

Focus on the Kingdom

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Whom Will You Worship?

by Robin Todd, Washington

Sometime this last year, I can't say exactly when it happened, I went from believing those things written in the Bible regarding God and His plan for the salvation of mankind, to believing in the God Himself who made those plans. In other words, I have come to want Yahweh as my God, and no other god will be acceptable to me. Of course, that was already the case, but somehow it just hit me with increased emphasis how great this Creator God is, when compared to the other choices we have before us.

Now you may say, "Wait a minute, 'There is no other God but Yahweh,' so it is no big deal to say that you will accept no other." But my point is that whatever or whoever you *worship*, is your god — be it a concept, an inanimate object, a physical being, or *even a being from the invisible spiritual realm*. It might be "a God from the God family"!

We all are familiar with the idea that we can exalt things like power, fame, money, sex, fashion, cars and houses, etc., and make them the number one priority in our lives. We can worship them. Indeed, society seems to be pushing these things on us whether we consciously want them or not. We are aware of our constant need to resist these gods. But are we as cognizant of other more *personal* gods which may be roaming around like roaring lions ready to devour us? These are demonic forces vying for our attention and worship.

When Israel came into the "promised land," their leader, Joshua, reminded the people about a choice they must make regarding the gods they worshipped. "Now therefore, fear the LORD and serve Him in sincerity and truth; and put away **the gods** which your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: either the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:14-15).

Of course the people insisted that they would only serve the one LORD GOD who had brought them out of Egypt by many great signs and wonders. They resolutely claimed that they would put away all the foreign gods. Yet we know only too well how that turned out over the life of the nation! Joshua was indeed right to call their attention to this vital choice, and insist on a commitment.

But are there really other living, personal gods that we can worship, or are they only figments of our active imaginations?

The apostle Paul is very plain about the reality of other god-choices. "We know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one. For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, **as indeed there are many gods and many lords, yet for us** there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him" (1 Cor. 8:4-6). In fact, to the same Corinthians, Paul later says that there is a real, living god of this age who blinds the minds of the unbelieving (2 Cor. 4:4), and his name is Satan, who also preaches false gospels and a false Jesus to try to lead astray those who desire to be faithful believers in the only true gospel and Messiah (2 Cor. 11:1-16)!

Paul was not playing around with metaphors when he said that "our struggle is *not* against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places" (Eph. 6:12). There are indeed very real, intelligent, invisible, personal entities crossing over into our dimension and onto our earth who want to control our lives! And what better way to do this than to deceive humanity into believing false religious/spiritual ideas which keep us from knowing the truth, and will inevitably and ultimately hurt and destroy us. Peter was in deadly earnest when he said that "the Devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour" (1 Pet. 5:8). This is the cold, stark reality. These two apostles did not sugar-coat the real existence of personal and other-worldly evil in our midst! They did not want us to bury our heads in the sand concerning these very real enemies! Sometimes whole denominations actually conspire, in the mistaken idea that they are teaching truth, to prevent their adherents from believing the Bible in regard to external spiritual evil! (Paul referred to these spiritual enemies as "*kosmocrats*"!)

The idea that there are non-human entities mixing it up with human beings is certainly not just the stuff of modern science fiction. Genesis chapter six reveals that angels (*B'ne Elohim*) in disobedience to God took human wives and had children by them (compare Gen. 6:4; Jude 6; 2 Pet. 2:9). In addition to Jude and Peter, the pseudepigraphic writing of 1 Enoch elaborates on this Biblical theme by declaring there were two hundred of these rebelling angels involved, teaching mankind many things we were not supposed to know.

I understand that the religious and spiritual choices we all make have mostly been handed down to us by people we trusted and loved. My past is filled with choices like this as well. I am as guilty as anyone of worshipping false gods of many different kinds. So this is not meant to pick on any one religious faith, because we *all* need to examine very closely what or who we worship. But let us take just a quick look at some of the god-choices we have available to us.

How about a god who says that we must earn our salvation through countless rebirths, until we finally reach a state of Nirvana where we are freed from all desire. Along the way we must worship many various deities, and live in a caste system where some are considered better than others and treated that way. Is this the god we want to worship? Or how about a god who claims that there is no personal god at all and that salvation is a long process of rebirths, ending in a state where all individual consciousness will cease?

