



## The Father and the Son

READING FOR THIS LESSON – Isaiah 45.

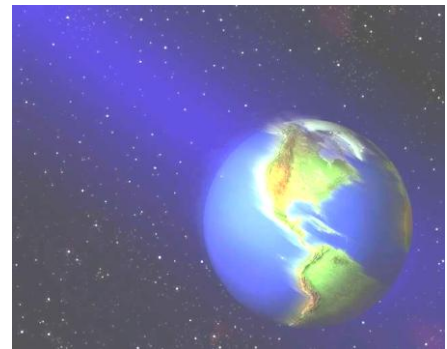
At one time when Jesus was praying to his Father, he said,

*"Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent" (John 17:3).*

We must therefore know the Bible truth about God the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ as our eternal life depends upon this understanding – which only comes by reading the Bible.

Only in the Bible can we find out about God's thoughts and ways as He Himself has said,

*"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9).*



### God is One

Note these important words spoken to the Children of Israel by Moses,

*"Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." (Deuteronomy 6:4-5).*

The message that God is one is repeated hundreds of years later,

*"I am the LORD, and there is no other; apart from me there is no God." (Isaiah 45:5).*

Much later again the apostle Paul wrote,

*"Yet for us there is but one God, the Father,....and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ..." (1 Corinthians 8:6).*

### A God of Love

If the Bible told us only of the power and holiness of God, we should certainly fear Him; but we might find it difficult to love Him.

But God has shown us that He is also kind and merciful as we read in Psalm 103:8, 13-14,

*"The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him. For he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust."*

It is in His mercy and love that God has given Jesus Christ to forgive our sins and offer us salvation.

## The Son of God

After the sin of Adam and Eve, God planned to send His Son to be our Saviour. There are many prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament, such as the one in Isaiah 7:14, where we read,

*"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."*

Immanuel means, "God with us", as we read in Matthew 1:23.

*"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, - which means, God with us."*

God was working through His Son to be our Saviour.

Well before the birth of Jesus, the angel said to Mary,

*"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35).*



Before Jesus began his work of preaching, he was baptized by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. At that time, God gave him the holy spirit, which meant that he had been given God's power to perform miracles. God said to him,

*"You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:11).*

## The nature of Jesus Christ

Because Jesus was born of a woman, he had human nature just like us. In Hebrews 2:9, we read,

*"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for every one."*

Later in Hebrews 2:14 was read,

*"Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity.."*



As the Son of God, Jesus was able to overcome sin, even though he had human weaknesses the same as us. We read later in Hebrews 4:15 that Jesus

*"..has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin."*

Jesus was of our human nature so that he could die on the cross, but after his resurrection, God gave him immortality – he will never die again!

## A wrong idea

Many people have not understood Bible teaching about God and Christ, and so they have come to believe in something, which they call "the Trinity".

They believe that God consists of three persons, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, all being equal with each other. In a later lesson, we shall be learning about the Holy Spirit.

The word "Trinity" and the phrase "God the Son" do not appear anywhere in the Bible. The Bible clearly teaches that God is **One** and Jesus Christ is His Son. In the same way that a son can never be equal with

his father, so Jesus Christ can never be equal with God. He never claimed to be equal with God, but totally depended on his Father for all things. He said,

*"I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can only do what he sees his Father doing.."* (John 5:19).

Again in John 14:28, Jesus told his disciples,

*"..the Father is greater than I."*

It is true that Jesus also said,

*"I and the Father are one"* (John 10:30).

By this Jesus meant that his Father and he were completely at one in their purpose and work together.

Later praying for the same unity to be shown between his disciples, he said

*"That all of them (the disciples) may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also may be one in us.."* (John 17:21).

Please turn to 1 Corinthians 15:24-28. Notice carefully verse 28,

*"When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all."*

This verse tells us that, even at the end of his 1,000-year rule on earth, Jesus will still be under the authority of his Father; and God alone will be supreme.

## **Where did the teaching of the Trinity come from?**

The early believers didn't believe in the Trinity. They believed what the Bible clearly taught – that there is

*"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the **man** Christ Jesus."*  
(1 Timothy 2:5).

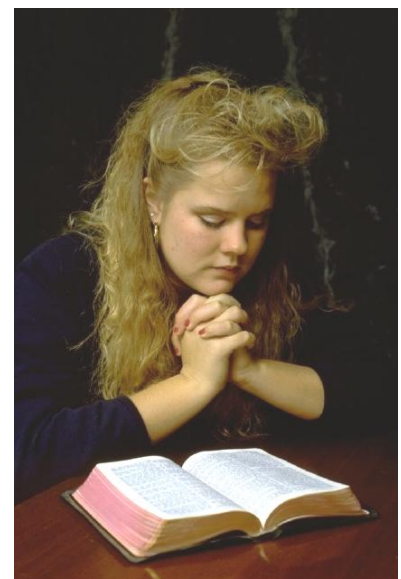
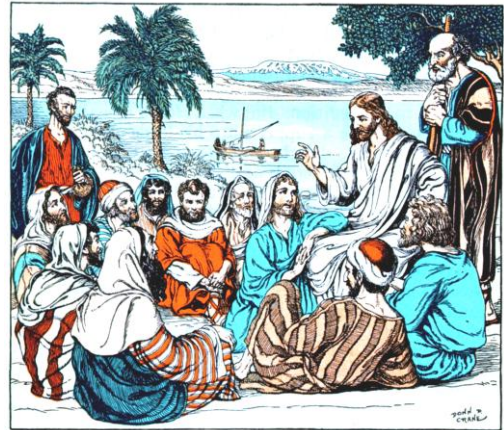
It was not until over 400 years after Jesus was born that the Church began to believe in "the Trinity". This belief was not based on the Bible, but on the ideas of the Greeks and others, who knew nothing of the one true God.

## **The belief of the early followers of Christ**

In a writing known as the "*Apostles' Creed*", which was put together about 100 years after Jesus went up into heaven, is set out the teachings of the early believers. In it we read,

*"I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary."*

There is nothing like the teaching of the Trinity in this statement! The majesty and power of God the Creator are beyond anything we can imagine. Although we cannot understand how such a wonderful God could have a Son born of a human mother - we need to accept this true Bible teaching and not follow the false teachings of people with their own ideas.



## Summary

1. There is only one God.
2. God is **NOT** “three-in-one”. The doctrine of the Trinity is not taught in the Bible.
3. Jesus Christ is **not** God the Son, he is the Son **of** God.
4. Jesus was a man, but far, far greater than any other man.
5. His birth was a great miracle, because his mother was a virgin. His only Father was God Almighty.