

Through the Church Ages: The Godhead

Revelation 1 declares the unity of the Godhead.

Revelation 1:4-6, 8-11, 17-18

Revelation 1 applies “the first” and “the last” to Jesus Christ, which referred clearly to Jehovah in the OT.

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.

Isaiah 48:12

Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last.

THE.REVELATION.OF.JESUS.CHRIST - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.1

28 Now all these expressions, 'Him Which Is', and 'Him Which Was', and 'Is To Come', and 'Faithful Witness', and 'First-born From Among the Dead', and 'Prince of the Kings of the Earth', and 'The Alpha and Omega', and 'The Almighty', are titles and descriptions of the ONE AND THE SAME PERSON, Who is the Lord Jesus Christ, Who washed us from our sins in His own blood.

29 **The Spirit of God in John expresses thusly in order to set forth the Supreme Deity of Jesus Christ and to reveal the Godhead as ONE God.** Today there is a gross error. It is that there are three Gods instead of one. This revelation as given to John by Jesus, Himself, corrects that error. It is not that there are three Gods, but one God with three offices. There is ONE God with three titles, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. **This mighty revelation is what the early church had, and it must be restored in this last day along with the correct formula of water baptism.**

Revelation 10:7

But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

Why is the study of the Godhead important?

- 1) To portray God's heart and character truly
 - a. A false view of the Godhead robs the believer of understanding of God's heart.
- 2) To convey accurately the drama of God's plan
 - a. Redemption wasn't accomplished by God the Father sending God the Son down to die on the Cross for us; God came down Himself.
 - b. And God's main purpose was to reveal Himself in you and me.
- 3) To clarify a believer's position in Christ
 - a. Satan works to distort the truth about the Son of God to keep the other children of God from completely understanding and taking their position and fulfilling their calling.
 - b. The Name of the Lord Jesus Christ is all powerful, so Satan works hard to draw people away from It. Satan wants to prevent the Bride from taking the Groom's Name.

WATCH God in ACTION to know Him as He is; GOD wants us to get to know Him in this way.

In the following quote, Bro. Branham completely leaves his illustration on Joseph to clarify a point relating to the revelation of the Godhead. Why? Because he wanted us to have a correct understanding of the Godhead so we could better see God's heart.

THE.REVELATION.OF.JESUS.CHRIST_ JEFF.IN ROJC 9-67 SUNDAY_ 60-1204M

327 Watch this, now the... When Joseph then was sold over into the Egyptians... And watch. Everything he done typed Christ. Look at this butler and this baker in there, and they both had dreams. And Jesus, when He was in His prison house... Remember, Joseph was in prison. And when Jesus was in His prison (how? Tacked to a cross), there was one saved and one lost. Joseph, when he was in his prison, one was saved, one was lost.

And notice then after Jesus was taken off the cross, He was exalted into heaven and sets at the right hand of the great Spirit, Jehovah. "No man can come to God except by Me." No hail Mary's, no blessed this, or blessed that; but through Jesus Christ the only Mediator there is between God and man (Uh-huh), that precious body that God tabernacled in among us, that took God's Name. And God took the name of human. God took...

329 Looky here. In the beginning when Adam... I just can't get away from that, seem like somebody's not a-getting it somewhere. Look. In the beginning... Let me show you something again, the Holy Spirit warns me to do this. I'm leaving my subject for a minute. When the first news come to glory that the son had been lost, Adam, **did God send an Angel? Did He send a Son? Did He send anyone else? He came Hissself to redeem His lost son. Hallelujah. God didn't trust it with no one but Hissself. God was made flesh and dwelled among us and redeemed man Hissself.** It's the... "We are saved," the Bible said, "by the Blood of God." The mortal God was... The immortal God was made mortal in order to take away sin, to be the Lamb Hissself, to enter into glory, veiled, and with His own Blood before Him beyond the veil.

God can't be explained by any human model; we can understand God only as He reveals Hissself.

Example 1: who loves this bird most? The birdwatcher or taxidermist? A taxidermist's love has limits because he requires a *dead* bird to practice his art. The birder learns about the bird by *observing* it.

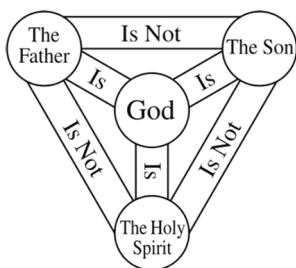
Example 2: the early model of the atom illustrates the limits of models. Whereas it purported to illustrate the exact position of each electron, modern electron microscopes show it's impossible to predict where any electron might be at a specific time. Photos takes with the assistance of such a microscope show only an "electron cloud" because the electrons move so fast they've defied photography.

The OT warning against graven images can also apply to human models of God.

