

## What about the Trinity?

The word 'Trinity' is not found in the Bible but it was a term that was designed to express an infinitely complex concept of the Godhead. The theology of the Godhead was an important response to the confusion that was brought against the early Church by various doctrines, which strayed from the truth of the Word of God. In an attempt to stem the confusion, the early Church fathers found it necessary to formulate a response that could express this divine attribute of the Godhead.

The time before the advent of Christ was a period of a clearer picture of God, for the Hebrew people honored the one God that they called *Adonai*, who was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The neighboring people worshipped multiple gods so the monotheism of the Hebrews was in vast contrast to their pagan cultures. The Hebrew people voiced their belief in the one god in what is referred to the *Shema*, and was quoted by Jesus, Mark 12:29 NLT: *Jesus replied, "The most important commandment is this: 'Listen, O Israel! The LORD our God is the one and only LORD.*

The whole theology of the Jewish people is built around this concept and it is therefore understandable that they would get upset with what they believe is the Christian doctrine of three gods. This misunderstanding can be a major roadblock for some people coming into the knowledge of God. It is very important that they come to the understanding that there are not three gods but one God that expresses Himself in three separate fashions.

The basic expression of God has been of the Father of His children, the ruler of the universe, and creator of all. This view of the Father is totally consistent with the doctrine of the Trinity for the Father is the central focus of the Godhead; Jesus would honor the Father by being faithful to His will; and the Holy Spirit would reveal the truth regarding the nature of the Father. All three expressions of the Godhead would be in agreement regarding the sovereignty of the Father.

The expression of the Son was present prior to the New Testament period but He was not as defined. We see references to the Angel of the Lord as being pre-incarnate expressions of the Son involved with the affairs of mankind. The most famous reference to the pre-incarnate Jesus is found in John 1:1-3 NLT: *In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through Him, and nothing was created except through Him.* It is through the son that we reach the Father, John 14:6 NLT: *Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me.*

The expression of the Holy Spirit was also since the time of creation for Genesis 1:2, where the Spirit of God hovered over the waters. The anointing of the Spirit fell on the men of God in the Old Testament; on Jesus, Mark 1:10; and on the believers, Acts 2:1-4. The main duty of the Holy Spirit is to lead the believer into all truth, 16:13; to comfort or counsel the saints, John 14:16; and to provide spiritual giftings for the believers, 1 Corinthians chapter 12.

