

Biblical Proof That Jesus Truly Is God

God did not waste any time in revealing His triune nature to us. It can be seen in the very first chapter of Genesis. The first person to point this out to me was actually an ultra-Orthodox rabbi. His name was Yankel Kranz, and he was the leader of the Lubavitch community in Richmond, Virginia. The Lubavitcher *rebbe*, or “pope,” died in 1994, amidst claims that he was the Messiah.

After telling Messianic Jews for years that Isaiah 53 didn't refer to the Messiah's suffering (*He will come as a reigning king, not a suffering servant*—I was told), suddenly Rebbe Menachem Mendelson Schneierson was the fulfillment. Except, to the shock of his followers, **he did not rise from the dead**. For years, the Lubavitchers stood watch by his grave, but he did not appear. To this day, some believe he will rise.

“In *Our* Image”

Rabbi Kranz was a kind man. We met weekly, at my parents' behest, to study the Scriptures. On one of our first meetings, he pointed out Genesis 1:26:

“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness’” (Gen. 1:26).

“Ronnie,” he said, “this does not prove the Trinity.”

Being just a new believer, I was not claiming it did. I was largely ignorant of the Bible.

“What we see here,” he continued, “is God speaking to the angels. He is not speaking to any Son or Holy Spirit, but the angels.”

What did I know? This was all new to me. Buuuut... it got me

thinking. *Is he right? Isn't he just repeating what the anti-Messianics rabbis taught him to say?*

Dominion

The fact is, Genesis 1:26 is definitely a reference to God's triune nature. And I can prove it.

Let's read the whole passage:

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 air, and over the livestock, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them (Gen. 1:26-27).

God says to someone, or to some *ones*, "Let us make man in our image" (Gen. 1:26a). So, in their (their being to whomever he is speaking) image, man will be created.

But it could not be the angels. The angels were not given dominion to rule: "And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air, and over the livestock, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth" (Gen. 1:26b).

Angels, according to Hebrews, are "ministering spirits sent out to serve those who will inherit salvation." Angels serve us, as believers, in carrying out God's will on earth. They are not rulers. Therefore, he could not have been speaking to the angels.

Image of God

And it says, "God created man in his own image." In case there was any confusion, He adds, "in the image of God [not the angels]—He created them" (Gen. 1:27a). So, to whom was God

speaking?

Clearly, the godhead—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit—made this decision in complete unity.

One in Hebrew

Even the Hebrew word for *one* that is recited in the Shema—"Hear O' Israel, the Lord your God is *one*"—connotes unity or plurality. To mean one, you could use the word *yachid*, which means an individual or a single unit. But *echad*, as is used here in the Shema, means *one in unity*. It is the word God uses when he says, referring to a man and a wife, that the two "will become one (*echad*) flesh." And Eve was literally a part of Adam, as God made her from Adam's rib. From *echad* we get the Hebrew word for together, *yachad*—which means *together*. And this is the word that God uses, *echad*, when describing Himself.

If I were preaching on the importance of unity, I would not say that we need to be *yachid*—a single individual unit—but that we need to be *echad*—one in unity.

Let me give you a better example. *Echad* emphasizes unity, whereas *yachid* emphasizes a singular entity. If I were to say that someone is the *one and only* something, I would use *yachid*. But, if I were to say that the elders of the congregation act as one, I would use *echad*. God tells the Israelites that He is *Echad*, not *yachid*, in the most famous passage in the Hebrew Bible, Deuteronomy 6:4.

While the triune nature of only true God is complex and difficult for our finite minds to fully comprehend, there can be no question that God is revealing this to us, and He begins immediately in the very first chapter of the book of Genesis. {eoa}

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