Exodus 20:4 (no graven image) and image of trinity

This image of God is based on Greek philosophy, not scripture. Any scriptural model must begin with the first principle of God's self-revelation in Deuteronomy 6:4: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is ONE LORD."

Scripture reveals the model of the trinity to be a very inaccurate and confusing image of God.



The Father & the Holy Spirit
Matthew 1:18 & Ephesians 4:6

The Father & the Son
Isaiah 9:6; John 14:9-11; John 10:30

The Son & the Holy Spirit
John 14:18

When Jesus reveals Hissself to Paul and the early church in Acts, the model breaks down even more.
Acts 9:4-5

JHVH of the OT is Jesus of the NT

THE.REVELATION.OF.JESUS.CHRIST - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.1 (pg. 20)

68 The Great I Am, the Almighty God, has come as Spirit to fill His true church. He has a right to move anywhere He wants to, and upon anybody He wants to. We don't make any "holy men" amongst us, but the whole true congregation of the Lord is holy, because of the presence of the Holy Spirit. It is He, the Holy Spirit, that is holy, not the congregation of itself.

69 Now that is the revelation: Jesus Christ is God. The Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Jesus of the New. No matter how hard you try, you can't prove there are THREE Gods. But it also takes a revelation by the Holy Spirit to make you understand the

truth that He is One. It takes a revelation to see that the Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Jesus of the New. Satan crept into the church and blinded the people to this truth. And when they were blinded to it, it wasn't long until the Church of Rome stopped baptizing in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

If we want to respond to the geometry based model of the triangle, with each side representing a title or office of God, might not a circle be a more accurate representation, since God has an infinite number of attributes?

God reveals Himself to humanity by taking on a form within our experience.

God is invisible and unapproachable by man

I Timothy 6:16

Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

God takes on forms, hides Himself ... in order to reveal Himself

Isaiah 45:15

Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour.

THE.IDENTIFIED.CHRIST.OF.ALL.AGES_ LOUISVILLE.MS WEDNESDAY_ 64-0401

So, you see, the whole thing is--is, God becoming tangible. That, on the great Day that's to come, when Christ sets upon the throne of David and reigns in the Millennium, it's God, tangible, in the earth.

He is now in you. You are His attributes. If you've got Eternal Life, your life always was. And you was God's thinking: the color of hair, whatever you are, you was God's thinking, and you're just materialized.

And that's what God was when He was materialized in Christ; God, displayed, manifested in flesh, in Christ. He became material; God that we could touch. First Timothy 3:16, "Without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness: for God was manifested in the flesh." See? See? It was God being manifested, getting ready.

When we can't perceive God, we get nervous. God meets this need by coming to us in a manner that we can perceive Him. He's becoming tangible to us.

In a whirlwind to Job

Job 23:8-9

⁸Behold, I go forward, but he is not there; and backward, but I cannot perceive him:

⁹On the left hand, where he doth work, but I cannot behold him: he hideth himself on the right hand, that I cannot see him:

Job 38:1

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said,

In a Pillar of Fire & Cloud to Israel

Exodus 13:21

And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night:

Exodus 14:24

And it came to pass, that in the morning watch the LORD looked unto the host of the Egyptians through the pillar of fire and of the cloud, and troubled the host of the Egyptians,

The angel of the LORD

In the Old Testament, God appeared various times in a human form as the angel of the Lord. When this angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and to Manoah and his wife, they initially saw him as being just a man. Only later did they recognize that God was hiding Himself in this human form.

Judges 6:11, 14, 16; see also Judges 13:3, 6, 10, 21-22

And God hid Himself many other ways ... this is part of the drama of God's plan

As Captain of the host of the Lord to Joshua (Joshua 5:14-15)

The Rock (I Cor. 10:4)

Melchizedek (Genesis 14:18-20; Ps. 110:4; Hebrews 7:1-7)

Man Who wrestled with Jacob (Genesis 32:24-30)

Prophets to whom the Word of God came (John 10:34-38)

THE.SPOKEN.WORD.IS.THE.ORIGINAL.SEED_ JEFF.IN V-3 N-1 SUNDAY_ 62-0318

26-5 Now, that's why Jesus was so perfectly manifested--God was so perfectly manifested in Jesus, because He was the Word of God. He was God's Word. That's the reason He couldn't produce nothing but just exactly God. And if God is in you, what more can you be?

Didn't Jesus say of the prophets who the Word of God came to... Who did the Word of God come to? Prophets. Didn't Jesus call them gods? Why? God was manifested in them. What was it? the spoken Word manifested. See? That's it. Said, "How can you deny, say... If you had any wisdom, you'd understand." He said, "I... How can you say you... We called them... God Himself called them gods." And said, "How can you then say you believe them and deny Me when I say I'm a Son of God?" Why didn't they see this then?

