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The "Eternal" Three

&

"The LORD our God, the LORD is one!"

A Bible Study on the Eternal Godhead

Compiled by Dan Augsburger

Matthew 28:19 (KJV) "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

Deuteronomy 6:4 (NKJV) "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!"

*"The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the eternal Godhead..."
Ellen G. White, Manuscript 45, 1904.16*

This is the fourth part of a multi-part Bible Study on the Godhead.

Introduction

This part of the multi-part Bible study on the Godhead looks at various passages where the “Three” are listed together, establishing the presence and joint activity of three separate entities in the Godhead, and then integrating the “Three” with the “LORD our God, the LORD is one” found in Deuteronomy 6:4. The three distinct Persons and “the LORD is one” are completely compatible.

We will first look at the Three Persons of the Godhead, follow with the “Three” in the writings of Ellen White, and finally, but certainly not least! the Godhead as portrayed in Deuteronomy 6:4.

We go forward acknowledging there there is much that we do not understand: “Let human beings consider that by all their searching they can never interpret God. When the redeemed shall be pure and clean to come into His presence, they will understand that all that has reverence to the eternal God, the unapproachable God, cannot be represented in figures.” Ellen White, Manuscript 223 1902.17.

We also go forward sobered by the realization that we can make decisions and come to understandings contrary to the teachings of the Scripture.

Please know that I intend no lack of reverence by referring to the distinct Persons of the Godhead as the “Eternal Three” or the “Three” in these studies. As you will quickly discover, there are so many positive references to the “Three” attached to other descriptors in the writings of Ellen White—“Three great and glorious heavenly characters” for example—that the expression “The Three” is communicated with joy and fervent appreciation to the Persons who have done and still do so much for all of us.

Unless indicated otherwise, quotations come from the writings of Mrs. White. The scriptures with asterisks (*) indicate important references.

Do you have feedback and suggestions on these studies? I would love to hear from you. Do you have questions? Would you like to receive more information? Are you interested in a future compilation of the writings of Ellen White on the subject? Please write: discipleheart@protonmail.com or call 269 471 5415.

You can also find more information on the Godhead at my website discipleheart.com. There are more than 600 pages of resources there on a wide variety of subjects.

Dan Augsburg

1026 of a prayer of Christ to His Father. Having clearly established Christ’s
1027 Godhead, rather than being a statement of a lessor position, Christ was
1028 seeking to be fully reinstated to the position He had shared with His
1029 Father from the beginning.

1030 The compiler sincerely hopes that the studies have provided over-
1031 whelming evidence for the Godhead of the Three Persons, and demys-
1032 tified the complimentary “One God” Three Persons” paradox.

1033 Final thoughts

1034 Be careful who you listen to.

1035 1 John 2:22 “Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ?
1036 He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.”

1037 Honor the Son.

1038 John 5:23 “That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour
1039 the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father
1040 which hath sent him.”

1041 Do not blaspheme against the Holy Spirit.

1042 Mark 3:28-29 (NKJV) “Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiv-
1043 en the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter; 29 but
1044 he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but
1045 is subject to eternal condemnation”

1046 Avoid controversy.

1047 Titus 3:9 “But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and con-
1048 tentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and
1049 vain.”

1050 Look forward to a glorious future that will include worshipping the
1051 three Persons of the Godhead.

1052 “As the saints in the kingdom of God are accepted in the beloved, they
1053 hear: “Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared
1054 for you from the foundation of the world.” [Matthew 25:34.] And then
1055 the golden harps are touched, and the music flows all through the
1056 heavenly host, and they fall down and worship the Father and the Son
1057 and the Holy Spirit. And then what? What next did I see? One meets
1058 another; and they say, as they fall right upon their necks with their
1059 faces shining with the glory of God, ‘It was you, it was you that
1060 brought the truth to me, and I would not hear it at first, but, O I am so
1061 glad.’” Manuscript 139, 1906.32.

985 In the third part of the study, we considered evidence for the Holy
 986 Spirit being Christ’s Representative, Successor, a distinct Person, and
 987 member of the Godhead. We looked at the the non-communicable
 988 attributes—immutability, self-existence, omnipotence, omniscience,
 989 and omnipresence—of the Holy Spirit, the presence and activity of the
 990 Holy Spirit in the Old Testament, the presence and activity of the Holy
 991 Spirit in the life of Christ, the teachings and promises of Christ regard-
 992 ing the Holy Spirit as a distinct and independent Person that would
 993 bring power and boldness to the early believers, the Holy Spirit’s role
 994 as Representative, Successor and Comforter after Christ ascended to
 995 Heaven, the fulfilment of those promises on the Day of Pentecost, the
 996 ongoing leadership and activity of the Holy Spirit in the Early Church,
 997 the recognition of the Holy Spirit as a Person and God by the early be-
 998 lievers, multitudinous manifestations attesting to the Personhood of
 999 the Holy Spirit, similar multitudinous manifestations attesting to His
 1000 Deity, the many marvelous “Three” quotations that place the Holy
 1001 Spirit on equal footing with the other Persons of the Godhead—abundant
 1002 clear statements that are unequivocal on the Holy Spirit being one
 1003 of the Three, and some thoughts on the mistaken assertions that the
 1004 Holy Spirit is only a spiritual manifestation and third personification
 1005 of power in spite of overwhelming evidence otherwise.

1006 In this fourth “Three Person” part of the Bible study, further confirma-
 1007 tion was given of three distinct Divine Persons, through verses com-
 1008 piled where the Three are listed together in the Old Testament, the
 1009 New Testament, and a longer list of “Three” statements in the writings
 1010 of Ellen White. Consideration was also given to Deuteronomy 6:4 and
 1011 the “LORD our God, the LORD is one.” We discovered that the
 1012 “Three” and the “One” are fully compatible, the Scriptures teaching
 1013 the mysterious, but blessed “one God” “Three Persons” paradox. Im-
 1014 portant information was provided establishing that *’echâd* was a uni-
 1015 tary one rather than a mathematical one such as *yâchîyd*. Accordingly,
 1016 though the Scriptures correctly speak of one God in various places, the
 1017 designation does not negate the three distinct Persons that have been
 1018 studied in early portions of this series of studies. Attention was direct-
 1019 ed to the essential nature of the Godhead, including loving relation-
 1020 ships within the Godhead, perfect and complete unity between the Per-
 1021 sons of the Godhead, diversity—individuality and personality—within
 1022 that unity, humility, and submission in relationships of equals—in-
 1023 structing on the proper representation of God through loving relation-
 1024 ships, unity, diversity, humility and appropriate submission. Time was
 1025 also given to the question of the “True God,” articulated in the course

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951 *lower god, Jesus is asking for a reinstatement of the same glory He*
 952 *had at the beginning—equal to the Father.*²⁹ *The NKJV renders it, “O*
 953 *Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had*
 954 *with You before the world was (John 17:3).”*

955 *Beyond that we should not comment. This falls into the “unsearchable*
 956 *and past finding out” that awaits our discovery in heaven.*

957 *Remember: “The greatness of God cannot be measured or*
 958 *comprehended. And that doctrine that denies the absolute Godhead of*
 959 *Jesus Christ, denies also the Godhead of the Father; for no man*
 960 *knoweth the Son but the Father.” White, Signs of the Times, June 27,*
 961 *1895, par. 3.*

962 *Reviewing & Final Thoughts*

963 *Reviewing*

964 In the first study of this series of Bible Studies on the Godhead, We
 965 considered the Godhead of the Father, noting particularly the supernat-
 966 ural experience that is constantly going on around us, of which we un-
 967 derstand only a tiny bit. But when it comes to knowing the one who
 968 conceived, designed and then created planet earth, we know even less.
 969 That said, there is overwhelming evidence to believe in a supernatural
 970 designer and creator. We also noted that all communication from heav-
 971 en with humankind was taken over by Christ after the fall, resulting in
 972 His presence in many narratives of the Old Testament.

