

Genesis 3:22: *Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" (Trinitarian Language)*

Genesis 11:7: *Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.*

The Old Testament echoes from Genesis 1 onward with Trinitarian language. At the very least in Genesis 1:1-2 – at the very beginning we have God the Father and God the Spirit. And we have Jewish tradition which says, "We see Jesus there as well – the firstborn, God the Son."

Isaiah 48:16

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.

This verse shows us the doctrine of the Trinity in the Old Testament. This verse was written hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus, and foretells the coming of Jesus Christ, eternal God, God the Son coming into history as a man.

Isaiah 61:1

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor

Jesus quotes this verse referring to Himself in Luke 4:18-21.

Doctrine – What Christians Should Believe– Week 1
Trinity - God Is – Part 1

Titus 2:1

But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine

What is the Trinity?

The Trinity is one God who eternally exists as three distinct persons, Father, Son, and Spirit, who are each fully and equally God.

Deuteronomy 4:35: *"The LORD Himself is God; there is none other besides Him"*

Deuteronomy 32:39: *"There is no God beside me."*

Psalms 86:10: *"You are God alone."*

Isaiah 43:10: *"Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me.."*

Isaiah 45:5: *"I am the LORD, and there is no other; there is no God besides Me.."*

1 Timothy 1:17: *"Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God."*

1 Timothy 2:5: *"There is one God."*

In the Old and the New Testament God's people were surrounded by religions who had all kinds of various gods and goddesses. Other religions, other than Christianity, worship demons – spirit beings, fallen angels created by God but in league with Satan. The Bible says elsewhere masquerading as angels of light, performing counterfeit signs, wonders, and miracles. You need to be very careful that you are not just spiritual, but Christian.

Examples:

Deuteronomy 32:17 NLT

They offered sacrifices to demons, which are not God, to gods they had not known before, to new gods only recently arrived, to gods their ancestors had never feared.

1 Corinthians 10:20

Rather, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice they sacrifice to demons and not to God, and I do not want you to have fellowship with demons.

The doctrine of the Trinity is the way that theologians have articulated two truths. One, that there is one God, and two, that the Father, Son, and Spirit are God. There is one God, and the Father, Son, and Spirit are God. Together that's how we arrive at the doctrine of the Trinity.

1. The Father is God:

John 6:27 NLT

But don't be so concerned about perishable things like food. Spend your energy seeking the eternal life that the Son of Man can give you. For God the Father has given me the seal of his approval.

1 Corinthians 8:6 NLT

But we know that there is only one God, the Father, who created everything, and we live for him

2. Jesus is God:

John 1:1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14

And the Word became 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 8:58 NLT

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was even born, I AM!"

John 20:28 – Thomas got it right. After Jesus rose from the dead he fell down and said, "My Lord and my God," Thomas declares that Jesus is God.

Romans 9:5 NLT: "Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are their ancestors, and Christ himself was an Israelite as far as his human nature is concerned. And he is God, the one who rules over everything and is worthy of eternal praise! Amen."

Titus 2:13: "looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ".

1 John 5:20 NLT: "And we know that the Son of God has come, and he has given us understanding so that we can know the true God. And now we live in fellowship with the true God because we live in fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ. He is the only true God, and he is eternal life."

3. The Holy Spirit is God:

He is the third person of the Trinity. By person, here's what I mean:

Ephesians 4:30 – He can be grieved

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Acts 7:51 - He can be resisted

You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.

Hebrews 10:29 – He can be insulted

Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace?

The Holy Spirit is God, third member of the Trinity, God the Spirit.

2 Corinthians 3:17-18

¹⁷ *Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.* ¹⁸ *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

Acts 5:3-4

³ *But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself?"* ⁴ *While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God."*

First point: there's one God. Second point: God the Father is God. Third point: God the Son is God. Fourth point: God the Holy Spirit is God. One God – Father, Son, and Spirit and when we bring these together, we arrive at the doctrine of the Trinity.

Common Questions:

1. Does the Trinity appear in the Old Testament?

Genesis 1:1-2: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* ² *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.*

The Hebrew word for God here is **Elohim**. It's a plural.

Dr. Gerry Breshears, who is the head of theology at Western Seminary in Portland, published what is called the Targum Neofiti. It's from roughly 200 years before the birth of Jesus Christ.

A targum was an accepted Jewish translation and reading of the Old Testament. The targum for Genesis 1:1-2 reads: *"In the beginning, by the Firstborn (Jesus) God (that's the Father) created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."*

Genesis 1:26: *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

This makes no sense apart from the doctrine of the Trinity. Who's the "us" and the "our"? (God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit)