

FOUNDATION STONES, PART 2 - ONENESS

Because the Arctic region of North America between Alaska and Greenland is dominated by vast, level plains of tundra there are few natural landmarks. For this reason, over many years the native peoples in these areas have used stone landmarks for navigation, as a point of reference, or as a marker for food caches. They are called Inukshuk, and many are built in the shape of a man to indicate that "someone has passed this way before."

In the book of Joshua, a similar monument was erected when the children of Israel crossed over the Jordan River into their Promised Land, because God wanted them to remember the heritage their forefathers had given them, and know that "someone has passed this way before."

Joshua 4:21-22 When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these **stones**? Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land.

In the New Testament Church, we also have been given a great heritage, passed on to us by faithful men and women who left us a firm foundation. We can never forget where we have come from, or we will never be able to get where God wants us to go! Twenty-first century Christians need to know without doubt that the things we believe are not just man's idea, but are absolute foundational TRUTH from God's Word.

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.

TONIGHT, WE WILL LOOK AT OUR SECOND FOUNDATION STONE – THE ONENESS OF GOD.

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord:

This verse is called the SHEMA by the Jews, the most important part of their daily prayers. They are commanded to recite it twice daily (morning and night) and to teach it to their children, it is printed on small scrolls and placed inside a mezuzah on the doorposts of their houses, and it is even traditional for the Jews to say the Shema as their last words.

SHEMA YISRAEL ADONAI ELOHEINU ADONAI EHAD

ADONAI – read in place of YHWH and translated "Lord"
EHAD – Hebrew for the number ONE, also means "alone" or "unique"

This revelation of One God is the most powerful revelation in Scripture, because if there is only one God then He deserves my total allegiance.

Jesus called this the greatest commandment when He quoted the law ...

Mark 12:29-30 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.

If this is true, then why do we hear so much about the TRINITY today among so many Christian groups? And why is the distinction between "trinity" and "oneness" an important one? To understand that, you would have to go all the way back to the early part of the Old Testament, because the struggle over this revelation of One God is an ancient one!

The empire of Babylon was founded by Nimrod, according to Genesis 10. His name became synonymous with rebellion against God. Nimrod had a wife named Semiramis. According to ancient legend, Nimrod was violently killed but then reincarnated in the son of Semiramis. Thereafter known as Tammuz, Nimrod was also worshipped in Babylon as "El-Bar," or "God the Son." This Babylonian myth became the source of many of the occult mystery religions of the ancient world.

Did you ever wonder how such rank idol worship ever became part of the Roman Catholic Church, especially when God's Word is so vehement in its condemnation of images? When the Roman Emperor Constantine supposedly converted to Christianity in AD 313, all he really did was amalgamate every heathen religion in his empire under the name Christianity. The people still worshipped their pagan gods, but now called themselves "Christians." The ancient Babylonian pagan mother and her resurrected son were now renamed as "Mary, Queen of Heaven, and Jesus, God the Son." In most cases, they didn't even bother to change the statues they were worshipping!

Babylon was the originator of the Trinity! It began with Nimrod, Tammuz and Semiramis – the Father (King), the Son and the Mother (Queen). As a result, basically all ancient heathen religions developed their own "triad" or "trinity." Later, the Babylonian symbol of the "dove" for the Mother Goddess was changed to represent the Holy Spirit by the framers of the Nicean Creed in AD 325. But the damage was already done! As current Catholic practice will reveal, Mary is in reality the third person of their trinity! They pray to her, they believe she intercedes for them before Jesus, and they even call her "The Queen of Heaven." But the only time the Bible ever refers to the "Queen of Heaven" is in Jeremiah when the prophet denounces backslidden Israel for praying to the pagan goddess Ashtoreth (the Canaanite version of Semiramis)! Almost every ancient pagan religion called the female third of their trinity "Queen of Heaven."

BABYLON'S TRINITY IN ANCIENT RELIGIONS		
First Person Father/King	Second Person Son/Prince	Third Person Queen/Mother/Dove
TRIAD OF BABYLON		
Nimrod	Tammuz	Semiramis
TRIAD OF EGYPT		
Osiris	Horus	Isis
TRIAD OF GREECE		
Zeus	Apollo	Athena
TRIAD OF INDIA		
Brahma	Vishnu	Shiva
TRIAD OF ROME		
Jupiter	Mars	Venus
TRIAD OF BACKSLIDDEN ISRAEL		
Baal	Tammuz	Ashtoreth
TRIAD OF CATHOLICISM		
Father	Son	Holy Spirit / Dove

The worship of a tritheistic God or "Trinity," instead of the One True God, originated in ancient Babylon! This idea entered Israel when they backslid! And this idea entered the Christian Church when they backslid in the time of Constantine! They were so tired of persecution that they were willing to compromise the Truth and let the Emperor declare all religions equal. They welcomed the relief that his "Edict of Toleration" brought, and Constantine retained the long-used pagan title "Pontifex Maximus" (Latin for "greatest bridge maker") as he became the de facto ruler of the newly paganized Christian church! Do you know who holds that title today? The Pope. That is a pagan title, not a Christian one!

