s date for the Joshua record, and the discoveries there at Jericho which support the Biblical account. Reprints might be available at Associates for Biblical Research, through their website. Also request their article describing the many items in the British Museum which match the Biblical records, called “The Bible and the British Museum.”