Or perhaps you want a god who will love you, but only *after* you love him first. This god only requires you to do five things in your life in order to be saved. Apparently no internal transformation is necessary. This god does not want to have a personal relationship with you. He can't. He is too far removed from creation anyway.

Of course, there is always the option to join millions of others claiming to worship one personal God, but who in fact elevated a human being (unique though he certainly was and remains) to the status of total equality with that God by declaring him to have been "eternally generated" (a complete contradiction of terms!). This reversion to Egyptian and Platonic "emanational theology" ends with the adherent worshipping a collection of three god-persons in one impersonal "Essence" ("three who's in one what"). This god is called a "mystery," and you can't have a real relationship with a "mystery."

There are too many variations of these gods to cover here. They have manifested themselves through various man-made religious "faiths" down through the centuries. The names of the gods who have come down to us through Egyptian-Greek mythology, mystery religion, and philosophy are too many to enumerate. But it has certainly become manifest to many discerning people that the ideas and teachings of these gods have subtly infiltrated all of society, even those who would like to think they are above such things. Such doctrinal teachings as the existence of an immortal soul, a God who is three persons in one "essence," reincarnation, salvation through sacraments and religious sites, infant baptism, and many more, are just the tip of the iceberg in the deception brought by those gods promoted by their "ministers of righteousness." (There is yet a final, self-proclaimed god

coming, and this time the consequences of deception will be felt worldwide.)

But fortunately there is a vastly better alternative God for us to consider. He is known in the pages of the Hebrew scripture as Yahweh, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This personal and caring God created human beings out of the dust of the ground and set before them no requirement other than to be His believing, obedient children charged with the responsibility of administering affairs on this earth. His was a parental system of righteousness. When we turned away from faith and trust in this Father, He set in motion a plan that would take many millennia to accomplish, but would eventually teach us all and persuade us of His good, fatherly intentions toward us. He would be recognized as a God of grace and faith-keeping, not a God with a law-keeping nature. This persuasion He would ultimately achieve through a miraculously begotten human being who would be thus His Son and the firstborn of many brothers and sisters who would come to think and believe as this Son did. This man we know as Jesus the Christ, pre-determined in God's great counsels from the very beginning to be both our example and our deliverer. The really good news is that this Father, Creator God has planned all along to one day restore conditions on this earth, to reverse our lost sonship and kingship. The Messiah was to bring us back into alignment with His original intentions; and if we are Christ's, by being his obedient followers, we will be a part of this coming new age which is referred to over and over again in Hebrew and Christian Scripture as the Kingdom of God.

Friends, *this* is the God I want for my God. I've seen these other so-called gods, and they do not hold a candle to Yahweh. They are dangerous and false. As for me and my house, we will worship Yahweh (the LORD GOD), and His appointed Messiah Jesus. We have to learn what is meant by commitment to this One and only true GOD (John 17:3) by reading and living out the great story of restoration, in the epic drama which is the Bible.

If we have been privileged to get our eyes open to the One and only True God, the Father of Jesus, the God of Jesus, then a heavy responsibility falls on us. We are to persuade as many who will listen that the words of Jesus in Mark 12:28-34 are the central treasure of the Christian faith. At present, standard commentary will tell you (falsely!) that those words of Deuteronomy 6:4 and Mark 12:29 are the central treasure of Judaism! Jesus is being ignored in Mark 12:29, and ignoring Jesus is the greatest threat to salvation (John 3:36). ✧

Thy Kingdom Come

by Keith Relf, New Zealand

“Courage for the sake of truth is better than silence for the sake of unity” (Aviel Schneider, *Israel Today*, April 2012).

In this issue of *Israel Today*, Ouriel Zohar discusses various esoteric “descriptions” of Yeshua. However, Zohar, like most writers and preachers, misses the point that the core of Jesus’ Gospel was not “love,” although that is a very important component. Jesus’ Gospel was about the coming of the Kingdom of God, in the future, on earth, and how to prepare now to “manage the world” with Jesus (1 Cor. 6:2; Dan. 7:18, 22, 27, etc.). He taught us to pray, as first priority, “Thy Kingdom come.”