THE.UNVEILING.OF.GOD_ JEFF.IN V-9 N-1 SUNDAY_ 64-0614M

281 Like He was in Moses. When the Word was in Moses, he was God in flesh. When It was in Jesus, It was God in flesh. See? Only thing He done was change His mask, not His Word, not His nature. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He only changed His form. He changed **from Noah to Moses**; He changed **from Moses to David**; from David, Joseph; **on down till He come into the fullness of the Godhead bodily.** See?

282 **It's still the same God!** Amen. Amen. I hope that gets through. See? It is the same God, but He just takes on another veil. See, He puts on another veil.

THE.UNVEILING.OF.GOD_ JEFF.IN V-9 N-1 SUNDAY_ 64-0614M

77 Now, when It said here that He emptied Himself, or poured out, now, ... the word kenos, in the Greek, ... He changed Himself, He "poured Himself into," (Amen!), into another mask, into another form. Not another person went out of Him, called the Holy Spirit, but It was He Himself. You get it? [Congregation says, "Amen."--Ed.] He Himself poured Himself into the people. "Christ in you!" How beautiful, how wonderful, to think, God pouring Himself into the human being, into the believer. "Pour out!" **It was a part of His drama, to do so.**

God, all the fullness, all the Godhead bodily was in this Person, Jesus Christ. He was God, and God alone. **Not a third person or a second person, or a first person; but the Person, God veiled in human flesh.**

79 First Timothy 3:16, "Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness; for G-o-d, Elohim," capital G-o-d, in the Bible. Refer it back, anybody. It refers to, in the original, It said, "Elohim." "In the beginning, Elohim." See? "And, Elohim, without controversy great is the mystery of Elohim; for Elohim was made flesh, and we handled Him." Elohim, veiled in human flesh! The great Jehovah that covered all space, time, and everywhere, was made man. We handled Him, Elohim. "In the beginning, Elohim. And Elohim was made flesh, dwelt among us."

Example: the use of skins in the metaverse or in games like Minecraft

In either the metaverse, or games like Minecraft where action takes place on another world separate from the actual world of the human user, the players have to take on skins to be knowable by other people in the metaverse. These skins are not separate persons from the player, but are extensions of the player, skins he chooses to reveal himself to other members of the metaverse. **Christ was the image of God ... a skin that God took on. Why? To make Himself know-able.**

John 1:1-2, 14

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²The same was in the beginning with God.

¹⁴And 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.

I John 1:1-2

¹That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

²(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

I 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.

II Corinthians 5:19

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

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.

Colossians 1:15

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Hebrews 1:3

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

The true understanding of the Godhead emphasizes the Believer's position in Christ.

God hid Himself in Christ; by the baptism of the Holy Ghost, He hides Himself in you!

Job 10:11 (who's the real me here? It's the inside man!)

Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews.

Colossians 1:27

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

I Corinthians 3:16-17

¹⁶Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

¹⁷If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

II Corinthians 6:16

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

God created man in His own image. Man fell, but God is restoring Man to again be the image of God.

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Romans 8:29

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

I John 4:12 (the problem has always been that God is invisible and unreachable for man; He must make Himself tangible ... and He does that in us!)

No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

I Corinthians 11:29

For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

COMMUNION_ JEFF.IN SUNDAY_ 63-0707E

E-7 We've always--make great exhortations on this, that when we come together, even though that we can see nothing, there might be something in somebody else that we noticed that wasn't right. When you come together to eat this communion, wait on one another, pray for one another. Pray that... We always make of this: I'll pray for you that if you--if there's some sin in you that, some unrighteous deed or something you've done as a believer, I--I pray that God will take it out of you, that He'll forgive you for it. And you pray for me that if there's some--something that I've done, that I don't know just about... If I done it, and--and knowed it's wrong, I'd--I'll confess it right now. I'm fixing to, because he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eat and drinks damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

E-8 **The discernment of knowing that you are the Lord's body**, you can't discern it in--in wickedness and sin; we've got to be above that. That we discern that the Lord is righteous, and we discern that He's our Propitiation; that all of our sins we've confessed, and we believe in Him of waiting upon His atonement to cleanse us from all of our iniquity; then we're discerning the Lord's body to what it--discernment of what it's for.

And then discerning again, that in among us, as the Lord's Bride body, let's discern if there's anything wrong with us in here that would hinder the Gospel from growing, or the Lord from presenting us before God as a chaste virgin; let's discern that out right now and find if it's wrong. Let's confess it if it's wrong. Let--let's say, "Lord, I--I'm sorry about that."

The true doctrine of the Godhead shows the position of the Believer as how God is *now* making Himself flesh, knowable to mankind. This kind of revelation really does disrupt the devil's plans, which is why from the beginning he has sown confusion about who God is, and who we are. But by God's grace this revelation has been restored, and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it.