973 In the second study on the Godhead of Christ, we looked at a variety
 974 of lines of evidence that overwhelmingly confirmed that Christ was
 975 the eternal, self-existent, co-equal, divine Person, Savior and God.
 976 Among the lines of evidence were his being known and referred to as
 977 God, the prophecies pointing to His incarnation and ministry, the su-
 978 pernatural nature of His birth and other events connected with it, the
 979 many miracles performed, the power given to others to do miracles,
 980 His numerous claims of His Godhead—coming from heaven, knowing
 981 the Father, coming in His own glory, etc—and assurances that only a
 982 God could give, to say nothing of His allowing many people to wor-
 983 ship Him and His being greeted as God at the time of the second
 984 coming.

²⁹ “Here [The Scriptures] we may learn what our redemption has cost the One who was equal with the Father from the beginning” Letter 64, 1909.5.

912 A contrast between the Creator God and pagan gods.
 913 *Jeremiah 10:10-11* “But the LORD is the true God, he is the living
 914 God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and
 915 the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation. 11 Thus shall ye
 916 say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth,
 917 even they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens.”
 918 The phrase “true God,” first mentioned in *Jeremiah 10:10*, defines the
 919 “true God” as the Creator God who “hath made the earth by his
 920 power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath
 921 stretched out the heavens by his discretion,” and contrasts the “true—
 922 Creator—God” to the false “gods that have not made the heavens and
 923 the earth (*Jeremiah 10:11*).” The Hebrew word for God in *Jeremiah*
 924 *10:10* is “’ēlohîym,” such as is found in *Genesis 1:27, 11:7* and
 925 *Exodus 20:3*.
 926 I would accordingly suggest the verse is not contrasting between the
 927 Father—the “True God,” and thereby making Christ a false god—
 928 absolutely UNTRUE! and blasphemous. Or that the Father is the
 929 “only true god,” and Jesus Christ as a lesser entity. Rather this is a
 930 comparison between the true Creator God and pagan gods.

931 Thoughts on Christ seeking reinstatement of the glory He shared with
 932 His Father prior to the incarnation.
 933 In *John 12:27-33* Jesus speaks of having come at a particular time—
 934 “for this cause came I unto this hour” (*John 12:27*), for a particular
 935 purpose—“now shall the prince of this world be cast out” (*John*
 936 *12:31*), and asks the Father to “glorify His own name”—the Father’s
 937 name. In other words, in coming Jesus emptied Himself of any glory
 938 and did not seek to attract attention to Himself.
 939 In *John 17:1-5*, at the end of His ministry, Jesus implores the Father to
 940 reinstate the glory He [Christ] had prior to his humbling Himself and
 941 coming to earth: “Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy
 942 Son also may glorify thee (*John 17:1*).” In reminding the Father that
 943 eternal life comes to those who recognize “the only true God, and
 944 Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent (*John 17:3*),” Jesus is pointing to
 945 the casting out of the “prince of this world,” mentioned in *John 12:31*.
 946 Christ concludes by asking that the glory He enjoyed prior to coming
 947 to earth would be reinstated: “Glorify thou me with thine own self
 948 with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. (*John*
 949 *17:5*)”
 950 Far from stating that His Father was the only true God and Himself a

The Bible Study

- 1 We stand on holy ground!
- 2 Exodus 3:5 “And he said, Draw not nigh hither: put off thy shoes from
 3 off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground.”
- 4 Romans 11:33 “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and
 5 knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways
 6 past finding out!”
- 7 Deuteronomy 29:29 “The secret things belong unto the LORD our
 8 God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our
 9 children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law.”¹
- 10 There are three persons in the Eternal Godhead.
- 11 Matthew 28:19 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them
 12 in the name of the Father², and of the Son³, and of the Holy Ghost.⁴”
- 13 “The LORD our God, the LORD is one!”
- 14 Deuteronomy 6:4 (NKJV) “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the
 15 LORD is one!”
- 16 *Though this only comes in the final study, this is one of the most*
 17 *important topics we can look at. Before we consider “the LORD is*
 18 *one” we will consider where the Eternal “Three are mentioned*

1 “In regard to entering into the subject of the divine mystery of the essence of God, Christ ever maintained a wise reserve.” White, Manuscript 45, 1900.10. “In regard to the personality and prerogatives of God, where He is, and what He is, this is a subject which we are not to dare to touch. On this theme silence is eloquence.” White, Manuscript 132, 1903.31. “God is to be acknowledged more from what He does not reveal of Himself than from that which is open to our limited comprehension. If men could comprehend the unsearchable wisdom of God and could explain that which He has done or can do, they would no longer give Him reverence or fear His power. In divine revelation God has given to men mysteries that are incomprehensible, to command their faith. This must be so. If the ways and works of God could be explained by finite minds, He would not stand as supreme. Men may be ever searching, ever inquiring, ever learning, and yet there is an infinite beyond.” White, Manuscript 4, 1882.13.

2 “God is the eternal, self-existent One ... God is a person.” White, Manuscript 137, 1903.4.

3 “Christ is equal with God, infinite and omnipotent ... the eternal, self-existing Son.” White, *Youth’s Instructor*, June 21, 1900, par. 2.

4 “The Holy Spirit ... must also be a divine person, else He could not search out the

19 *together in the Scriptures as well as the writings of Ellen White. The*
20 *evidence is compelling for Three Distinct Persons in the Eternal*
21 *Godhead.⁵ Then we will look at “the LORD is one” and consider why*
22 *the portrayal of the “one” aspect is so important to our overall*
23 *understanding of the Godhead, and why we can legitimately speak of*
24 *the “only true God” without losing the distinct Three Persons that*
25 *make up the Godhead.*

26 The “Three” in the Scriptures

27 *There are numerous references to the “Three” throughout the*
28 *Scriptures.*

29 There are clear references to the “Three” in the Old
30 Testament.

31 *Because the Old Testament is not as explicit in revealing the three Per-*
32 *sons of Godhead as the New Testament, sometimes an Old Testament*
33 *Scripture is paired to a New Testament Scripture; sometimes the evi-*
34 *dence is based on two of the Persons rather than all three; and some-*
35 *times only an allusion to the plurality in the Godhead is provided.*

36 Psalms 45:6-7 “Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of
37 thy kingdom is a right sceptre. 7 Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest
38 wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of
39 gladness above thy fellows.”

40 Compare

41 Hebrews 1:8-9 “But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for
42 ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.
43 9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God,
44 even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy
45 fellows.”

46 Psalms 110:1-2 “The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right
47 hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.”

48 Compare

49 Hebrews 1:8,13 “But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for

secrets which lie hidden in the mind of God.” White, Manuscript 20, 1906.32.

⁵ “The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the eternal Godhead....” White, Manuscript 45, 1904.16.