There is no end to the possibilities and vagaries that the human mind contrives, when we are told that Scripture is some sort of mystical code book which requires “interpretation” by “trained” scholars. It is not! It is God’s message to all who would know the truth. William Tyndale, who was burned at the stake by the Church for his faith — the Devil hated what he stood for — said, “The Bible is to be read as a whole, and the words accepted for what they are; for it tells a tale that any man or woman can understand, without being ordained, or studying theology.”¹

Why can we not accept the simple biblical definition of who Jesus of Nazareth is, as given by Luke (1:31-35) and Matthew (1:18-21), without the intrusion of the pagan Greek philosophy that was so much “second nature” to the early Church fathers? The philosophical preconceptions of the “Church fathers” influenced them (poisoned them) to produce unintelligible dogma that has blighted Church history and created a tangle of confusion over the nature of the ONE true God and of His dearly begotten Son.

¹ In this connection Tyndale also wrote before he was cruelly killed: “Cleave fast to the rock of the help of God and commit the end of all things to Him” and “Be not overcome by men’s persuasions.” He said also: “The Scripture is a true light that shows us ‘both what to do and what to hope’; it is a defense from all error, and a solace and consolation.” This comfort, Tyndale said, was to be found in the plain text and literal sense. “Cleave unto the texte and the playne storye,” he advised his readers. This was a crucial point. For a thousand years and more, Christian congregations had heard the Scripture only as a series of disconnected brief texts on which their priest hung his sermon. Long discourses were spun off a verse or a parable. Scholars argued on the meanings behind the apparent meaning: “idle disputers and brawlers about vain words,” Tyndale said, “ever gnawing on the bitter bark without and never attaining the sweet pith within” (*William Tyndale: If God Spare my Life*, by Brian Moynahan).

To this day, “official dogma” is supported by inference, mistranslation, imagination and ignoring the plain words of Scripture, all promoted by an overbearing “authority,” instilling terror into believers, that they *must* believe the unbelievable to be saved!

This emotional bondage has been imposed on millions and created in them a mesmerizing infatuation with what is nothing less than nonsense!

It is time many more Christians read their Bibles and summoned up courage for the sake of Truth rather than silence for the sake of unity! If we follow the plain words of Jesus, in our time, we need not fear the threatening words of a self-perpetuating ecclesiastical elite, who in earlier times burned those who disagreed with them. They proved only that they were murderers!✧

Why is the *Shema* (Deut 6:4, Mark 12:29) so Significant?

Jews understand the critical importance of the *Shema*. Christians have chosen to forget about it and replace it with a very strange doctrine of the Trinity. This is from Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Romain (news.reformjudaism.org.uk):

“In the prayer book the *Shema* does not particularly stand out, so why is it the most famous Jewish prayer?

“It is very common for people to refer to the *Shema* as ‘the most important Jewish prayer,’ but although it is certainly part of the service, technically it is not a prayer but a quotation. It is lifted entirely from Deuteronomy chapter 6 verses 4-9, except that an extra line is inserted after the first sentence, namely ‘Blessed is His name, whose glorious Kingdom is forever’ (which is why that line is absent from the version of the *Shema* which is to be found in a *mezuzah* or *tefillin*, as it is not part of the original biblical text).

“It is the opening line that makes the *Shema* so significant: ‘Hear O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is one.’ For Jews, it is a declaration of faith, and also an assertion that God is one and indivisible. So much of Judaism is concerned with observing practical laws — both positive and negative, both ethical and ritual — that the *Shema* stands out as a cry of belief, something that cannot be simply carried out or avoided but has to be personally taken to heart.

“The *Shema* has also acquired special symbolism because of historical circumstances. After Rome had conquered the land of Israel, destroyed the Temple and exiled thousands of Jews, there was one last attempt at freedom — a revolt led by Shimon Bar Kochba in 135 CE, with the support of one of the leading rabbis, Akiba. The revolt failed, Bar Kochba was killed in battle and Akiba arrested and tortured to death in the arena. He died

saying that first line of the *Shema* as a final act of spiritual defiance. Ever since then it is traditional for a Jew who is about to die to recite the *Shema* as his or her final words. However, the rest of the prayer/quotation is also important, being a checklist of how to put beliefs into practice and give them concrete form.

“First, there is the general advice that love of God should permeate one’s being (‘all your heart, soul, and might’).

