

THE FOUNDATION OF REALITY

A Pre-Creation Picture of God

Before all of creation, for eternal ages past, God existed as a triune fellowship of other-centered love. The God whom Scripture calls “the Ancient of Days” is a God of ancient love. To the question, “What was God doing before humans and angels existed?”, Scripture answers, “God *is* love,” and *love* is what God was always doing. Love is the fundamental essence of the divine identity, which drives us to the realization that God is both *self* and *other* within the reality of the divine personhood. In order for love to exist there must be more than one person, because love is, by definition, other-centeredness. Love cannot occur in isolation. If God is love, then God is One who is more than one. This is why Scripture teaches that God, apart from and before creation, always existed as a plurality of being—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—living in a circle of self-giving, relational love.

The Infinite Before

Psalm 90:2—Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting You are God.

Titus 1:2—...before time began.

Colossians 1:16-17—**16**By Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible... **17**And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Daniel 7:9—...the Ancient of Days...

Genesis 1:1—In the beginning God [Elohim]...

John 1:1-4—In the beginning... God... with God.

Ezekiel 1:1, 5, 28—**1** Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the River Chebar, that the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God... **16** The appearance of their workings was, as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel. ... **28** Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.

NOTE: “God” in Genesis 1:1 is *Elohim* in Hebrew, which is a proper name in the plural form, thus indicating that the Creator God whom scripture communicates to us is a plurality of being within the divine personage itself apart from created beings.

NOTE: Jesus is God, but not all there is of God. The Father is God, but not all there is of God. The Spirit is God, but not all there is of God. These three are one God.

The Divine Identity

1 John 4:8—God is love.

1 Corinthian 13:4-5, NIV—Love...is not self-seeking.

1 John 3:16—By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us.

Philippians 2:6-7, NIV—Who, being in very nature God...made Himself nothing.

1 John 5:7—For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

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

Zechariah 13:7—“Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd [Christ], against the Man who is My Companion,” Says the LORD of hosts [the Father]. ...the Man who is *close to Me* (NIV). ...the Man who is *My Friend* (NCV).

Proverbs 8:30—I [Christ] was beside Him [the Father] as a master craftsman; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.

John 17:24—Father... You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

The Image of God

Genesis 1:26-27—**26**Then God [Elohim] said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness”... **27**So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 2:18, 24—**18**Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”... **24**For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

John 17:20-26—**20**I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; **21**that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be one in Us... **22**that they may be one just as We are one; **23**I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. **24**Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. **25**O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. **26**And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.

NOTE: Love=Other-centeredness, and, if necessary, self-sacrifice.

NOTE: Not 1+1+1=3, but 1x1x1=1. Love is an inter-relational dynamic, not a of independence.

NOTE: Literally, “Hear, O Israel! Yahweh, our Elohim, Yahweh is one.” Or, *The One is more than one and yet is One*. There are two Hebrew words for “one,” *Yacheed* and *Echad*. The first indicates singular unity. The second indicates compound unity. *Echad* is the word used in this text, which make sense because it is preceded by the plural name of God, *Elohim*, held adjacent to the singular name of God, *Yahweh*. The meaning is, *Elohim*—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—is one.

NOTE: “I was at His side each day, His darling and delight, playing in His presence continually” (NEB). “...always enjoying His company” (TM).

NOTE: When *Elohim*, the one plural divine being, created humanity in His image, He created a “them”; not a solitary self but a unity of two as one in love.

“God is Love”—1 John 4:16

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All Scripture References are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.