



FIRM FOUNDATION Series

The Nature of God

The Shema

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

These words form the beginning of what is termed the “Shema” (“Hear”) in the Jewish Services, and belong to the daily morning and evening office. They may be called “the creed of the Jews.” *Adam Clarke Commentary*

The Shema is the affirmation of God’s singularity and Lordship.

- Intolerant of Polytheism.

The Interpreter’s Dictionary of the Bible gives us understanding of the Shema in the following:

- The confession of faith
- Yahweh as one God, not divisible into a number of other gods or forces.
- Examples of polytheistic gods.
 - Baal of Peor - Numbers 25:2-3
 - Baal of Shechem - Judges 8:33
 - Baal of Zebulon - 2 Kings 1:2-3
 - Baal of Tyre - 1 Kings 16:31-32

This weighty text contains far more than a mere declaration of the unity of God as against polytheism; or of the sole authority of the revelation that He had made to Israel as against other pretended manifestations of His will and attributes. It asserts that the Lord God of Israel is absolutely God, and none other. He, and He alone, is Jehovah (Yahweh) the absolute, uncaused God; the One who had, by His election of them, made Himself known to Israel. *Adam Clarke Commentary*

The theology of One God in the Old Testament

Isaiah 43:11 *I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.*

Isaiah 42:8 *I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.*

Isaiah 44:6 *Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.*

Malachi 2:10 *Have we not all one father? hath not one God created us? why do we deal treacherously every man against his brother, by profaning the covenant of our fathers?*

There is no statement of a plurality of persons or gods concerning Yahweh anywhere in the Old Testament.

God is a spirit

Genesis 1:2 *And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.*

Job 33:4 *The spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.*

“Ruwick” – wind, breath, mind, spirit

- Breathe/wind in motion.
- Seat of the senses, affections and emotions.
- Of the will, counsel and intellect.

The Spirit of God

- Creator of all things.
- Invisible, Omnipresent, Omniscient.
- Never grows weary or tired.
- Cannot be measured in wisdom or understanding.
- Without beginning or ending.

Isaiah 45:18 *For thus saith the LORD that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the LORD; and there is none else.*

Jeremiah 23:24 *Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the Lord. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the Lord.*

Isaiah 40:28 *Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.*

Psalms 90:2 *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*

The Son of God

Matthew 1:18 *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.*

Jesus is the Son of the Spirit of God. Jesus' existence on earth is from the womb of a woman and the overshadowing of the Spirit of God.

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

Matthew 17:5 *While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*

- Overshadow...to throw a shadow upon, to envelop in a shadow
- **The distinction of the birth of Jesus**
 - o The Holy Ghost, power of the Highest
 - o Born of thee (A woman)

Job made a statement and asked questions that MUST BE ANSWERED to understand who Jesus is.

Job 14:1 *Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.*

Job 15:14 *What is man, that he should be clean? and he which is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?*

Job 25:4 *How then can man be justified with God? or how can he be clean that is born of a woman?*

- **Jesus was unlike any other born of a woman for He was begotten of God.**

John 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

John 1:18 *No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*

The sonship of God refers to Jesus begotten, born of a woman, overshadowed by the one Spirit of God.

The following is from Adam Clarke Commentary concerning Luke 1:35

Shall be called the Son of God - This is spoken in reference to the human nature of Christ, and this passage proves, beyond controversy, that “one” reason why Jesus was called the Son of God was because he was begotten in a supernatural manner. He is also called the “Son of God” on account of his resurrection, Romans 1:4; Acts 13:33, compared with Psalms 2:7. The human nature was born of her. The Divine nature had no beginning; it was God manifested in the flesh, 1 Timothy 3:16;

Two natures must ever be distinguished in Christ: the human nature, in reference to which he is the Son of God and inferior to him, Mark 13:32; John 5:19; John 14:28, and the Divine nature which was from eternity, and equal to God.

...that the doctrine of the eternal Sonship of Christ is, in my opinion, anti-scriptural, and highly dangerous. This doctrine I reject for the following reasons:

1st. I have not been able to find any express declaration in the Scriptures concerning it.

2dly. If Christ be the Son of God as to his Divine nature, then he cannot be eternal; for son implies a father; and father implies, in reference to son, precedency in time, if not in nature too. Father and son imply the idea of generation; and generation implies a time in which it was effected, and time also antecedent to such generation.

3dly. If Christ be the Son of God, as to his Divine nature, then the Father is of necessity prior, consequently superior to him.

4thly. Again, if this Divine nature were begotten of the Father, then it must be in time; i.e. there was a period in which it did not exist, and a period when it began to exist. This destroys the eternity of our blessed Lord, and robs him at once of his Godhead.

5thly. To say that he was begotten from all eternity, is, in my opinion, absurd; and the phrase eternal Son is a positive self-contradiction. Eternity is that which has had no beginning, nor stands in any reference to Time. Son supposes time, generation, and father; and time also antecedent to such generation. Therefore the conjunction of these two terms, Son and eternity is absolutely impossible, as they imply essentially different and opposite ideas.

Jesus is God

1 Timothy 3:16 *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

The Old Testament prophesied that Jesus is God.

Isaiah 9:6 *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

The New Testament, specifically the Gospels, were written to proclaim that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God. The terminology of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost is so crucial to this revelation that Jesus is God.

John 20:30 *And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:*

John 20:31 *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

Jesus discerned and addressed the unbelief that He was the Son of God.

John 5:17 *But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work.*

John 5:18 *Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God.*

- Though Jesus was born of a woman, the Spirit of God was His Father.
 - o This made Jesus equal with God (Divine Nature)

John 5:19 *Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.*

- Humanity is inferior to the Spirit of God

John 5:22 *For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:*

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

- To worship Christ is to worship the same Spirit of God, for Jesus was sent by the Spirit of God.

Colossians 1:14 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*

Colossians 1:15 *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:*

Colossians 1:16 *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*

Colossians 1:17 *And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

- The Deity of Jesus is everlasting, without beginning and without end. By Him all things were created.

John 1:3 *All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*

Colossians 1:18 *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

Colossians 1:19 For it pleased *the Father* that in him should all fulness dwell;

- **The understanding of two natures gives clarification to the flesh of Christ in relationship to the Spirit of God.**
 - It pleased the Spirit of God that in the human body of Jesus Christ should dwell all the fullness of the Spirit of God.
 - **Jesus is all that God is incarnate.**

Jesus is the Holy Ghost

There is only one Spirit. It is evident that the Holy Ghost is not a person but is that one same Spirit of God. Scripture reveals to us that Jesus was born of the Holy Ghost.

- *“she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.”* **Matthew 1:18**
- *“The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee”* **Luke 1:35**

John 14:16 *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;*

- Jesus will pray the Father and the Father shall give you another comforter. Is this another person?

John 14:17 *Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*

John 15:26 *But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:*

- **Jesus is the Spirit of Truth that cometh from the Spirit of God**

John 1:14 *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

John 16:7 *Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*

John 14:18 *I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.*

The Greek word “**parakletos**” is used one final time in the New Testament.

1 John 2:1 *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

Scripture is purposeful in using all this distinct terminology to give us **a full understanding of the completeness of Jesus Christ.**

John 8:58 *Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*