“Then there is the quintessentially Jewish notion that to be a good Jew it is not enough to believe and practice oneself, but one has to *pass it on to the next generation and keep the faith going* — hence the command to ‘repeat these words to your children.’

“It goes on to emphasize that Judaism is not just for once a week on the Sabbath, nor reserved for a special place of worship, but for all times of the day and week, and in every place (‘when you sit in your home and walk in the street, when you lie down and rise up’).”

The greatest of all questions to be put to your friends is this: On what basis have churches replaced Jesus’ own affirmation of the great *Shema* of Israel? Does this not call for a world revolution, beginning with you and yours?✧

The Interesting Case of an English Clergyman Who Saw the Light

“A sympathetic study of traditional Jewish religion can reveal the extent to which the modern English Christian gives a meaning to the words of the New Testament different from that which was in the minds of the Jewish writers. Greek was the language they used to convey the universal Christian message, but their mode of thinking was to a large extent Hebraic. For a full understanding it is necessary for the modern Christian not only to study the Greek text, but to sense the Hebraic idea which the Jewish writers sought to convey in Greek words. I cannot claim to have become very skilled in this, but made enough progress to discover how greatly I had misinterpreted the Bible in the past. Like all ordained Christian ministers I had spoken dogmatically, authoritatively from the pulpit, which no one may occupy without license from a Bishop; and much of what I had said had been misleading, because my own mind was incapable of giving a correct interpretation of the book I was authorized to expound. For me the realization of this fact made nonsense of the distinction between clergy and laity, and was the main cause of my relinquishment of my orders.

“In describing my own intellectual deficiencies, and the process by which I discovered my inability to grasp the meaning of the Bible across the vast linguistic gulf

separating me from its Jewish writers, I can surely claim to write with first-hand knowledge. From what I know of the clergy in general I see no reason for supposing that I was peculiar in suffering from this particular deficiency. In fact, the authority of the Protestant ministry as a whole, the claim to be able to understand the Bible and expound it as the word of God, is in my view a vast confidence trick. I am not accusing the clergy of being fraudulent, or even insincere. The confidence trick is collective; individually those who engage in it are deceived by it, just as when I began to expound the Bible from pulpits, I was fully confident that I was able give a correct interpretation.

“Some may believe that the rite of ordination itself bestows divine grace sufficient to overcome any liability to mislead a congregation through an incorrect interpretation. If this view is held, however, it must be reconciled with the indisputable fact that the Christian ministry as a whole has produced a large number of different, and often irreconcilable versions of the Christian faith, all supposed to have been derived from the same biblical record...Any claim that training and ordination produce the only authentic Christian teaching is fraudulent.

“The thirty-nine Articles of the Church of England state specifically in no uncertain terms that true Christian doctrine is derived not from the Church’s councils and traditions, but from the Bible alone. Anglo-catholics believe the very opposite; consequently when one of them after induction to a benefice reads the Articles publicly, and declares his assent to them, he virtually commits perjury. It is, however, legalized perjury.”

(David Watson, *Christian Myth and Spiritual Reality*, London: Victor Gollanz, 1967, pp. 28-30).✧

What Is the GREAT Tribulation?

The “great tribulation” in the Bible means the time of extreme crisis at **the close of the present evil age**, just before the one return (*Parousia*) of Jesus to the earth. Jesus spoke of “great tribulation” in Matthew 24:21 (and Mark 13:19; Luke 21:20-24): “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.”

John recorded the words of Jesus in Revelation 7:14: “I answered, ‘Sir, you know. And he said, ‘These are the ones who have come out of THE great tribulation, and have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’”

Several events are prophesied for the crucial final days. The area outside the temple in Jerusalem will be controlled by Gentile powers: “But the court which is outside the temple leave out, and do not measure it. It is given over to the Gentiles: and they will tread under foot

the holy city for forty-two months” (Rev. 11:2). This prediction comes from Zechariah 12:3 in the LXX (Greek OT, often quoted in the New Testament). Note the bleak picture for Israel at the hands of the final powers ranged against it: “It will come to pass in that day that I will make Jerusalem a trodden stone to all the nations. Everyone who tramples on it will utterly mock at it, and all the nations of the earth will be gathered together against it” (Zech 12:3, LXX).

This will have the effect of refining the nation and bringing it back to faith in the true God and the true Messiah.

