

## **The Triune God**

### **Trinity: One God in Three Persons – Eternal Union and the Believer's Inclusion Through Faith**

#### **1. Brief recap from last meeting.**

- We discussed how believers belong to Christ, are citizens of Heaven, have been brought into His family as a son or daughter and are now an heir with an inheritance.
- We discussed what belonging to Christ, being a citizen of Heaven as a son and daughter with an inheritance means for the believer.
- We dove into what it means to have a spiritual inheritance: Salvation, forgiveness, The Holy Spirit, righteousness, sonship, heirship, and Eternal life all "received" by faith.
- We also discussed the transformation and new identity that comes with being born again.

#### **2. The work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They are one God but three persons.**

- a) Let's start in the very beginning where all three persons of the Trinity were present in the creation of earth.
- b) **Gen. 1:1-2 (NKJV/AMP)** *"In the beginning God (The Father) created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God (The Holy Spirit) was hovering over the face of the waters."* - This is signifying the Holy Spirit's role in creation alongside the Father and Son. We know that the Son was there during creation because of what we are going to read in Jn. 1.
- c) The remaining verses in **Gen. 1:3-31** describe the six days of "creation and reconstruction" which prepared the earth for human habitation. In vs. 1 we see that God created the Heavens and the earth [by forming from nothing], but it was without form, was void and water was over the surface of the earth, hence the wording of "creation and reconstruction". During the six days of creation, God was "reconstructing" and "molding" the earth that He already made in the beginning (which was formless and void) into something that was habitable for humans. A quick recap of creation: (**\*see homework Gen 1:2 commentaries below**).
  - 1st day: (**Gen. 1:3 -5**) God created light and separated the light from the darkness, thus creating day and night.
  - 2nd day: (**Gen. 1:6-8**) God created the sky (Vault or Firmament) by separating the waters above from the waters below.
  - 3rd day: (**Gen. 1:9-13**) God made Land and Seas by separating the waters from dry ground and he made vegetation (plants and trees with seed bearing fruit).
  - 4th day: (**Gen. 1:14-19**) God created the Sun, moon, and stars.
  - 5th day: (**Gen. 1:20-23**) God made Sea creatures and birds.
  - 6th day: (**Gen. 1:24-31**) God made Land animals and Humans.
  - 7th day: (**Gen. 2:1-3**) God rested.

**The Father and the Son's role in creation: Jn. 1:1-3 (AMP); Col. 1:15-17 (NLT/NKJ), Heb. 1:1-11 (NLT)**  
**(Through Christ, God created)**

**...And the Spirit of God (The Holy Spirit) was hovering over the face of the waters.**

- d) Hovering or Moving: The Hebrew word used here is "rachaph," which can be translated as "hover" or "move." This term suggests a gentle, nurturing, or protective action. It's used in a few places in the Old Testament, notably in Deuteronomy 32:11, where it describes an eagle fluttering over its young, suggesting care, protection, or preparation for creation.
- e) And the Spirit of God was hovering. A short commentary on this: *"The "Spirit of God" (Hebrew "Ruach Elohim") is a powerful image of divine presence and activity. The word "ruach" can mean spirit, wind, or breath, indicating a dynamic and life-giving force. The verb "hovering" (Hebrew "rachaph") suggests a gentle, nurturing movement, like a bird caring for its young. This imagery conveys the idea of God's intimate involvement in creation, preparing to bring life and order. This foreshadows the Holy Spirit's role in the new creation through faith in Christ.*
- f) This imagery reminds me of the Holy Spirit in the New Covenant, gently hovering over humanity and awaiting the moment someone believes in Christ and receives salvation. At that point, He begins His transformative creative work, making the new believer a brand-new creation. We must never forget how vital the Holy Spirit is in every believer's life—He is the one who is in us, guides us and empowers us through the ongoing process of sanctification.

### 3. The Lord God is one and is Three Persons

- a) God is One:
- **Deut. 6:4 (ESV/NIV)**: *"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one."*
  - **Isa. 44:6 (ESV)**: *"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god.'"*
  - **Isa. 45:18 (NASB)** *"For this is what the Lord says, He who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and did not create it as a waste place, but formed it to be inhabited): 'I am the Lord, and there is no one else.'"*
  - **Isa. 46:9 (NLT)** - *"Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me."*
  - **Mk. 12:29 (NLT)** – *"Jesus replied, 'The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord.'"*
  - **Eph. 4:6 (KJV)** - *"One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all."*
- (Full context "...The "in you all" at the end is referring to believers, the church Paul was writing to")

b) **God is Three Persons:**

- **1 Tim. 2:5 (AMP)** – “For there is [only] one God, and [only] one Mediator between God and mankind, the Man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom [a substitutionary sacrifice to atone] for all, the testimony given at the right and proper time.”
- **Mat. 28:19 (NLT)** (The Great Commission): “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”
- **2 Cor. 13:14 (NKJV)**: “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.”
- **Jn. 1:1-2 (NIV)**: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.” ~ Read this in **NLT/AMP** as well.
- **Jn. 10:30 (NKJV)**: “I and my Father are one.”
- **Jn. 14:16-17 (NLT)**: “And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it isn’t looking for Him and doesn’t recognize Him. But you know Him, because He lives with you now and later will be in you.”