877 We should be humble.

878 Matthew 11:28-30 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy
879 laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn
880 of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto
881 your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

882 We should appropriately submit to those in rightful authority over us.

883 Luke 9:23 “And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let
884 him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.”

885 The “Only True” God

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

888 Some thoughts on the the “Only True” God.

889 *The “Only True” God is not so difficult to understand when*
890 *understood in light of the “LORD is one.” But there is more to*
891 *consider.*

892 *Was Jesus really suggesting in John 17:3 that His Father was the only*
893 *true God, and therefore negating His equal participation in the*
894 *Godhead and that of the Holy Spirit, and discouraging worship of the*
895 *two of them?*

896 What is the evidence in Scripture and the writings of Ellen White?

897 *As we have already seen, (1) Christ is clearly spoken of as God in the*
898 *Old and New Testament, and in the writings of Ellen White. (2) Christ*
899 *is clearly spoken of as being equal to God in the Old and New*
900 *Testament, and in the writings of Ellen White. (3) Christ’s incarnation*
901 *and ministry was full of supernatural events. (4) Christ made claims*
902 *and gave assurances that only a Deity could make and assure. (5)*
903 *Christ is clearly spoken of as accepting the worship of human beings*
904 *in the Old and New Testament, and in the writings of Ellen White. (6)*
905 *We are told that Christ came to earth as man and will ascend to*
906 *heaven as God. (7) We will welcome Christ as God at the time of the*
907 *second coming. (8) We are told that we will worship the Father, Christ*
908 *and the Holy Spirit in heaven. (9) Adults and children are encouraged*
909 *to pray to Christ. In light of this evidence, Christ’s statement cannot*
910 *possibly suggest that the Father is the only “true” God and that*
911 *Christ is not God and inferior.*

852 1 John 4:8 “He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”
853 1 John 1:5 “This then is the message which we have heard of him, and
854 declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”
855 Exodus 34:6-7 “And the LORD passed by before him, and pro-
856 claimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuf-
857 fering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thou-
858 sands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no
859 means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the
860 children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the
861 fourth generation.”
862 2 Corinthians 5:19 “To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the
863 world unto himself.”²⁷
864 • What is the practical application of the unity between the Father and
865 the Son?
866 We should be loving.
867 John 13:35 “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye
868 have love one to another.”
869 We should be united.
870 1 Corinthians 1:10 “Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our
871 Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be
872 no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the
873 same mind and in the same judgment.”
874 We must maintain our individuality —diversity.
875 Romans 12:5 “So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every
876 one members one of another.”²⁸

been manifested in the earth have emanated from the throne of God, and, compared to the love that dwells in his heart, are as a fountain to an ocean.” White, *Signs of the Times*, March 5, 1896, par. 3.

27 “In Christ the character of the Father was revealed. As children looked upon his countenance, they saw purity and goodness shining forth from his eyes. In his countenance gentleness, meekness, love, and conscious power were combined. But though every word, every gesture, every expression of his face, betokened his divine supremacy, humility marked his deportment and bearing. He came but for one purpose; and that was the salvation of the lost.” White, *The Youth's Instructor*, June 23, 1892, par. 3.

28 “By the figure of the vine and the branches, Christ illustrated not only the relation that should exist between Him and His followers, but also the union between every believer and his fellow believer. The branches of the vine are related to each other; but they are not alike. Each has its own individuality, which cannot be merged into that of another, but all have a special connection with each other.” White, Letter 112, 1907.13.

50 ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.
51 ... 13 But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right
52 hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?”

53 Isaiah 11:1-5 (NKJV) “There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of
54 Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The Spirit of the
55 LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
56 The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the
57 fear of the LORD. 3 His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He
58 shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of
59 His ears; 4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide
60 with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the
61 rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the
62 wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And
63 faithfulness the belt of His waist.”

64 Isaiah 34:16 “Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one
65 of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath
66 commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.”

67 Isaiah 42:1 (NKJV) “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect
68 One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He
69 will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.”

70 Isaiah 48:16-17 “Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not
71 spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there
72 am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me. 17 Thus
73 saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the
74 LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by
75 the way that thou shouldest go.”

76 Isaiah 61:1-2 “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the
77 LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath
78 sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the
79 captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; 2 To
80 proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance
81 of our God; to comfort all that mourn.”

82 Isaiah 63:7-14 “I will mention the lovingkindnesses of the LORD, and
83 the praises of the LORD, according to all that the LORD hath
84 bestowed on us, and the great goodness toward the house of Israel,
85 which he hath bestowed on them according to his mercies, and
86 according to the multitude of his lovingkindnesses. 8 For he said,
87 Surely they are my people, children that will not lie: so he was their

88 Saviour. 9 In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his
89 presence saved them: in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;
90 and he bare them, and carried them all the days of old. 10 But they
91 rebelled, and vexed his holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their
92 enemy, and he fought against them. 11 Then he remembered the days
93 of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them
94 up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? where is he that put
95 his holy Spirit within him? 12 That led them by the right hand of
96 Moses with his glorious arm, dividing the water before them, to make
97 himself an everlasting name? 13 That led them through the deep, as an
98 horse in the wilderness, that they should not stumble? 14 As a beast
99 goeth down into the valley, the Spirit of the LORD caused him to rest:
100 so didst thou lead thy people, to make thyself a glorious name.”

101 Malachi 3:1-2 “Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall
102 prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall
103 suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant,
104 whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. 2
105 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when
106 he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap.”

107 The Old Testament “Plurals” provide additional evidence.
108 *The verses that follow point to the Godhead. Though they are weaker*
109 *evidence in confirming the Godhead—they are based on the word*
110 *'ēlōhîym, which is a commonly used word for God in the Old Testa-*
111 *ment, but can also describe a wide variety of other entities, including*
112 *individuals (Psalm 82:6), angels (Psalm 8:6), false gods (Exodus*
113 *20:23)—these verses provide evidence which cannot be ignored.*
114 *Sometimes mistakenly considered “plurals of majesty,” the verses are*
115 *not such “plurals” since the Scriptures contain no evidence that any*
116 *king used such a thing. Our understanding of the Godhead is not de-*
117 *pendent on these “plurals,” however, there being more than sufficient*
118 *evidence in other ways. That said, precious aspects of the Godhead*
119 *are highlighted in these verses which will be considered later in this*
120 *study.*⁶

121 *Genesis 1:26a “And God said, Let us make man in our image.”

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

6 See Norman Gully, “Trinity in the Old Testament,” *Journal of the Adventist Theological Society*, 17:1 (Spring 2006) Trinity Issue., 84,85 to learn more about these “plurals.”

822 *Christ revealed Himself as “Almighty God” to Abraham, Isaac and*
823 *Jacob, but revealed Himself as YHWH to Moses at the time of*
824 *Exodus.*²⁴ *Though the Spirit was very active in the Old Testament,*
825 *more complete information only comes in the New Testament. That*
826 *could explain why the Jewish people who had more limited*
827 *information in Old Testament times focused so much on Deuteronomy*
828 *6:4 and related passages, but would have a more complete*
829 *understanding at the time of Christ's earthly sojourn.*

830 Genesis 1:1-2 “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
831 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon
832 the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the
833 waters.”

834 • There is submission in a relationship of equals.