During this final forty-months the “two witnesses” of God will carry out their commission (Rev. 11:3), equipped with supernatural powers to combat the extraordinary powers of the final beast/antichrist. They will finally be murdered by the antichristian power. But they will be resurrected in the “first resurrection” of all the faithful.

The beast power, a Satanic counterfeit of the Kingdom of God, will dominate world politics, religion and economics. “There was given him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given him to continue for forty-two months” (Rev. 13:5).

An unparalleled “time of great trouble” (the Great Tribulation) will come on the people of Israel and believers needing to be refined: “At that time Michael will go into action, the great prince who stands for the children of your people: and there will be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time your people will be delivered, every one who shall be found inscribed in the book” (Dan. 12:1). A common time period is predicted for these events:

- 42 months
- 1,260 days
- A time, times, and half a time

These are variations of the same period of time — 3 1/2 years. They are the events of the final half of the final, seventieth “seven” of years, given in Daniel 9:24-27. ✧

The Qur’an (Surah 4:157-158) has a docetic (that is, not really human) or gnostic Christology (concept of Christ), viewing Jesus as not able to die!

“And because of their saying: We slew the Messiah, Jesus, son of Mary, Allah’s messenger — they **slew him not nor crucified him**, but it appeared so unto them; and lo! those who disagree concerning it are in doubt thereof; they have no knowledge thereof save pursuit of a conjecture; they slew **him not for certain**. But Allah took him up unto Himself. Allah was ever Mighty, Wise.”

A Useful and Generous Confession from William Kilgore

“In issue #9 (July 5, 1998) I wrote about the folly that is sometimes exhibited in so-called ‘word studies.’ I offered three examples of such. In my third example I mentioned an article which sought to prove that Jesus is not God by appealing to the Hebrew of Psalm 110:1. This particular item generated some correspondence between the author of that article (Anthony Buzzard) and myself. While we both stand by our Christology (I am Trinitarian; he is Socinian), nevertheless I felt that a clarification was in order.

“While I maintain that the article’s author draws erroneous conclusions from his research, **he does point out a widely-promoted error among Trinitarians**. Simply put, this error is the contention that the ‘my lord’ of Psalm 110:1 is the Hebrew ‘Adonai,’ a word reserved for THE Lord, God Himself. Although I am an orthodox Trinitarian, error is error — and this notion is error. The word translated ‘my lord’ (in reference to Jesus) is a form of *adon* (that form being *adoni*), but is not *adonai*. This mistaken idea permeates Trinitarian articles and books, being committed again and again.

“For instance, one of my favorite Bible teachers writes, ‘In the most commonly quoted Old Testament passage in the New Testament, Psalm 110, David says, “The Lord said to my Lord” or “*Yahweh* said to my *Adonai*” (Ps. 110:1). The New Testament application of this verse saw it stressing the divinity, authority, and sovereignty of Christ when *Yahweh*, the Father, addressed *Adonai*, the Son’ (R.C. Sproul, *Tabletalk*, ‘Adonai, God is Lord,’ December, 1995). This is simply not true.

“The fact that ‘my lord’ in Psalm 110:1 is not *adonai* can be easily verified by anyone with a *Strong’s Concordance* (although verifying that it is *adoni* will require a lexicon). Among the lessons here we can glean the following:

“1. Even good orthodox Bible teachers make mistakes. Those at Berea checked out even the Apostle Paul (Acts 17:11)!

“2. Genuine errors can be made in the name of defending truth. Most importantly, such errors are never justified simply because they are made while defending truth. In fact, the cause of orthodoxy is actually hurt by such error by giving others cause to attack the truth.

“In short, **the long-standing error** involving the idea that *Adonai* is in Psalm 110:1 has probably become so commonplace among evangelicals that all of those employing it no doubt have no idea that it is not true. It’s been ‘handed down.’ I pray they all start checking their facts. This is just as much a ‘sloppy word-study’ error as any.” ✧

The Trinity: Will It Qualify as Monotheism When Jesus Judges?

Try this with your friends:
 “How many YHVHs are you proposing?”
 “One.”

“OK. Then you say the Father is YHVH, and Jesus is YHVH. How many YHVHs does that make?”

