

God – Three in One

The word Trinity is never used in the Bible. This is a doctrine that teaches God is Three in One. Some think the idea of the Trinity is a New Testament concept. The Israelites viewed the Christian idea of the Trinity as pluralistic and pagan. However, the concept is in the Old Testament.

אֱלֹהִים - [*'elohiym* /el·o·**heem**/] (plural) - Genesis 1:1 and following use this plural term for God. In addition, note 1:26 and 3:22, “Let us”. One idea is that God is using the plural term for the sake of expressing majesty. Another is that He is talking to the angels. Neither explanation fits the rest of scripture.

יְהוָה – Yahweh - Gen 11:6-7 – The name for the Lord is now in the singular, but the phrase is obviously referring to plurality.

אֲדֹנָי [*'Adonay* /ad·o·**noy**/] – Isaiah 6:8 – Different name for God, but in singular. Yet the statement is in the plural.

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD (יְהוָה) our God (אֱלֹהִים), the LORD (יְהוָה) *is* one!” Deut 6:4. This passage uses both the singular and plural terms for God, but is declaring that God is One.

Psalm 45:7 – “You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions.” This verse uses Elohim for both references to God. More importantly though is that Hebrews 1:8 attributes this to Christ.

Psalm 110:1 – “The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’” Here the term used is Yahweh. This is the passage Christ stumps the Pharisees with – asking them “If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?”

God as plural and as one can be found throughout the Old Testament. So the concept of the Trinity is not new to the Church.