835 *Though they are equals, the Father apparently plays the lead role;*
836 *Christ voluntarily humbled and submitted Himself to the Father; and*
837 *continues that submission while seated at the right hand of the Father;*
838 *the Holy Spirit is in voluntary submission to the Father and Christ.*²⁵

839 John 4:34 “Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that
840 sent me, and to finish his work.”

841 John 6:38 “For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will,
842 but the will of him that sent me.”

843 Hebrews 10:7 “Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is
844 written of me,) to do thy will, O God.”

845 Luke 22:42 “Saying, Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from
846 me: nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done.”

847 John 16:14 “He [Holy Spirit] shall glorify me: for he shall receive of
848 mine, and shall shew it unto you.”

849 • We also find perfect, other-centered, love.

850 *The Bible is clear that God not only loves, He is the source of all*
851 *love!*²⁶

24 Exodus 6:2,3. Recall that Christ took over all communication after the fall of man.

25 “The work of the Spirit had been clearly defined by Christ. “He shall not speak of Himself,” He said. “He shall glorify Me.” [John 16:13, 14.] As Christ came to glorify the Father by the revelation of His infinite love, so the Spirit came to glorify Christ.” Letter 213, 1903.12.

26 “The Lord has instructed us to call God our Father, to regard him as the fountain of paternal affection, the source of the love that has been flowing from century to century through the channel of the human heart. All the pity, compassion, and love which have

798 that thou hast sent me.”

799 • We find diversity—individuality and personality—in that unity.

800 *There is also diversity in unity. Though they are perfectly united, they*
801 *still have their distinct personalities and specific functions.*¹⁹

802 1 John 1:3 “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you,
803 that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is
804 with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”²⁰

805 Hebrews 1:1-3 “God, ... 2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by
806 his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he
807 made the worlds; 3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the ex-
808 press image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his
809 power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right
810 hand of the Majesty on high.”²¹

811 • We find self-effacing humility.

812 *In the Godhead we find perfect unity between three distinct Persons.*
813 *This could only be possible because the Three are completely rooted in*
814 *humility. In the very first verse in the Bible we find this self-effacing*
815 *humility in the declaration that “God created the heaven and the*
816 *earth.” Though the verse speaks of the work of God creating, the*
817 *actual creator was Christ.*²² *Hidden within the designation “God” are*
818 *“Three” who were present and participated in different ways, but with*
819 *such self-effacing humility and unity that “God created” is an*
820 *accurate description of what happened.*²³

821 *We should also consider that revelation is progressive. For example,*

19 “Christ’s oneness with the Father was a constant joy to God; for He knew that there was in the world one who would not misrepresent Him. In Christ He beheld the reflection of His own character. And it was that His followers might have this same oneness that was Christ’s great desire. For this oneness He prayed.” White, Letter 317, 1904.6 ... “The oneness existing between the Father and the Son does not affect the distinct personality of each. And though believers are to be one with Christ, their identity and personality is recognized through the whole of this prayer.” White, Letter 317, 1904.10.

20 “All through the Scriptures, the Father and the Son are spoken of as two distinct personages. You will hear men endeavoring to make the Son of God a nonentity. He and the Father are one, but they are two personages.” White, Manuscript 56, 1905.4.

21 “The position of Jesus Christ in reference to His Father is in these verses [Hebrews 1:1-3] brought to view. While they are one in purpose, and one in mind, yet in personality they are two.” White, Manuscript 179, 1907.2.

22 John 1:3: “All things were created by Him”; Colossians 1:16: “For by him were all things created”; Hebrews 1:2 “By whom also he made the worlds.”

23 Though Christ was the primary agent of creation, the Father created through Him (Ephesians 3:9), and the Spirit was very present (Genesis 1:2).

124 Genesis 11:7 “Go to, let us go down, and there confound their
125 language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.”

126 Isaiah 6:8 “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”

127 There are references to the “Three” in the New
128 Testament.

129 *The New Testament is exceedingly clear on the Three Living Persons*
130 *of the Godhead.*

131 *Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy
132 Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall
133 overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of
134 thee shall be called the Son of God.”

135 Luke 2:25-27 “And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose
136 name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for
137 the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. 26 And it
138 was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see
139 death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. 27 And he came by the
140 Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus,
141 to do for him after the custom of the law.”

142 *Luke 3:21-22 “Now when all the people were baptized, it came to
143 pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was
144 opened, 22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a
145 dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art
146 my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.”

147 Matthew 3:16-17 “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up
148 straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto
149 him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting
150 upon him: 17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved
151 Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

152 Luke 4:18-19 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath
153 anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal
154 the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and
155 recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,
156 19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”

157 *John 3:33-35 “He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal
158 that God is true. 34 For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of
159 God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. 35 The Father
160 loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.”

161 *John 14:16 “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another

162 Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever.”
163 John 14:26 “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the
164 Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring
165 all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”
166 *John 15:26 “But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto
167 you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from
168 the Father, he shall testify of me.”
169 John 20:20-22 “And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his
170 hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the
171 Lord. 21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my
172 Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this,
173 he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy
174 Ghost.”
175 *Acts 2:38-39 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized
176 every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins,
177 and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is
178 unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as
179 many as the Lord our God shall call.”
180 Acts 10:38 “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost
181 and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were
182 oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”
183 Romans 5:1,5 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with
184 God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ... 5 And hope maketh not
185 ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the
186 Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”
187 Romans 8:2-3 “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath
188 made me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law could
189 not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son
190 in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.”
191 Romans 8:9-11 “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be
192 that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit
193 of Christ, he is none of his. 10 And if Christ be in you, the body is
194 dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11
195 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in
196 you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your
197 mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”
198 *Romans 8:16-17 “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit,
199 that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of
200 God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that

772 *Perfect, loving relationships existed among the Godhead from the*
773 *beginning. In the course of fulfilling the plan of redemption, Christ*
774 *gave His life for us, and eventually experienced temporary, heart-*
775 *breaking separation from His Father. The Father experienced a*
776 *similar aching separation from His Son. We often forget the personal*
777 *trauma that the members of the Godhead experienced in this respect.¹⁵*
778 *There are quotes about the infinite love of the Father for Christ.¹⁶*
779 John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten
780 Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have
781 everlasting life.”
782 Matthew 3:17 “And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my
783 beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”
784 Mark 14:36 “And he said, Abba, Father, all things are possible unto
785 thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless not what I will, but
786 what thou wilt.”
787 Matthew 27:46 “And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud
788 voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my
789 God, why hast thou forsaken me?”
790 • We find perfect unity!
791 *The three divine Persons of the Godhead are perfectly united in na-*
792 *ture, character, and purpose. The Godhead presents a unity that is so*
793 *complete that it can be correctly expressed in the singular! Though*
794 *they are Three, they are referred to as one God.¹⁷*
795 *John 10:30 “I and my Father are one.”¹⁸
796 John 17:21 “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I
797 in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe

15 “God withheld not even the sacrifice of Himself. He gave Himself in His Son. The Father suffered with Christ in all His humiliation and agony” White, Manuscript 21, 1900.11.

16 “[T]he Father demonstrates His infinite love for Christ by receiving and welcoming Christ’s friends as His friends.” *Experiences in Australia*, 259.5.