This is a zebra, that is a zebra. How many zebras? President Obama is the only one who is currently the President of the USA. No one has the slightest difficulty with that proposition which is exactly parallel to John 17:3: “You, Father, are the only one who is true God.” No one else is. Augustine in his *Homilies on John* was defeated by the words of Jesus here and rearranged the words to *include* Jesus as the “only one who is true God.”

It takes an extended time (the ten-thousand hour principle, perhaps) to probe the masterly sleight of hand achieved by classical Trinitarianism. I think we now see the marvelous degree of cleverness and cunning involved in the amazing construct that God is three and one. Did not Paul warn of trickery and deceit calculated to dupe the unwary? Customarily its exponents are driven back to the final defense. They play the mystery card (the joker card?). The Trinity cannot actually be explained. That is the problem: it *cannot* be explained. It attempts a mathematical proposition which for all eternity cannot work. It is a contradiction, but hides that awful fact, lest it have to be admitted that the Church has been mistaken all these centuries. At the same time it has been appallingly cruel, using the rack, the sword and the stake to enforce it.

Rev. Mozeley, brother-in-law to Cardinal Newman:

“I ask with all humbleness where the idea of the threeness is expressed in the New Testament with a doctrinal sense and force. Where is the Triune God held up to be worshiped, loved and obeyed? Where is He preached and proclaimed in that threefold character? We read ‘God is one’ and ‘I and the Father are one’ but never do we read that the three are one, except in one interpolated [**forged**] text (1 John 5:7). To me the whole matter is most painful and perplexing, and I should not even speak as I do now, if I were not on the threshold of the grave, soon to appear before the throne of all truth. Certainly we do not find in Scripture the expression God the Son, or God the Holy Ghost. Whenever I pronounce the word God simply, and first, I mean God the Father, and I cannot help meaning that if I am meaning anything.”

Rightly Cardinal Newman, who moved from Anglicanism to Roman Catholicism, said:

“The Trinity is a **contradiction**, indeed, and not merely a verbal contradiction, but an incompatibility in the human ideas conveyed. We can scarcely make a nearer approach to an exact enunciation of it, than of saying that **one thing is two things**.”²

“That is a chair and that is a chair and that makes one chair.”

Or as the Seventh Day Adventists wrote celebrating their move to Trinitarianism: The keystone of our theology is “1+1+1=1.” They also wrote, “The word ‘one’ in Hebrew (*echad*) is inherently a plural word.”³

Yahweh cannot be at the same time the Triune God as a whole and also the name of *each one* of the Persons separately. This would be sheer contradiction, since one X cannot be three X’s. But Trinitarians are caught in a trap here. They claim that Yahweh means the Triune God, but clearly Yahweh means the Father and not the Triune God, as in Psalm 110:1. Thus the contradiction trap is not avoided and *cannot* be avoided.

As expert Trinitarian proponent Millard Erickson (*God in Three Persons*) says, a good Trinitarian must say, “He are three and They is one.” This demonstrates the hopelessness of the Trinitarian case. It breaks the laws of language and logic. Did God require us to fracture the laws of language and communication to describe Him?

Bishop Tom Wright and a Desperate Attempt to Save the Trinity

“In 1 Corinthians 8:6, within a specifically Jewish-style monotheistic argument, Paul *adapts the Shema itself, placing Jesus within it*: ‘For us there is one God—the Father, from whom are all things and we to him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and we through him.’ This is possibly the single most revolutionary Christological formulation in the whole of early Christianity, staking out a high Christology founded within the very citadel of Jewish monotheism” (“Jesus and the Identity of God,” *Ex Auditu*, 1998, at ntwrightpage.com/Wright_JIG.htm, emphasis added).

He does not know that the Lord God is **not** the lord Messiah! On no account did Paul ever imagine distributing the Shema between the Lord God and the lord Jesus. The lord Messiah was born (Luke 2:11) and the Lord God cannot possibly be born or die. The distinction between the Lord God and the lord Messiah appears in the Bible’s key witness verse describing the relationship of the one God to the human Messiah. It is Psalm 110:1 where Yahweh delivers an oracle to “my lord,” *adoni*, which in all of its 195 occurrences is never a title of Deity. ✧

² Sadler’s *Gloria Patri*, p. 39, A. H. Newman.

³ *The Trinity*, Whidden, Moon, Reeve, p. 76.

