

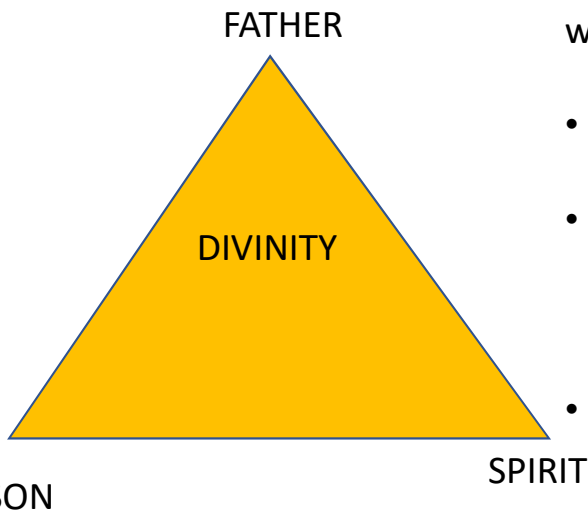
THE TRINITY

BIBLICAL REFERENCES

DEACONS' MEETING – WINTER 2017 – Lecture 2

BIBLICAL REFERENCES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

In reference to God, the OT uses the word **ELOHIM** (Gods) about 2500 times and uses the word **ELOHA** (God) 250 times.



- Then God said, “Let **Us** make man in **Our** image, after **Our** likeness.” (Genesis 1:26)
- Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of **Us** in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” (Genesis 3:22)
- “Come, let **Us** go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another’s speech.” (Genesis 11:7)
- Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall **I** send, and who will go for **Us**?” (Isaiah 6:8)
- “Remember now you creator...” [Literally: creators.] (Ecclesiastes 12:1)
- “Let Israel rejoice in their Maker.” [Literally: makers.] (Psalm 149:2)
- “...holy God...” [Literally: holy Gods.] (Joshua 24:19)
- “For your Maker is your husband...” [Literally: makers, husbands.] (Isaiah 54:5:)

BIBLICAL REFERENCES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT - continued

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There is a Hebrew word that does mean an absolute unity and that is **yachid**, which is found in many Scripture passages,² the emphasis being on the meaning of “only.”

If Moses intended to teach God’s absolute oneness as over against a compound unity, this would have been a far more appropriate word. In fact, Maimonides noted the strength of “yachid” and chose to use that word in his “Thirteen Articles of Faith” in place of echad. However, (the Shema) does not use “yachid” in reference to God.

- “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!” (Deuteronomy 6:4) – SHEMA

Known as the **Shema**, has always been Israel’s great confession. It is this verse more than any other that is used to affirm the fact that God is one and is often used to contradict the concept of plurality in the Godhead. But is it a valid use of this verse?

On one hand, it should be noted that the very words “our God” are in the plural in the Hebrew text and literally mean “our Gods.” However, the main argument lies in the word “one,” which is a Hebrew word, **echad**. A glance through the Hebrew text where the word is used elsewhere can quickly show that the word echad does not mean an absolute “one” but a compound “one.”

For instance, in **Genesis 1:5**, the combination of evening and morning comprise one (echad) day.

In **Genesis 2:24**, a man and a woman come together in marriage and the two “shall become one (echad) flesh.”

In **Ezra 2:64**, we are told that the whole assembly was as one (echad), though of course, it was composed of numerous people.

Ezekiel 37:17 provides a rather striking example where two sticks are combined to become one (echad). The use of the word echad in Scripture shows it to be a compound and not an absolute unity.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT - continued

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As if to even make the case for plurality stronger, there are situations in the Hebrew Scriptures where the term Elohim is applied to two personalities in the same verse.

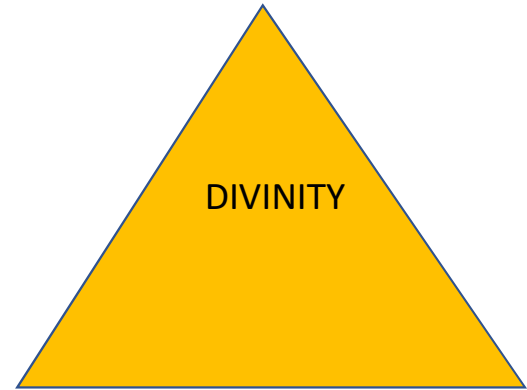
- Your throne, **O God**, is forever and ever;
A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.
You love righteousness and hate wickedness;
Therefore **God, Your God**, has anointed You
With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.” (Psalm 45:7-8)
- Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, will save them by the LORD their God, and will not save them by bow, nor by sword or battle, by horses or horsemen. (Hosea 1:7)
- For thus says the **LORD of Hosts**: “**He sent Me** after glory, to the nations which plunder you; for he that touches you touches the apple of His eye. For surely **I will shake My hand against them**, and they shall become spoil for their servants. Then you will know that the **LORD of hosts has sent Me.**” (Zechariah 2:8-9)

BIBLICAL REFERENCES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT - continued

Nor have the Hebrew Scriptures neglected to put all three personalities of the Godhead together in one passage.

FATHER

DIVINITY

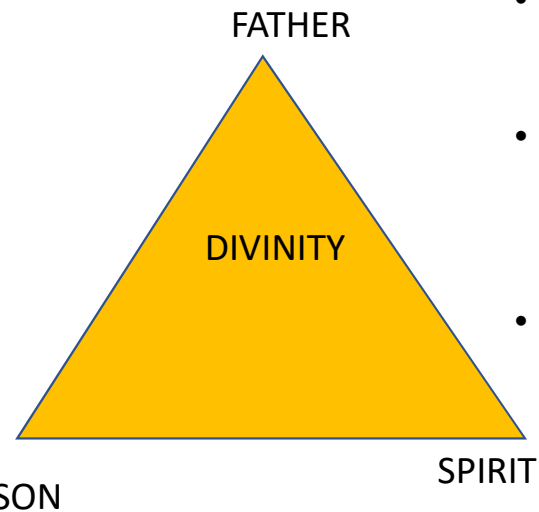


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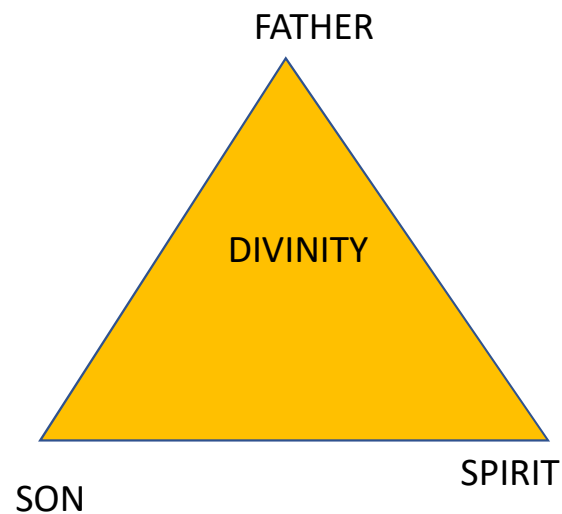
- “Listen to Me, O Jacob, and Israel, My called: **I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last**. Indeed **My hand also has laid the foundation of the earth**, and My right hand has stretched out the heavens; when I call to them, they stand up together. All of you, assemble yourselves, and hear! Who among them has declared these things? **The LORD has loved him**; he shall do **His pleasure** on Babylon, and His arm shall be against the Chaldeans. I, even I, have spoken; yes, I have called him, I have brought him, and his way will prosper. Come near to Me, hear this: I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, I was there. **And now the Lord GOD and His Spirit have sent me.**” (Isaiah 48:12-16)
- “I will recount the steadfast love of the **LORD**, the praises of the **LORD**, according to all that the LORD has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.” And he became their Savior. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old. But they rebelled and grieved his **Holy Spirit**; therefore he turned to be their enemy, and himself fought against them. Then he remembered the days of old, of Moses and his people. Where is he who brought them up out of the sea with the shepherds of his flock? Where is he who put in the midst of them **his Holy Spirit**, who caused **his glorious arm** to go at the right hand of Moses, who divided the waters before them to make for himself an everlasting name, who led them through the depths? Like a horse in the desert, they did not stumble. Like livestock that go down into the valley, the Spirit of the **LORD** gave them rest. (Isaiah 63:7-14)