17 “Those to whom the Lord spoke anciently were in possession of the knowledge of the true God. Their message to the world was the existence of a personal God and the unity between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, in carrying forward the great work of redemption in every soul that is emptied of self.” White, Manuscript 78, 1905.20. “Christ, the Word, the only begotten of God, was one with the eternal Father—one in nature, in character, in purpose—the only being that could enter into all the counsels and purposes of God.” White, Patriarchs and Prophets, 34.1.

18 “From eternity there was a complete unity between the Father and the Son. They were two, yet little short of being identical; two in individuality, yet one in spirit, and heart, and character. White, *Youth Instructor*, December 16, 1897, par. 5.

743 particularly emphasizes the unity of the three members of the
744 Godhead!¹⁴

745 • Sample verses with 'echâd.

746 Genesis 2:24 “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother,
747 and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.”

748 Judges 20:11 “So all the men of Israel were gathered against the city,
749 knit together as one man.”

750 • Sample verses with yâchîyd.

751 Proverbs 4:3 (NKJV) “When I was my father’s son, Tender and the
752 only one in the sight of my mother,”

753 Zechariah 12:10 “And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon
754 the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications:
755 and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall
756 mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in
757 bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.”

758 What is the significance of the “Lord is one” aspect of the
759 Godhead?

760 *In studying this topic, it helps to remember that God is past finding
761 out, His ways are incomprehensible, He defies human reasoning! We
762 must therefore be satisfied with the limited information provided.*

763 • We are touching the essential nature of the Godhead.

764 *When we speak of the mysterious, oneness between the Three Persons
765 of the Godhead, we touch the core of the Godhead. Just as the unity of
766 God’s church is the clearest revelation of the God we represent, so the
767 apparent unity between the Persons of the Godhead provides the
768 clearest information on what the Godhead is all about. Among these
769 elements are love, unity, diversity, humble self-effacement and ongoing
770 submission in a relationship of equals.*

771 • We find loving relationships within the Godhead.

201 we may be also glorified together.”

202 Romans 14:17-18 “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but
203 righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. 18 For he that in
204 these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of
205 men.”

206 Romans 15:12-13 “And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of
207 Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the
208 Gentiles trust. 13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace
209 in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the
210 Holy Ghost.”

211 1 Corinthians 6:15,19 “Know ye not that your bodies are the members
212 of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the
213 members of an harlot? God forbid. ... 19 What? know ye not that your
214 body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have
215 of God, and ye are not your own?

216 1 Corinthians 12:3-6 “Wherefore I give you to understand, that no
217 man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no
218 man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. 4 Now
219 there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are
220 differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are
221 diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in
222 all.”

223 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 “Now he which stablisheth us with you in
224 Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; 22 Who hath also sealed us, and
225 given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”

226 2 Corinthians 3:3-4 “Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be
227 the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with
228 the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables
229 of the heart. 4 And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward.”

230 *2 Corinthians 13:14 “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love
231 of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.
232 Amen.”

233 Galatians 6:8, 14-15 “For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh
234 reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap
235 life everlasting. ... 14 But God forbid that I should glory, save in the
236 cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto
237 me, and I unto the world.”

238 Ephesians 1:3-4 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus
239 Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly

14 There are two words for “one” in Hebrew: 'echâd and yâchîyd. 'Echâd refers to the unity in diversity between a man and wife, or the unity in diversity of a group of people who are linked together for some reason (Gen 2:24; 11:6; Judges 20:11; Ezek 37:19). Yâchîyd refers to uniqueness, as in an only son or an only child (Prov 4:3; Zech 12:10). For a more complete discussion see Gulley, 83-84. The authors of *Trinity* have a very helpful definition as well: a “oneness that results from a unity of numerous persons.” Find a more complete discussion in W. Whidden, 34.

240 places in Christ: 4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the
241 foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame
242 before him in love. ... 12 That we should be to the praise of his glory,
243 who first trusted in Christ. 13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye
244 heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also
245 after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.”
246 Ephesians 2:18 “For through him we both have access by one Spirit
247 unto the Father.”
248 Ephesians 2:20-22 “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles
249 and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In
250 whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy
251 temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an
252 habitation of God through the Spirit.”
253 Ephesians 3:5, 8-9 “Which in other ages was not made known unto the
254 sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets
255 by the Spirit. ... 8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is
256 this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the
257 unsearchable riches of Christ; 9 And to make all men see what is the
258 fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath
259 been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.”
260 *Ephesians 3:14-16 “For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of
261 our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and
262 earth is named, 16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of
263 his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner
264 man.”
265 Ephesians 4:4-6 “There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are
266 called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,
267 6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in
268 you all.”
269 Ephesians 4:30-32 “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye
270 are sealed unto the day of redemption. 31 Let all bitterness, and wrath,
271 and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with
272 all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving
273 one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.”
274 Ephesians 5:18-20 “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess;
275 but be filled with the Spirit; 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and
276 hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart
277 to the Lord; 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the
278 Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

708 which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can
709 see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.”
710 God is eternal.
711 Psalms 90:2 “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou
712 hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to ever-
713 lasting, thou art God.”
714 God is unchanging (immutable).
715 Malachi 3:6 “For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of
716 Jacob are not consumed.”
717 God is present everywhere (omnipresent).
718 Jeremiah 23:23-24 “Am I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a
719 God afar off? 24 Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not
720 see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the
721 LORD.”
722 God is all powerful (omnipotent).
723 Daniel 4:17,25 “This matter is by the decree of the watchers, and the
724 demand by the word of the holy ones: to the intent that the living may
725 know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to
726 whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men. ... 25
727 and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High
728 ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.”
729 God is all knowing (omniscient).
730 Job 37:16 “Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous
731 works of him which is perfect in knowledge?”
732 God is sovereign.
733 Ephesians 1:5 “Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children
734 by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will.”
735 What does the “*LORD is one*” mean?
736 *The “One” of Deuteronomy 6:4—’echâd refers to uniqueness and*
737 *unity—accordingly a unitary “one”—a unity in diversity of numerous*
738 *persons, such as is found in the marriage relationship between a*
739 *husband and wife, or the unity found in a group of people who have*
740 *come together for a common purpose. There is also another form of*
741 *“one,” a mathematical form, yâchîyd, that refers to an only son or*
742 *child (Prov 4:3; Zech 12:10). Accordingly, the “LORD is one”*

679 none else. ... 21 Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take coun-
680 sel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told
681 it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else be-
682 side me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me. 22 Look
683 unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and
684 there is none else.”

685 Zechariah 14:9 “And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that
686 day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.”

687 *Statements regarding “one God” continue through the New Testament.*

688 Mark 12:29 “And Jesus answered him, The first of all the command-
689 ments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord.”

690 John 10:30 “I and my Father are one.”

691 1 Corinthians 8:4 “As concerning therefore the eating of those things
692 that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing
693 in the world, and that there is none other God but one.”

694 Ephesians 4:6 “One God and Father of all, who is above all, and
695 through all, and in you all.”

696 *We cannot fully understand or explain why “one God” is also “Three*
697 *Persons,” but the Bible teaches both, and we must accept the teach-*
698 *ing. Note that accepting the “One,” however, does not diminish or*
699 *negate the “Three”!*

700 The Attributes of the Godhead

701 *It is of interest that the attributes found for “God” without a specific*
702 *person listed mirror the attributes of the individual members of the*
703 *Godhead, most easily seen in the life of Christ.¹² Here we list non-*
704 *communicable attributes: self-existence, eternal, immutability, om-*
705 *nipresence, omnipotence, omniscience and sovereignty.¹³*

706 God is self-existent.

707 1 Timothy 6:16 “Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light

12 “With clearness and power did Christ set forth the attributes of God. He is “the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person,” even “the image of the invisible God.” [Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:15.] Yet He humbled Himself, taking the form of a servant. Our Redeemer is a perfect revelation of the Godhead; and it is of importance that as His disciples, we understand through Him God’s relation to us.” White, Manuscript 43, 1897.7.

