



Studying the  
Godhead

Preview

FRANK JAMERSON

# The Godhead

Preview

By Frank Jamerson

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Lesson 1	Introduction & Names of God.....	5
Lesson 2	The Godhead - A Trinity.....	9
Lesson 3	The Deity of Jesus.....	13
Lesson 4	Arguments Against Christ's Deity.....	16
Lesson 5	The Holy Spirit.....	19
Lesson 6	The Apostles & Baptism of the Spirit.....	22
Lesson 7	Gentiles & Baptism of the Spirit.....	25
Lesson 8	Miraculous Gifts of the Spirit.....	28
Lesson 9	Purposes & Duration of Miraculous Gifts. ..	31
Lesson 10	Speaking in Tongues.....	34
Lesson 11	Holy Spirit & Water Baptism.....	37
Lesson 12	The Indwelling of the Spirit.....	41
Lesson 13	The Godhead in Redemption.....	44

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# NOTES

Preview

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## Introduction and Names of God

### Lesson 1

Purpose: This series of lessons will be a study of the Godhead. We will study the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and some false ideas about them. Special emphasis will be given to the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

#### A. Some definitions:

1. Theism – Belief in a God who has been revealed to man.
2. Atheism – The belief that there is no God.
3. Agnosticism – The belief that man cannot know whether there is a God, or anything beyond material phenomena.
4. Deism – The belief that God created the world but takes no active role in its functioning.
5. Polytheism – The belief that there are many gods.
6. Pantheism – The belief that god is everything and everything is god.
7. Trinity – The unity of three divine persons in one God, or Godhead.
8. Tritheism – The belief that there are three Gods.

#### B. Names of God:

1. El (singular) or Elohim (plural) – means “Mighty one,” or “all powerful.” “It may even denote a position of honor and authority among men. Moses was ‘Elohim’ to Pharaoh (Exodus 7:1), and to Aaron, Exodus 4:16” (ISBE, Volume 2, page 1254).
  - a. El-elyon – denotes the God of Israel as the most high God, Genesis 14:17-20.
  - b. El-roi – denotes the God who sees, Genesis 16:13.
  - c. El-shaddai – denotes that God is mighty or almighty, Genesis 17:1; 49:24, 25.
2. Adonai – the plural form of “Adon” means Master or Lord. It emphasizes His sovereignty (Psalm 2:4; Isaiah 7:7), and corresponds to “Kurios” (Lord) in the New Testament. (Some translations use LORD when reference is to the word Jehovah and Lord when reference is to the word Adonai, Acts 2:34.)
3. Jehovah – “This is the personal proper name par excellence of Israel’s God, even as Chemosh was that of the god of Moab and Dagon that of

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the god of the Philistines. The original meaning and derivation of the word are unknown... According to Exodus 3:13f, and especially 6:2, 3, it was first introduced by Moses, and was the medium of a new revelation

of the God of their fathers to the children of Israel” (ISBE, page 1254). (Jesus applied this name to Himself, John 8:24, 58. It refers to self-existence.)

- a. Jehovah-jireh – “Jehovah will provide,” Genesis 22:14.
  - b. Jehovah-tsidkenu – “Jehovah our righteousness,” Jeremiah 33:16.
  - c. Jehovah-shalom – “Jehovah our peace,” Judges 6:24. Compare Isaiah 9:6 and Ephesians 2:14.
  - d. Jehovah-nissi – “Jehovah is my banner,” Exodus 17:15, 16.
  - e. Jehovah-sabaoth – “Jehovah of hosts,” 1 Samuel 1:3; Psalm 24:10.
4. Some names in the New Testament:
- a. Theos – comparable to Elohim in the Old Testament. It means “deity” (or God), John 1:1; 20:28; Hebrews 1:8.
  - b. Kurios – comparable to Jehovah and Adonai in the Old Testament, John 20:28; Romans 10:9, 13.

C. Plurality in the New Testament:

1. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are called God (Theos).
  - a. Father – 1 Peter 1:2.
  - b. Son – Hebrews 1:8
  - c. Holy Spirit – Acts 5:3, 4.
2. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are eternal.
  - a. Father – Isaiah 44:6; Romans 16:26.
  - b. Son – Isaiah 9:6; Revelation 1:17.
  - c. Holy Spirit – Hebrews 9:14.
3. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are omnipresent.
  - a. Father – Jeremiah 23:24.
  - b. Son – Matthew 18:20; 28:20.
  - c. Holy Spirit – Psalm 139:7.
4. Each is a Spirit Being (though the Son existed in flesh for a period of time, John 1:1, 14; Hebrews 5:7; 1 John 4:2, 3).

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**STUDY QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the difference between an atheist and an agnostic?
2. What is the difference between trinity and tritheism?
3. Give some examples of pantheism today.
4. In what two ways is Elohim used?
5. Give some things suggested about God's nature by the combination of El with other words.
6. What is the meaning of Adonai?
7. What is the significance of two uses of Lord in Acts 2:34?
8. What name did God give Himself to Moses?
9. What is the significance of that name?
10. Give five things that are learned about Him by the combination of Jehovah with other words.



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11. What two Greek words are used to refer to God?

12. Is the word Jehovah used in the New Testament?

13. In addition to being called God, what characteristics show that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are Divine Beings?

14. What is the nature of all three Beings?

Preview

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## The Godhead - A Trinity

### Lesson 2

The word “trinity” is not in the Bible, but it clearly teaches there are three Beings who compose the Godhead. Though we cannot completely understand the concept of three being one, we can believe what the Bible teaches about it.