BIBLICAL REFERENCES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT - continued



- *And one cried unto another, and said, **Holy, Holy, Holy**, is the **LORD of hosts**: the whole earth is full of **His** glory. (Isaiah 6:3)*
- *Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is **His** name, and what is **His Son's** name, if thou canst tell? (Proverbs 30:4)*
- *For I know that **my Redeemer** liveth, and that the **other One** shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. (Job 19:25)*

BIBLICAL REFERENCES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT – THREE PERSONS



Matthew 28:19 (conclusion of the Gospel) - "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them *in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...*"

Luke 3:21-22 (at the baptism of Jesus) - "Now when all the people were baptized, and when **Jesus** also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, / and the **Holy Spirit** descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "**You are my Son**, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." (parallels in Mark 1:10-11; Matt 3:16-17; John 1:32)

John 14—16 (Eucharist Discourse) - The Holy Spirit, as the "**Spirit of Truth**" and the "**Paraclete**," is intimately related to the Father and the Son (see esp. 14:16-17; 14:26; 15:26; 16:7, 13).

Galatians 4:4-7 - "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, **God has sent the Spirit of his Son** into our hearts, crying, "**Abba! Father!**" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God."

Romans 8:14-17 - "For all who are led by **the Spirit of God** are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "**Abba! Father!**" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ--if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him."

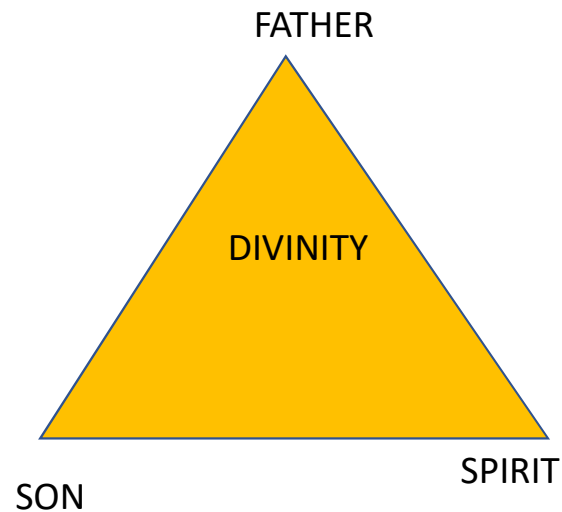
2 Cor 13:14 (concluding prayer of the letter) - "The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ**, the love of **God**, and the communion of the **Holy Spirit** be with all of you."

1 John 4:2, 9, 13-15 - "By this you know the **Spirit of God**: every spirit that confesses that **Jesus Christ** has come in the flesh is from God... God's love was revealed among us in this way: **God sent his only Son** into the world so that we might live through him... By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of **his Spirit**. / And we have seen and do testify that **the Father** has sent **his Son** as the Savior of the world. / God abides in those who confess that **Jesus is the Son of God**, and they abide in God."

1 Peter 1:2-3 - Peter writes to "who have been chosen and destined by **God the Father** and sanctified by **the Spirit** to be obedient to **Jesus Christ** and to be sprinkled with his blood: May grace and peace be yours in abundance. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!"

1 John 5:5-6 - "Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that **Jesus is the Son of God**? This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And **the Spirit** is the one that testifies, for **the Spirit** is the truth."

BIBLICAL REFERENCES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT – FATHER AND SON



Matt 11:27 - "All things have been handed over to me by **my Father**; and no one knows **the Son** except **the Father**, and no one knows **the Father** except **the Son** and anyone to whom **the Son** chooses to reveal him." (parallel Luke 10:22)

John 1:1-18 - Jesus Christ as the divine word/logos, the light and life of the world, the "**only-begotten Son**" of the Father

John 5:17-19 - "But Jesus answered them, '**My Father** is still working, and I also am working.' For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the sabbath, but was also **calling God his own Father**, thereby **making himself equal to God**. Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, **the Son** can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees **the Father** doing; for whatever **the Father** does, **the Son** does likewise.' "

John 10:30, 38 - "The Father and I are one....the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

John 14:8-11 - "Philip said to him, '*Lord, show us the Father*, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? *Whoever has seen me has seen the Father*. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that **I am in the Father and the Father is in me**? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that **I am in the Father and the Father is in me**...' "