13 You will find additional helpful information in “The Godhead,” *Seventh-day Adventists Believe...* (Hagerstown, MD: Review and Herald Publishing Association, 1988), 17-26.

279 Philippians 3:3 “For we are the circumcision, which worship God in
280 the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the
281 flesh.”

282 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5 “We give thanks to God always for you all,
283 making mention of you in our prayers; 3 Remembering without
284 ceasing your work of faith, and labour of love, and patience of hope in
285 our Lord Jesus Christ, in the sight of God and our Father; 4 Knowing,
286 brethren beloved, your election of God. 5 For our gospel came not
287 unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and
288 in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among
289 you for your sake.”

290 *1 Thessalonians 5:18-19 “In every thing give thanks: for this is the
291 will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 19 Quench not the Spirit.”

292 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14 “But we are bound to give thanks alway to
293 God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the
294 beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit
295 and belief of the truth: 14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to
296 the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

297 2 Timothy 1:8-9 “Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of
298 our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions
299 of the gospel according to the power of God; 9 Who hath saved us,
300 and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but
301 according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ
302 Jesus before the world began, ... 13 Hold fast the form of sound words,
303 which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.
304 14 That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy
305 Ghost which dwelleth in us.”

306 Titus 3:4-5 “But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour
307 toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have
308 done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of
309 regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”

310 Hebrews 9:14 “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who
311 through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge
312 your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

313 *1 Peter 1:2 “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father,
314 through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of
315 the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”

316 1 Peter 1:16-17,21-22 “Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.
317 17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons

318 judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your
 319 sojourning here in fear: ... 21 Who by him do believe in God, that
 320 raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and
 321 hope might be in God. 22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in
 322 obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the
 323 brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.”

324 1 John 4:13-15 “Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us,
 325 because he hath given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and do
 326 testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world. 15
 327 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in
 328 him, and he in God.”

329 Jude 1:20-21 “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most
 330 holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, 21 Keep yourselves in the love
 331 of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal
 332 life.”

333 Revelation 2:7 “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith
 334 unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree
 335 of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”

336 Revelation 2:27-29 “And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the
 337 vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received
 338 of my Father. 28 And I will give him the morning star. 29 He that hath
 339 an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

340 Revelation 3:5-6 “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in
 341 white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life,
 342 but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels. 6
 343 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the
 344 churches.”

345 Revelation 3:12-13 “12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in
 346 the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write
 347 upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God,
 348 which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my
 349 God: and I will write upon him my new name. 13 He that hath an ear,
 350 let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.”

351 Revelation 3:21-22 “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me
 352 in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my
 353 Father in his throne. 22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the
 354 Spirit saith unto the churches.”

355 Revelation 14:12-13 “Here is the patience of the saints: here are they
 356 that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. 13 And I

643 and ever present. He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet
 644 known through His self-revelation. God, who is love, is forever wor-
 645 thy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation.”¹¹

646 “The LORD Our God”

647 *“The LORD Our God” refers to the Godhead made up of Three Per-*
 648 *sons. This is the mysterious paradox already spoken of. Though there*
 649 *are three distinct Persons that make up the Godhead, there are numer-*
 650 *ous verses in the Scriptures that speak of one God. As we will learn,*
 651 *the complete unity between the Persons of the Godhead allows them to*
 652 *be accurately spoken of as a single entity. Though we are not given*
 653 *much information in this regard, at the very least one of the reasons*
 654 *would include their self-effacing humility.*

655 • In the Old and New Testaments are many ongoing statements regard-
 656 ing God being spoken of as the “only God” or something like that.
 657 *To the Hebrews, who knew little to nothing regarding the distinct per-*
 658 *sons in the Godhead, the injunction to worship the one God was espe-*
 659 *cially comparative in nature, relative to the pagan worship going on*
 660 *around them. Hidden within the assertion of Deuteronomy 6:4, howev-*
 661 *er, was a great and profound truth that we will consider later: that the*
 662 *one God was made up of a unity of Three Persons!*
 663 *Here are examples of “one God” references.*

664 Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD.”
 665 Deuteronomy 4:35,39 “Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest
 666 know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him. ... 39
 667 Know therefore this day, and consider it in thine heart, that the LORD
 668 he is God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: there is none
 669 else.”

670 1 Kings 8:60 “That all the peoples of the earth may know that the
 671 LORD is God; there is no other.”

672 Isaiah 45:5-6,18 “I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no
 673 God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6 That
 674 they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that
 675 there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. ... 18
 676 For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that
 677 formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not
 678 in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is

¹¹ <https://www.adventist.org/trinity/> (accessed May 1, 2021)

613 “The LORD Our God, the LORD is One”

614 Deuteronomy 6:4 (NKJV) “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the
615 LORD is one!”

616 Introduction

617 *The Bible not only speaks of the Three Persons of the Godhead, it also*
618 *asserts “The LORD our God, the LORD is one.” The “Three,” which*
619 *we have already studied, and the “LORD is one,” which we are about*
620 *to study, are perfectly compatible. Because there are efforts to negate*
621 *the “Three” in some quarters, in favor of various other understand-*
622 *ings, the first three parts of this series of studies, and the first sections*
623 *of this fourth part, have sought to clearly establish the scriptural foun-*
624 *dition for Three distinct co-equal, divine, eternal Persons in the God-*
625 *head. Having hopefully succeeded in that effort, understanding the the*
626 *“LORD our God, the LORD is one” is our next objective.*

627 *When we speak of the “Lord is one,” we are still speaking of an eter-*
628 *nal Godhead that consists of three persons. Though there are three*
629 *distinct Persons (plural, meaning more than one) we describe them as*
630 *members of the “Godhead” (singular) never as “Godheads” (plural).*
631 *We also baptize “in the name” (singular) of the Father, Son and Holy*
632 *Ghost,”⁹ never in the “names.” In doing so, we are merely stating*
633 *what the Bible teaches on the subject.*

634 *The three Persons, one God paradox is one of the great mysteries of*
635 *the Bible, and is beyond what has been fully revealed in the Scriptures.*
636 *But, as mentioned above, the “Three” and the “Lord is one” are per-*
637 *fectly compatible. To be faithful to the teachings of the Scriptures, we*
638 *must equally accept the teachings regarding the Three Persons and*
639 *those regarding one God. The challenge is integrating them.¹⁰*

640 *Here is the official statement of the church:*

641 “There is one God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-
642 eternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all,

357 heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead
358 which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they
359 may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”

360 Revelation 21:10, 22-23 “And he carried me away in the spirit to a
361 great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy
362 Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. ... 22 And I saw no
363 temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the
364 temple of it. 23 And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the
365 moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb
366 is the light thereof.”