The real problem isn't with history, however – it's with the BIBLE. Neither the Old or the New Testament uses the word "trinity" or associates the words "three" or "persons" in any significant way with God. No passage says God is a holy two, holy three, or holy trinity, but over 50 verses call God the "HOLY ONE."

Isaiah 47:4 As for our redeemer, the LORD of hosts is his name, the **Holy One** of Israel.

David prophetically spoke of JESUS using the term "**Holy One**," and his prophecy was quoted and confirmed by both Peter (Acts 2:37) and Paul (Acts 13:35).

Psalms 16:10 For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine **Holy One** to see corruption.

During Jesus' earthly ministry, even the demons recognized that He was the one true God manifest in flesh!

Mark 1:23-24 And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the **Holy One** of God.

Paul lets us know that the Jesus we serve today is the same God who created everything that exists in the beginning!

Colossians 1:14-19 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;

Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

When the Bible calls our Saviour "Emmanuel" ("God with us" – Matthew 1:23), it means EXACTLY what it says. This is the beauty of the oneness message – God didn't send someone else to save us, He came Himself!

Nowhere does the Bible say "God the Son" – it always says "Son of God." That's because the word "Son" refers to a MANIFESTATION of the One True God – the BODY that God took on when He came to save us! God never had a body (He was never the "Son") before Bethlehem.

We DON'T say, "God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and this One is Three." We say, "God who is the Father in creation, who is the Son in redemption, and who is the Holy Spirit in salvation, and these three are ONE!" That is an incredibly important distinction.

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

The church is not built on Peter, but on the revelation he received!

Matthew 16:16-18 And Simon Peter answered and said, **Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.** And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

What revelation did Peter receive? The revelation that Jesus, who was standing before him in flesh, was the “anointed body of the living God” (which is essentially what his statement means in the Greek language).

1 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.

We are not a “Jesus Only” church, but we are a “Jesus Name” church! We don’t deny the Father and the Holy Spirit, we just understand that GOD IS ONE! The Bible teaches us that there is one throne in Heaven, and there is only ONE that sits on that throne, and His name is JESUS!

Isaiah 45:22-23 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Philippians 2:9-11 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Both of these passages cannot be true, unless JESUS IS GOD!

“But really, what’s the big deal? Don’t many so-called Trinitarians profess that they believe in one God too? Is it worth making a division over? Aren’t we just quibbling over semantics? Is there really a difference?”

The false doctrine of the Trinity is accompanied in church history by a false baptismal formula! The critical issue scripturally is WHO were you baptized into? Or whose NAME were you baptized in?

Galatians 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

ILLUSTRATION: JOHNNY JAMES CLIP (BAPTISM)

THE REAL DANGER HERE IS THAT IF WE HAVE A FALSE BAPTISM WE END UP WITH A FALSE SALVATION!

Baptism is not an option; there is no such thing in the Bible as a Christian who was not baptized! And the Bible says there is only “one baptism” ...

Ephesians 4:4-6 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

EVERY BAPTISM IN THE BIBLE IS IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST!

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Colossians 3:17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

We are a ONENESS church in DOCTRINE, but we also need to be a ONENESS church in PRACTICE. Just like you can hardly tell where the Father begins and the Son starts, or the Son ends and the Holy Spirit starts (because they are ONE) ... that’s how it should be in the church, which is the BODY of Christ. **We are ONE BODY!**

The “Lord’s Prayer” is not found in Matthew 6 (“Our Father, which are in heaven ...”) – that is the disciple’s prayer! The Lord’s prayer – the final prayer Jesus prayed before He went to the cross – is found in John 17.

John 17:21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

This is Jesus’ final prayer request – and it is the only prayer that the church can answer! Jesus prayed that YOU would do this – that you would be ONE with your brothers and sisters!

At the tower of Babel, their unity made nothing impossible to humanity. How much more is this true when God’s favour rests on His own people?

Genesis 11:6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

Jesus prayed His prayer for UNITY in the presence of His bickering disciples. How must they have felt? How should WE feel if we are not honouring His request? **Our UNITY is part of Oneness too!**