Comments

“An honor it truly is to speak with you. I must say I entirely agree with you when you speak about the one God. I’ve seen many of your debates, especially the ones with Shabir Ally. You deserve respect. Nevertheless I am a Muslim theist, and I have always wondered why unitarians don’t accept the Quran.” — *Youtube*

“I had always been ‘uncomfortable’ with several accepted theological beliefs that I was taught, but believed the problem was with me not being wise enough to understand when in fact they were nonsense and understood by no one. Thanks for the years of sending me *Focus on the Kingdom* every month which I always read. To this day no one will fess-up to giving you my name and address!” — *Texas*

“I ‘stumbled’ upon your youtube video of one God. I can’t tell you how thankful I am that you have put this together in such an organized and comprehensive way. I have believed in one God with much persecution throughout the years, this past year in particular. My husband is citing this as one of the main reasons he is divorcing me. If I do not believe in the Trinity, that Jesus is God I must not have the holy spirit in me. Even though he lived with me and saw my heart. His pastor has also said he has the right to divorce me and the pastor is at ‘peace’ about it. Again I went back to the drawing board and cried out to Yahweh to please show me. The Trinity did not make sense but if it were what the Father wanted me to believe for Him to please show me. I found your site yesterday after a day of fasting and prayer. Thank God there are others.” — *email*

“I just want to say that I love your teachings. I have always known there was something not right with the ‘oneness’ or ‘triunity’ but didn’t quite know how to refute it, but through prayer God our Father has shown me the truth and led me to your site. I listen to and read your material every day and want to possibly start my own home study. I was a minister of both the oneness and Trinity but I want to help propagate the truth of the One true God.” — *Texas*

“Thank you for sending me your newsletter. After much study, I am now a confirmed non-trinitarian. I think I always have been one since childhood. When I asked my husband, who is a nominal Christian, what he thought about the doctrine of the trinity, he told me that he has the same view that Jesus is God’s son. Interesting! All the information you have presented on your website and on youtube have been very helpful indeed. I find the internet a goldmine of information where you can find out things not taught in the mainstream churches. I really believe in seeking out the truth. For many years I just listened to everything the church taught without questioning. Some things did not sit right but I thought to myself ‘just

believe.’ Who am I to question what’s being taught. I belong to a mainstream church with sound doctrine behind it. Thankfully cracks started to appear when I gained access to the internet four years ago and I have not looked back. I have learnt not to be a robot anymore and to question everything. I have a whole new outlook now and can’t believe I was so complacent. I have learnt many, many things and I feel very blessed indeed. I am unable to find a church now that I can attend, but I study on the internet.” — *Australia*

“First, thank you for your resources freely available at your website. In reading your work, so many things are making sense and ‘clicking’ with me after 20 years of having questions and unclear ideas. I think I found you on Amazon (I say ‘think’ because it has been months) as a related search result to *The Conditionalist Faith of our Fathers*. I have had some crazy days at work with servers going down and such and I just want to tell you that even though I am so tired at night, I can’t wait to get home and read your works. I have read *What Happens When We Die* and am about a third into *The Amazing Aims and Claims of Jesus*.” — *email*

“Up to last year, I was a Trinitarian for near 30 years and for 15 of those years I taught and defended Trinity theology. Late last year I was drawn to give concerted attention to verses like John 17:3, John 20:17, and 1 Corinthians 15:27-28. These verses clash with Trinity theology; so led by the spirit I embarked on an intense 2-week study into Trinity theology and its history. I discovered just what Nicodemus meant about it being impossible to be born again (e.g. abandoning the old way of thinking) — but with God all things are possible! I am now a biblical unitarian. Anyway, I hope you will accept my friend request as I would appreciate having a friend such as yourself. Currently some of my friends are calling me a heretic and some have even deleted me. I guess it comes with the territory when you turn against the tide.” — *Facebook*

“I can’t tell you how much I appreciate your generosity and kindness that you send me *Focus on the Kingdom*, despite my incapacity to send any donation. I really find it useful in my search for spiritual truth. Now I have an excellent guide in my journey to the Kingdom.” — *Philippines*

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The Amazing Aims and Claims of Jesus

The Coming Kingdom of the Messiah

Jesus Was Not a Trinitarian

The Law, the Sabbath and New Covenant Christianity

Our Fathers Who Aren’t in Heaven

They Never Told Me This in Church! by Greg Deuble