367 The “Three” in the Writings of Ellen White

368 *Evidence of the “Three” in the writings of Ellen White is compelling,*
369 *though little known! She speaks of the “Three” in undeniable ways.*
370 *These quotes were introduced in the study on the Holy Spirit. this*
371 *listing is accordingly shorter. The quotes are arranged topically, and*
372 *reveal the ongoing work of the Three Persons. The perspectives*
373 *provided on the united work of the Members of the Godhead are*
374 *wonderful and transformative, particularly relating to baptism.*

375 Matthew 28:19 “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them
376 in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”

377 The “Three” are carefully defined.

378 “The Father is all the fulness of the Godhead bodily and is invisible to
379 mortal sight. The Son is all the fulness of the Godhead manifested.
380 The Word of God declares Him to be “the express image of His
381 person.” [Hebrews 1:3.] “God so loved the world that He gave His
382 only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish,
383 but have everlasting life.” [John 3:16.] Here is shown the personality
384 of the Father. The Comforter that Christ promised to send after He
385 ascended to heaven, is the Spirit in all the fulness of the Godhead,
386 making manifest the power of divine grace to all who receive and
387 believe in Christ as a personal Saviour. There are three living persons
388 of the heavenly trio; in the name of these three great powers—the
389 Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—those who receive Christ by
390 living faith are baptized, and these powers will co-operate with the
391 obedient subjects of heaven in their efforts to live the new life in
392 Christ.” White, Manuscript 21, 1906.9-11.

393 The Godhead—the “Three”—worked together on the plan of

9 Matthew 28:19.

10 Find helpful discussions on the Trinity in Gerhard Pfandl, (2003) “The Trinity in Scripture,” *Journal of the Adventist Theological Society*: Vol. 14 : Iss. 2 , Article 5. <https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/jats/vol14/iss2/5/> (accessed April 28, 2021); Woodrow Whidden, “Why the Trinity Is Important,” *The Trinity: Understanding God’s Love, His Plan of Salvation and Christian Relationships* (Hagerstown: Review and Herald, 2002) 243-244; John Reeve, “Why We Don’t Worship Three Gods” (2020). *Faculty Publications*. 1204. (<https://digitalcommons.andrews.edu/pubs/1204/>); Daniel Scarone, *The God We Worship*, (Nampa, ID: Pacific Press Publishing Association, 2011), 101.

394 redemption.

395 “The Godhead—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—were
 396 working in behalf of man. Every power in the heavenly universe was
 397 put into activity to carry forward the plan of redemption. White, Man-
 398 uscript 47, 1901.6.

399 “The Godhead was stirred with pity for the race, and the Father, the
 400 Son, and the Holy Spirit gave themselves to the working out of the
 401 plan of redemption. In order to fully carry out this plan, it was decided
 402 that Christ, the only begotten Son of God, should give Himself an
 403 offering for sin. What line can measure the depth of this love?” White,
 404 Letter 12, 1901.10.

405 “Christ came to this world and stood before men with the hoarded love
 406 of eternity. The whole ocean of divine love was flowing forth from its
 407 great center. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit were working in
 408 behalf of man. Every power in the heavenly universe was put into
 409 activity to carry forward the plan of redemption.” *Review and Herald*,
 410 January 7, 1902, Art. A, par. 7.

411 “The three representative powers of the Godhead, the Father, the Son,
 412 and the Holy Spirit, were pledged to carry out God’s plan for the
 413 salvation of the lost race.” White, Manuscript 139, 1907.10.

414 The “Three” will be worshipped in heaven.

415 “As the saints in the kingdom of God are accepted in the beloved, they
 416 hear: “Come, ye blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared
 417 for you from the foundation of the world.” [Matthew 25:34.] And then
 418 the golden harps are touched, and the music flows all through the
 419 heavenly host, and they fall down and worship the Father and the Son
 420 and the Holy Spirit.” White, Manuscript 139, 1906.32.

421 The Eternal Godhead support the human agent.

422 “The work of salvation is not a small matter, but so vast that the
 423 highest authorities are taken hold of by the expressed faith of the
 424 human agency. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the eternal
 425 Godhead is involved in the action required to make assurance to the
 426 human agent to unite all heaven to contribute to the exercise of human
 427 faculties to reach and embrace the fulness of the threefold powers to
 428 unite in the great work appointed, confederating the heavenly powers
 429 with the human, that men may become, through heavenly efficiency,
 430 partakers of the divine nature and workers together with Christ.”
 431 White, Manuscript 45, 1904.16.

579 Son, and the Holy Spirit receive the believing soul into covenant
 580 relation with God.” White, Manuscript 56, 1900.26.

581 “Let every soul be careful how he shall conduct himself after he has
 582 made his profession before many witnesses. Who are these witnesses?
 583 The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and all the heavenly universe
 584 are witnesses of that burial in the water in the likeness of Christ’s
 585 death. Those who have been truly converted have been buried with
 586 Christ in the likeness of His death, and raised from the watery grave in
 587 the likeness of His resurrection, to walk in newness of life. By faithful
 588 obedience to the truth these are to make their calling and election
 589 sure.” White, Manuscript 57, 1900.21.

590 “At the baptismal ceremony we virtually take a most solemn oath in
 591 the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost, that
 592 henceforth our lives will be merged into the life of these three great
 593 individual Agencies; that the life we now live in the flesh we will live
 594 in faithful obedience to God’s sacred and holy law, keeping all His
 595 statutes and His commandments; that we will live in newness of life as
 596 men and women having a new birth unto God.” White, Manuscript 68,
 597 1900.12.

598 Additional titles for the “Three.”⁸

599 “Three highest powers in the universe.” (RH August 12, 1909, par. 3)

600 “Three great heavenly powers.” (Ms192-1903.22; Ms186-1907.7)

601 “Three great Worthies in heaven.” (Ms95-1906.13; Ms145-1906.12)

602 “Three mighty powers.” (Ms229-1902.23; Ms142-1906.50)

603 “Three great infinite powers.” (GCB April 4, 1901, Art. A, par. 16)

604 “Eternal heavenly dignitaries.” (Ms130-1901.52)

605 “Three great and glorious heavenly characters.” (Ms45-1904.18)

606 “Three great authorities of heaven.” (Ms177-1907.15)

607 “Three great personal dignitaries of heaven.” (Ms92-1901.5)

608 “Three highest authorities in the universe.” (Ms129-1907.28)

609 “Three highest authorities of the heavenly courts.” (Ms87-1902.36)

610 “Three holiest beings in heaven.” (Ms95-1906.29})

611 “Three living persons of the heavenly trio.” (Ms21-1906.11)

612 “Three representative powers of the Godhead.” (Ms139-1907.10)

⁸ You will find a longer exhaustive list of these titles in the study on the Holy Spirit.

544 “The condescension of the highest powers of heaven to unite as co-
545 workers in the great field opening before us in our world in
546 evangelical enterprises, does not abate one jot or one tittle from His
547 prerogatives as Jehovah. Through the infinite sacrifice of God’s only
548 begotten Son, His gift to the world to pay the ransom for man, we are
549 placed on vantage ground. Through His imputed merits alone can man
550 become as Paul expressed it a laborer together with God. “Ye are
551 God’s husbandry,” he said, “Ye are God’s building.” [1 Corinthians
552 3:9.] Under the Spirit’s working we are to bear fruit to God’s glory, as
553 the ground when cultivated yields its fruits. ‘Ye are God’s building.’”
554 White, Letter 20, 1899.6.