**4. The Word became flesh and dwelt among us**

- a) “In the beginning [before all-time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself.” Let’s read through all of **Jn. 1:1-34 (AMPC)** and discuss.
- b) Let’s focus on Christ coming into the world in **Jn. 1:9 (AMPC)** and Christ changing His position and role to become flesh and dwell among us in **Jn. 1:14 (AMPC)**. Discuss...
- c) So, in the beginning He (Christ), was with God before anything was made and then Christ left the Father in Heaven and came down to earth. He changes His role and position. Jesus Christ (the Son) was still fully God, however He became flesh and dwelt among us. The scriptures do not say the Father became flesh, it says the Son became flesh.

**5. Christ ascends to the Father and the Holy Spirit is sent to dwell in believers**

- a) Jesus told His disciples that it was better for Him to go away and be with the Father so the Holy Spirit could come and be in close fellowship with believers **Jn. 16:7 (AMP)**. After Jesus ascends to the Father, He (Jesus) sent the Holy Spirit who is from the Father **Jn. 15:26 (NLT)**. This moment changed everything. When Jesus was on earth (Old Covenant) in the flesh He was “with” the disciples, in the New Covenant, Christ is “in” believers through faith and because of the Holy Spirit. (see **Jn. 14:16** again)
- b) Now, in the New Covenant, the Holy Spirit can “dwell in believers” which is what allows Christ to be in you. “Christ in you, the hope of glory” **Col. 1:27**. “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” **Gal. 2:20**. The Holy Spirit came so that “Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith” **Eph. 3:16-17**. “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?” **2 Cor. 13:5**. “Don’t you realize that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God?” **1 Cor. 6:19**. “And Christ lives within you (the believer), so even though your body will die because of sin, the Spirit gives you life because you have been made right with God.” **Rom. 8:10**. In context: “you” the believer.

6. **The Believer is in Union with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit** (he, we, us, they, you = believers)
- a) **Jn. 14:20 (NLT):** *“When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in my father, and you are in me, and I am in you.”* - Jn 14:20 Expositor's Bible Commentary: “The coming of the Spirit to indwell believers would bring the realization that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in purpose and operation and that there would be a new intimate relationship between them and believers.”
  - b) **1 Cor. 6:17:** *“But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him.”* At salvation the believer becomes joined with the Lord, in union with Him.
  - c) **1 Jn. 4:13:** *“By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.”* This union is only possible because of the Holy Spirit. The “us” is believers.
  - d) **Jn. 17:21-23:** *“that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”* (In full context Jn. 17)
  - e) **Col. 3:3:** *“For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”*
  - f) **1 Jn. 4:13-16 (NLT):** *“And God has given us his Spirit as proof that we live in him and he in us.”* Read all of **1 Jn. 4:13-16 (NLT)**.

## Homework:

### Believers bible Commentary for Gen. 1:2

1:2 One of several conservative interpretations of the Genesis account of creation, the creation-reconstruction view, says that between verses 1 and 2 a great catastrophe occurred, perhaps the fall of Satan (see Ezek. 28:11–19).<sup>3</sup> This caused God's original, perfect creation to become without form and void (tōhû wāwōhû). Since God didn't create the earth waste and empty (see Isa. 45:18), only a mighty cataclysm could explain the chaotic condition of verse 2. Proponents of this view point out that the word translated was (hāyethā) could also be translated "had become."<sup>4</sup> Thus the earth "had become waste and empty."

The Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters, preparatory to the great creative and reconstructive acts to follow. The remaining verses describe the six days of creation and reconstruction which prepared the earth for human habitation.

### Expositor's Bible Commentary (Abridged Edition): Old Testament for Gen. 1:2

2a Verse 2 describes the condition of the land just before God prepared it for the human race. The immediate context suggests that the land was "formless and empty " because "darkness" was over the land, and it was covered with water. It was in its "not-yet" state, i.e., not yet inhabitable for humankind (cf. Isa 45:18). Thus the remainder of the account portrays God's preparing the land for man and woman. When Israel disobeyed God, the land became again "uninhabitable", and the people were sent into exile: "I looked at the earth, and it was formless and empty and at the heavens and their light was gone. . . . the fruitful land was a desert" (Jer 4:23-26). In other words, the land after the Exile was depicted in the same state as it was before God's gracious preparation of the land in Creation. The land lies empty, dark, and barren, awaiting God's call to light and life.

2b The second part of v.2 describes the work of God, or the Spirit of God, in the initial stages of Creation, hovering over the "not-yet" world like an eagle "hovering" (cf. Dt 32:11) over its young with great concern. There is an interesting parallel between the Creation account (Ge 1) and the account of the construction of the tabernacle in Exodus. In both the work of God (Ge 2:2; Ex 31:5) is to be accomplished by the "Spirit of God." As God did his "work" of creation by means of the "Spirit of God," so Israel was to do their "work" by means of the "Spirit of God."

I also suggest digging into all the [Gen. 1:2 commentaries on Bible Hub](#).