

Subject: *The God of Adam and Eve – Part 2*

Scripture: *Genesis 1:26-31*

The Bible is a book of absolute truth. The most important truth God ever reveals is truth about Himself. Several things are clear in the first chapters of Genesis: 1) God made Adam and Eve; 2) God made them in His own image; 3) God made them to rule over other creatures; 4) God blessed them and told them to be fruitful and multiply; and 5) God provided for their needs (food and a place to live). In the creation of Adam and Eve God revealed some things about Himself.

1. God revealed His sovereignty (He is in control)

God made Adam and Eve because He wanted to. All people are created by God. There are no “self-made” men and women. God made you and me because He chose to.

The creation of Adam and Eve, like the creation of all things, displays the sovereignty of God. He chose to create them and make them the way He did. God is in control. He does what He wants, when He wants, and as He wants.

2. God revealed His wisdom

Adam and Eve were the masterpiece of God’s creation. They were created perfectly as the ideal man and ideal woman. Even though all other people (except Christ) are now born with a sinful nature, we still reflect the wisdom of the Master Designer. We have a spirit and a body. We have a mind to think, a will to choose, emotions to feel, and a conscience to tell us when we do right or wrong.

***Psalms 139:14** I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.*

3. God revealed His goodness and kindness

Adam and Eve were relatively small creatures in a big world, but they were very special and blessed by God. God revealed His goodness and kindness when He made the first man and woman. He has a special concern for the whole human race.

***Psalms 8:3-9**³ When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; ⁴ What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? ⁵ For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. ⁶ Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet: ⁷ All sheep and oxen, yea, and the beasts of the field; ⁸ The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas. ⁹ O LORD our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!*

4. God revealed something about the Trinity (one God in three Persons)

***Genesis 1:26** And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...*

Who does the word “us” refer to? God did not say, “Let me make man in my image, after my likeness.” Who was God referring to? He was not referring to the angels because man is not made in the image and likeness of angels. God was speaking of Himself, “Let us...in our...” This is an official introduction to the doctrine of the Trinity.

A. The Trinity is a foundational truth of the Christian faith

“Tri” (three) + “unity” (one God) = Trinity

John MacArthur: “God’s triunity stands as an indispensable fact of Christianity. It has been, is, and forever will be an indisputable bedrock belief of the Christian faith” (*Biblical Doctrine*, 344).

Wayne Grudem: “The doctrine of the Trinity is one of the most important doctrines of the Christian faith. To study the Bible’s teachings on the Trinity gives us great insight into the question that is at the center of all our seeking after God: What is God like in himself? Here we learn that in himself, in his very being, God exists in the persons of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, yet he is one God” (*Systematic Theology*, 226).

The word “Trinity” is not found in the Bible, but the truth is found. The word “Trinity” was first used by Tertullian (AD 150-230), one of the Church Fathers. Tertullian did not invent the doctrine of the Trinity, but he was among the first to explain it in some detail.

B. God introduced truth about the Trinity in the Book of Genesis

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. God (Elohim, plural) created (singular).*

Genesis 3:22 *And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil...*

Genesis 11:7-8 *...let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. ⁸ So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.*

Genesis 1:26 *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.*

Each of these verses in Genesis has a plural name for God or uses plural pronouns to refer to God. But none of these verses tells us there are three persons (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). That truth is revealed in other Scriptures.

C. The Old and New Testaments teach there is only one true God

Deuteronomy 6:4 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD.*

Isaiah 37:16 *O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.*

B. B. Warfield summarizes the Old Testament teaching of the Trinity: “The mystery of the Trinity is not revealed in the Old Testament; but the mystery of the Trinity underlies the Old

Testament revelation, and here and there almost comes into view. Thus the Old Testament revelation of God is not corrected by the fuller revelation (of the New Testament) which follows it, but only perfected, extended and enlarged” (cited in MacArthur and Mayhue, *Biblical Doctrine*, 200).

This was confirmed in the New Testament by Christ, John, and Paul.

Mark 12:29 *And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord.*

John 17:3 *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

1 Timothy 2:5 *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.*

The doctrine of the Trinity is taught partially in the OT and it taught clearly and completely in the New Testament. This is sometimes called “progressive revelation.”

D. The New Testament clearly teaches three Persons of the Trinity

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are present at Christ’s baptism (Mt. 3:16-17).

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are in Christ’s great commission (Mt. 28:19).

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are mentioned together in Paul’s epistles

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all referred to as God.

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all distinct from one another. Each has a special role.

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have the same attributes. Each is eternal, holy, omniscient.

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit divine rights (to receive worship, forgive sin)

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all perform divine acts (create & sustain life, raise the dead)

In summary, the Bible teaches: 1) there is only one God; 2) God exists as the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; 3) Each Person of the Trinity is fully God; 4) All three Persons are real and distinct from one another.

MacArthur and Mayhue offer this accurate statement: “Though various historical heresies and contemporary cult groups accuse the Trinity of being an illogical doctrine derived from human philosophy, the triunity of God is neither of those things, because it is first and foremost a biblical doctrine. While it may be ultimately incomprehensible, it is not contrary to reason and logic but can be rationally explained, supported, and understood through biblical revelation” (*Biblical Doctrine*, 189).

We would not know the truth about the Trinity unless God had revealed it to us.

Why is this truth important to us? 1) It reveals God as He truly is and as He is to be worshiped; 2) It protects us against false teaching; 3) It helps us understand and appreciate God’s work of creation and His greater work of salvation were accomplished by all three Persons: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.