555 “After the believing soul has received the ordinance of baptism, he is
556 to bear in mind that he is dedicated to God, to Christ, and to the Holy
557 Spirit. These three all co-operate in the great work of the covenant
558 made by baptism in the sight of the heavenly universe. The Father, the
559 Son, and the Holy Spirit receive the believing soul into covenant
560 relation with God.” White, Manuscript 56, 1900.26.

561 The “Three” were present at Christ’s baptism.

562 Luke 3:21-22 “Now when all the people were baptized, it came to
563 pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was
564 opened, 22 And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a
565 dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art
566 my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased.”

567 There are numerous statements that have to do with baptism.

568 “The Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, powers infinite and omni-
569 scient, receive those who truly enter into covenant relation with God.
570 They are present at every baptism, to receive the candidates who have
571 renounced the world and have received Christ into the soul temple.
572 These candidates have entered into the family of God, and their names
573 are inscribed in the Lamb’s book of life.” White, Manuscript 27a,
574 1900.10.7.

575 “After the believing soul has received the ordinance of baptism, he is
576 to bear in mind that he is dedicated to God, to Christ, and to the Holy
577 Spirit. These three all co-operate in the great work of the covenant
578 made by baptism in the sight of the heavenly universe. The Father, the

432 “How many will today pledge themselves to serve God with heart and
433 mind and strength? Do you not want God and Christ and the Holy
434 Spirit to co-operate with you? They are pledged to do this if you will
435 keep your covenant with God.” White, Manuscript 50, 1904.45.

436 The “Three” are referenced when speaking of neglecting the work.
437 “To neglect this work is to insult Jehovah, to grieve the Holy Spirit,
438 and to prove disloyal to Christ.” White, *Review and Herald*, July 18,
439 1899, Art. A, par. 7.

440 Uniting with the three divine instrumentalities brings wisdom from
441 above.

442 “Those who unite with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, who
443 show by their lives that they are no longer following the course they
444 followed before they united with these divine instrumentalities, will
445 receive wisdom from above.” White, Manuscript 11, 1901.8.

446 We are to cooperate with the three highest powers of heaven.

447 “Keep yourselves where the three great powers of heaven—the Father,
448 the Son, and the Holy Spirit—can be your efficiency. These powers
449 work with the man who gives himself unreservedly to God, heart and
450 soul, and mind and strength.” White, Letter 102, 1903.11.

451 “We are to co-operate with the three highest powers in heaven—the
452 Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; and these powers will work
453 through us, making us workers together with God.” White, Letter
454 253a, 1903.18.

455 The “Three” are often listed in the same sentence.

456 “Let an abiding Christ live in the soul, and we shall show far greater
457 wisdom than we have done. We shall know more of God and of Jesus
458 Christ, and of the Holy Spirit which opens the door for us to advance.
459 We need to manifest the Spirit of Christ. If we have not received all
460 we should have had, shall we now say, “Pay me that thou owest?” It is
461 the Lord’s, and we will say, “Return to God His own.” White, Letter
462 43, 1899.49.

463 “We are to be engaged in gospel missionary work. We are brought into
464 connection with God, who is the God of all comfort; into fellowship
465 with the Son, who is our Redeemer and the consolation of Israel; and
466 into communion with the Holy Spirit, the Comforter.” White,
467 Manuscript 185, 1898.23.

7 White, Manuscript 95, 1906 is an especially important document to read on baptism, for it reveals the united activities of the members of the Godhead who enter into covenant with the one being baptized.

468 The “Three” are referred to as dignitaries.
469 “We are to “hold fast” and live up to all the light we receive from
470 heaven. Why? Because God wants us to grasp the eternal truth, and act
471 as His helping hand by communicating the light to those who are not
472 acquainted with His love for them. When you gave yourself to Christ,
473 you made a pledge in the presence of the Father, the Son, and the Holy
474 Spirit—the three great personal dignitaries of heaven. “Hold fast” to
475 this pledge.” White, Manuscript 92, 1901.5.

476 “Christ tells them they were to fight in fellowship with all the children
477 of light; that satanic agencies would combine their forces to extinguish
478 the light of the life of Christ out of their ranks. But they were not left
479 to fight the battles in their own human strength; that the angelic host
480 coming as ministers of God would be in that battle, and also there
481 would be the eternal heavenly dignitaries—God, and Christ, and the
482 Holy Spirit—arming them with more than mortal energy, and [who]
483 would advance with them to the work, and convince the world of
484 sin.” White, Manuscript 130, 1901.52.

485 The “Three” are mentioned when Christ promised the help of the Holy
486 Spirit.
487 “Christ promised His disciples that He would send them the Holy
488 Spirit, who would bring all these things to their remembrance. “The
489 Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my
490 name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your
491 remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” White, Manuscript
492 15, 1898.10.

493 “What a salvation is revealed in the covenant by which God promised
494 to be our Father, His <only begotten> Son our Redeemer, and the Holy
495 Spirit our Comforter, Counsellor, and Sanctifier. Upon no lower
496 ground than this is it safe for us to place our feet.” White, Manuscript
497 15, 1898.20.

498 The “Three” provide power to overcome.
499 “Our sanctification is the work of the Father, the Son, and the Holy
500 Spirit. It is the fulfilment of the covenant that God has made with
501 those who bind themselves up with Him, to stand with Him, with His
502 Son, and with His Spirit in holy fellowship. Have you been born
503 again? Have you become a new being in Christ Jesus? Then co-
504 operate with the three great powers of heaven who are working in your
505 behalf. Doing this you will reveal to the world the principles of

506 righteousness.” White, *Signs of the Times*, June 19, 1901, par. 4.

507 “I beseech those who claim to believe that Jesus has died for them,
508 those who have been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and
509 the Holy Ghost, to come to Christ, believing that He will give them
510 power to resist the enemy. If by our compassion and generosity, by our
511 kind, tender words, we manifested His sweet Spirit, His righteousness,
512 we should truly be lights in the world.” White, Manuscript 102,
513 1901.9.

514 “No requirement is laid upon man that Christ has not obeyed. We can
515 overcome as He overcame, if we will avail ourselves of the help of the
516 three great powers of heaven, who are waiting to answer the demand
517 made upon them by God’s people for power to defeat satanic
518 agencies.” White, Manuscript 181, 1905.10.

519 “The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the three holy dignitaries of
520 heaven, have declared that they will strengthen men to overcome the
521 powers of darkness. All the facilities of heaven are pledged to those
522 who by their baptismal vows have entered into a covenant with God.”
523 White, Manuscript 92, 1901.26.

524 The “Three” long for channels to communicate through.
525 “The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are seeking and longing for
526 channels through which to communicate the divine principles of truth
527 to the world.” White, Letter 43, 1901.8.

528 The three highest authorities in the universe call persons teaching the
529 commandments great.
530 “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not
531 come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven
532 and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law,
533 till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least
534 commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in
535 the kingdom of heaven (by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost):
536 but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great
537 (by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost) in the kingdom of
538 heaven.’ The three highest authorities in the universe, with all the
539 heavenly family, shall call great, in the fullest sense of the term, those
540 who do and teach the commandments of our heavenly Father.” White,
541 Manuscript 129, 1907.28.

542 The three members of the Godhead cooperated in bringing our
543 salvation.