

Old Testament Implication

- Although the Trinity is explicit in the NT, it is implicit in the OT.
- One such implication is in the very first verse of the Bible.
 - The generic OT term for God is Elohim, yet this word is plural (the “im” suffix).
 - The OT purposely violates grammar by attaching singular verbs to this plural word. Gen 1:1 *“bereshit bara Elohim.”*
- Thus, God is a singular entity since all of His actions are singular, however, behind this is a majestic plurality represented by the word Elohim.

Old Testament Implication

- Still on the first page of the Bible, there is more. In the first three verses, we see all three members of the Trinity at work in the creation process.
 - Gen 1:1-4 In the beginning, **God** created the heavens and the earth. 2) The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the **Spirit of God** was hovering over the face of the waters. 3) And **God said**, “Let there be light,” and there was light. 4) And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness.
- The ancient Hebrews would have missed this since it was a mystery. But the NT identifies all three members, declares their part in the process.
 - Ex. John 1:1 said Jesus is the Word, and the Word created the universe. We see God’s Word create in Gen 1:3.

Old Testament Implications

- So the first verse hints at plurality with Elohim, and the next two with the identification of the Father, Holy Spirit, and the Word.
- Later in the chapter, with the creation of man, we see the plurality at play again.
 - Gen 1:26-27 Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.



Individual Members Shown in the OT

- God in general usually refers to the Father.
- Holy Spirit is mentioned many times. One example is below.
 - Psalm 51:11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your **Holy Spirit** from me.
- The Messiah was to be divine.
 - Isa 9:6-7 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7) Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.



Summary of Trinity in OT

- With these points in mind, it is clear that what Jesus revealed in the New Testament were not new ideas altogether.
- The fact is, the Old Testament clearly shows that God is one, yet exists in a plurality.
- Furthermore, the Old Testament teaches that the Messiah was to be divine, and that there is also the Holy Spirit.
- What Jesus did as the Messiah is that He pulled all of this together and made the mystery appear in its full clarity.



Simultaneousness of the Three

- Unfortunately, the existence of Modalists make it necessary to go beyond proving the divinity of the three persons. We must also show their simultaneity.
 - Modalism = three manifestations.
- We only need one instance where all three are present at the same time. I’ll give two.
 - Matt 3:16-17 And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; 17) and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”
 - Act 7:55-56 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. 56) And he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

Trinitarian Formula

- Often opponents of the Trinitarian truth claim the doctrine did not exist until the Council of Nicaea in AD 325.
 - A light study of Church History can prove that wrong.
- Yet, even better are Biblical Trinitarian Confessions.
 - Matt 28:19 Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the **name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**,
 - 2Cor 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The Work of the Trinity

- Yet, we do see that within the Godhead, a certain relationship clearly exists between the three.
- They heap praise on each other.
 - Matt 3:17 and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."
 - John 5:19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.
 - John 15:26 "But when the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness about me.



Work of the Trinity

- Each member of the Trinity handles certain tasks as they relate to redemption and salvation.
- Secrecy is attributed to the Father.
 - John 6:37 All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never cast out.
 - Eph 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4) even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5) he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will,
- He even secretly controls the timing of events.
 - Mark 13:32 "But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but **only the Father**."
 - Gal 4:4 But when the fullness of time had come, **God sent forth his Son**, born of woman, born under the law,

Work of the Trinity

- The Father was also in control of the ministry of Jesus.
 - John 5:30 "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me."
- If secrecy is a property of the Father, openness is a property of the Son. He was clearly visible.
 - John 1:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
 - John 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father**. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"



Work of the Trinity

- If openness is a property of the Son, the clarification is a property of the Holy Spirit.
 - John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.
 - 1 Cor 2:10 these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.
- He also assures us of our salvation.
 - Rom 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"



Work of the Trinity

- The Father thought it.
 - Eph 1:9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ.
- The Son bought it.
 - 1Cor 6:20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.
- The Spirit wrought it.
 - John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.
- 1 Peter 1:2 sums it up nicely. We are chosen according to the foreknowledge of the Father, set apart by the Holy Spirit, and this is due to the blood of Christ.
 - 1Pet 1:2 according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in the sanctification of the Spirit, for obedience to Jesus Christ and for sprinkling with his blood: May grace and peace be multiplied to you.

Conclusion

- Faith must be in the right object, otherwise it does not save. God is Triune, thus saving faith is in the Triune God.
 - Along with it comes belief in the deity of Christ along with the Father and Holy Spirit.
 - You must believe they are three persons, but are the one God. They are not manifestations, but persons.
- The attributes of God's greatness and goodness are shared by all three of the Trinity.
 - It is impossible for attributes such as omnipotence, omniscience, and omnipresence to be shared by more than one being.
 - Yet, all three members have these attributes, meaning all three are one God.
 - Although they are distinct in their properties, they are one in their attributes.