John 17:1-5 - "**Father**, the hour has come; **glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you**, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. *So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.*"

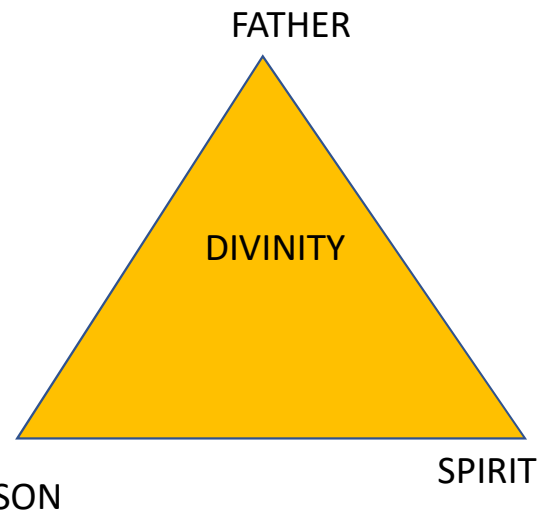
Hebrews 1:1-5 - Jesus is "*the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being*" (v. 3); "For to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are **my Son**; today **I have begotten you**'? (citing Psalm 2:7; repeated in Heb 5:5) Or again, 'I will be **his Father**, and he will be **my Son**'?" (citing 2 Sam 7:14)

1 John 1:3b - "...truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ."

1 John 2:22-24 - "the Son and the Father" are mentioned together four times in these short verses.

BIBLICAL REFERENCES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT – FATHER AND SON

Gospel of St. John



1:18 *The Son is in the bosom of the Father.*

3:16 *God gave His only begotten Son.*

3:17 *God sent His Son into the world.*

5:20 *The Father loves the Son and shows Him all that He does.*

10:15 *The Son knows the Father as the Father knows the Son.*

14:16 *The Son prays to the Father, and the Father (in response) gives the Holy Spirit.*

14:26 *The Father will send the Holy Spirit in the Son's name.*

14:31 *The Son loves the Father and does His commandments.*

15:26 *The Son will send the Holy Spirit from the Father; the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father; the Spirit will testify of the Son.*

16:7 *The Son will send the Holy Spirit.*

16:13 *The Holy Spirit will not speak of [from] Himself.*

16:14 *The Holy Spirit will glorify the Son.*

16:15 *All that is the Father's is also the Son's.*

17:1 *The Father glorifies the Son, so that the Son can glorify the Father.*

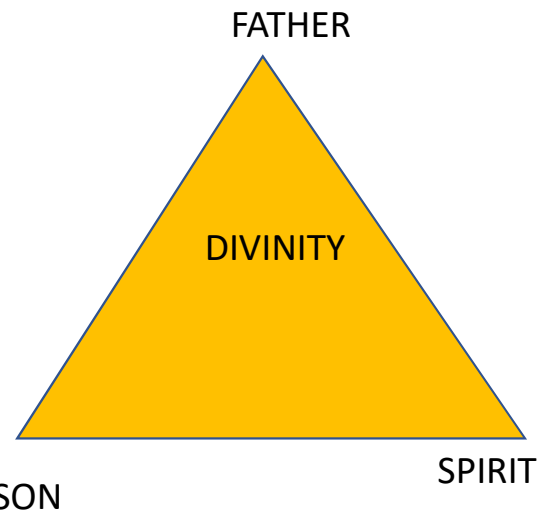
17:2 *The Father has given the Son a people and the power and responsibility to give them eternal life.*

17:4 *The Son glorified the Father by finishing the work He gave Him to do.*

17:24 *The Father loved the Son before the foundation of the world.*

17:26 *The Son has loved the Father.*

BIBLICAL REFERENCES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT – FATHER AND SPIRIT



Luke 11:13 - " If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the **heavenly Father** give the **Holy Spirit** to those who ask him!"

John 4:23-24 - " But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the **Father** in spirit and truth, for the **Father** seeks such as these to worship him. **God is spirit**, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

Acts 2:1-36 - The **Holy Spirit of God** is poured out on the disciples at the feast of Pentecost (see esp. 2:33).