#### A. False theories about the Godhead:

1. Arius (about 318) “denied that Jesus Christ, the Son and second Person, was completely divine. Arius taught that the Son was created by God the Father and was inferior to Him. According to Arius, Jesus was not eternal but was a superior Being created by God to redeem man. Arius believed that both the Father and the Son were superior to the Holy Spirit” (The World Book Encyclopedia).
2. Sabellius (latter half of third century) taught “one God, to Whom as the Source of all things the name Father is given, going forth to the work of redemption, united Himself with Jesus, and was then called the Son. In like manner, going forth to the work of sanctification, He is called the Holy Spirit. These are names only of office, expressing the relations in which God puts Himself to created Beings” (Dictionary of Sects and Heresies, by Blunt, page 511, via Oneness Doctrine, by Gene Frost).
3. Some Pentecostals teach that Jesus is the only person in the Deity. “In the year 1914 came the revelation on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ” (Foreword, United Pentecostal Church Manual, via “The Oneness Doctrine”). They teach that Jesus is the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and that baptism must be “in the name of Jesus only.”

#### B. What does the Bible teach?

1. There is one God (Deuteronomy 6:4), but there is a plurality within the Godhead, Genesis 1:1, 26; 3:22; 11:7. The unity of God is contrary to Tritheism (three gods), and Polytheism (many gods). Monotheism (one God) eliminates all other gods, but is inclusive of three Beings within the Godhead, Acts 17:29; Romans 1:20; Colossians 2:9.
2. The Father is God, but He is not the Son or the Holy Spirit.
  - a. He is the “I Am,” Exodus 3:13. Many names applied to Him, but He is the Father, Matthew 6:9; John 20:17.
  - b. He is not the Son, John 8:13-18; 1 John 1:3.
  - c. He is not the Holy Spirit, Matthew 3:16, 17.

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3. The Son is God, but He is not the Father or the Holy Spirit.
    - a. Jesus claimed to be the “I Am,” John 8:58.
    - b. He was “with God and was God,” John 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:8; Matthew 1:23.
    - c. He is not the Father, John 5: 30-32, 37, 38; 11:41, 42; 17:20, 21.
    - d. He is not the Holy Spirit, John 14:16, 26.
      - 1) There are two Greek words translated by “another.” Allos means a numerical difference, but the same sort. Heteros means another of a different sort.
      - 2) The Holy Spirit is another (allos) of the same sort.
      - 3) Compare Galatians 1:6, 7 – a “different” (heteros) gospel, which is not “another” (allos).
  4. The Holy Spirit is God, but He is not the Father or the Son.
    - a. When Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit, he lied to God, Acts 5:3, 4.
    - b. The words Spirit and Ghost are translations of the word “pneuma.”  
“The advantage of the rendering ‘Spirit’ is that it can always be used, whereas ‘Ghost’ always requires the word ‘Holy’ prefixed”  
(W. E. Vine).
    - c. The Holy Spirit is not the Father, Matthew 3:16, 17; John 14:26.
    - d. The Holy Spirit is not the Son, John 14:16; Matthew 12:31, 32.
  5. Summary of the Godhead: (See Chart, next page.)
    - a. Think of the Godhead as one essence (represented by a triangle).
    - b. Think of the persons as three distinct Beings (represented by circles).
    - c. Think of the bodily presence of Christ as a one time event (represented by a square).
    - d. Now think of the three circles within a triangle and a square within one of the circles.

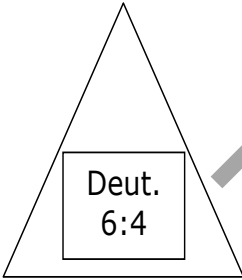
## STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What is Arianism?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Who teaches that doctrine today?

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# The Godhead

**Essence**



**Personality**

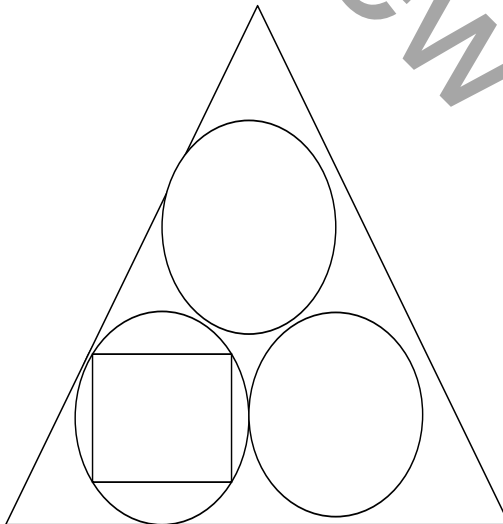
1 Cor.  
1:3

Heb.  
1:8

Acts  
5:3,4

**Physical Body**

Jn. 1:  
1, 14



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3. When people teach that baptism must be in the name of Jesus only, what are they teaching about the Godhead?
  
  4. Give two doctrines are contradicted by Monotheism.
  
  5. Prove that the Father is different from the Son.
  
  6. What did the Father say about the nature of the Son?
  
  7. What does “another” mean in John 14:16?
  
  8. “Another” is used twice in Galatians 1:6, 7 (KJV). What is the significance of each use?
  
  9. Is the Holy Spirit a different kind of Being from the Father?
  
  10. Give two proofs that the Spirit is not the Son.