

Where Does the Bible Mention the Holy Trinity?

There is no direct statement in the Bible that God subsists as a Holy Trinity, but this is implied. Divine attributes are attributed to Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and the Three are united in such verses as Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; and many others. No created being could be associated with God the Father on an equal basis as is the Son. Hebrews 1:3 describes the Son as the One who, "being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." No created being upholds all things by the word of his power, nor could any created being ever sit down at God's right hand on equality with Him.

It has been noticed that never has the name of a created being been associated with that of God, but the name of the Lord Jesus is frequently associated with the name of God the Father. One example of such association is Ephesians 1:2: "Grace be unto you, and peace, from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ." Never is the name of any prophet or angel associated with that of the Father in this way.

But we are not left to inference alone. Both Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are called "God" in the Bible. See, for example, John 1:1-3, 14: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. . . .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." See also Acts 5, where we read that Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Ghost (v. 3), but were told by the Apostle Peter that they had lied to God (v. 4). Thus we see that Peter believed in the absolute deity of the Holy Spirit.

To the best of my knowledge, the first plain revelation of the Holy Trinity was at the baptism of the Lord Jesus. On that occasion, when He came out of the waters of baptism, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a dove, and the Father spoke from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Mt 3:16-17). Looking back, we can see many implications of this truth in the Old Testament, but we believe it was first fully and clearly revealed at this time. The doctrine of the Trinity runs throughout the Bible, and does not rest on a single verse.

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