

The Godhead

By Frank Jamerson

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Introduction and Names of God

Lesson 1

Purpose: This series of lessons will be a study of the Godhead. We will study the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and some false ideas about them. Special emphasis will be given to the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

A. Some definitions:

1. Theism – Belief in a God who has been revealed to man.
2. Atheism – The belief that there is no God.
3. Agnosticism – The belief that man cannot know whether there is a God, or anything beyond material phenomena.
4. Deism – The belief that God created the world but takes no active role in its functioning.
5. Polytheism – The belief that there are many gods.
6. Pantheism – The belief that god is everything and everything is god.
7. Trinity – The unity of three divine persons in one God, or Godhead.
8. Tritheism – The belief that there are three Gods.

B. Names of God:

1. El (singular) or Elohim (plural) – means “Mighty one,” or “all powerful.” “It may even denote a position of honor and authority among men. Moses was ‘Elohim’ to Pharaoh (Exodus 7:1), and to Aaron, Exodus 4:16” (ISBE, Volume 2, page 1254).
 - a. El-elyon – denotes the God of Israel as the most high God, Genesis 14:17-20.
 - b. El-roi – denotes the God who sees, Genesis 16:13.
 - c. El-shaddai – denotes that God is mighty or almighty, Genesis 17:1; 49:24, 25.
2. Adonai – the plural form of “Adon” means Master or Lord. It emphasizes His sovereignty (Psalm 2:4; Isaiah 7:7), and corresponds to “Kurios” (Lord) in the New Testament. (Some translations use LORD when reference is to the word Jehovah and Lord when reference is to the word Adonai, Acts 2:34.)
3. Jehovah – “This is the personal proper name par excellence of Israel’s God, even as Chemosh was that of the god of Moab and Dagon that of the god of the Philistines. The original meaning and derivation of the word are unknown...According to Exodus 3:13f, and especially 6:2, 3, it was first introduced by Moses, and was the medium of a new revelation

of the God of their fathers to the children of Israel” (ISBE, page 1254). (Jesus applied this name to Himself, John 8:24, 58. It refers to self-existence.)

- a. Jehovah-jireh – “Jehovah will provide,” Genesis 22:14.
 - b. Jehovah-tsidkenu – “Jehovah our righteousness,” Jeremiah 33:16.
 - c. Jehovah-shalom – “Jehovah our peace,” Judges 6:24. Compare Isaiah 9:6 and Ephesians 2:14.
 - d. Jehovah-nissi – “Jehovah is my banner,” Exodus 17:15, 16.
 - e. Jehovah-sabaoth – “Jehovah of hosts,” 1 Samuel 1:3; Psalm 24:10.
4. Some names in the New Testament:
- a. Theos – comparable to Elohim in the Old Testament. It means “deity” (or God), John 1:1; 20:28; Hebrews 1:8.
 - b. Kurios – comparable to Jehovah and Adonai in the Old Testament, John 20:28; Romans 10:9, 13.

C. Plurality in the New Testament:

1. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are called God (Theos).
 - a. Father – 1 Peter 1:2.
 - b. Son – Hebrews 1:8
 - c. Holy Spirit – Acts 5:3, 4.
2. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are eternal.
 - a. Father – Isaiah 44:6; Romans 16:26.
 - b. Son – Isaiah 9:6; Revelation 1:17.
 - c. Holy Spirit – Hebrews 9:14.
3. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are omnipresent.
 - a. Father – Jeremiah 23:24.
 - b. Son – Matthew 18:20; 28:20.
 - c. Holy Spirit – Psalm 139:7.
4. Each is a Spirit Being (though the Son existed in flesh for a period of time, John 1:1, 14; Hebrews 5:7; 1 John 4:2, 3).

STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. What is the difference between an atheist and an agnostic?
2. What is the difference between trinity and tritheism?
3. Give some examples of pantheism today.

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4. In what two ways is Elohim used?

 5. Give some things suggested about God's nature by the combination of El with other words.

 6. What is the meaning of Adonai?

 7. What is the significance of two uses of Lord in Acts 2:34?

 8. What name did God give Himself to Moses?

 9. What is the significance of that name?

 10. Give five things that are learned about Him by the combination of Jehovah with other words.

 11. What two Greek words are used to refer to God?

 12. Is the word Jehovah used in the New Testament?

 13. In addition to being called God, what characteristics show that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are Divine Beings?

 14. What is the nature of all three Beings?