

# *The Godhead*

## *E Pluribus Unum*

*E= out of : Pluribus =plural : Unum=ONE*

This is the Latin motto inscribed on the American currency to show UNITY of the nation even though there are over fifty states in the UNION. Their Constitution says ---*ONE NATION under God.*

“In the beginning **GOD** made the heavens and the earth... let **US** make man in **OUR** image.”

Gen 1 & 2

Out of plurality there is **ONE GOD!**

My family has seven components, myself, my wife and five children, but it is still **just ONE family.**

We have become aware over the many years we have travelled this earth in conflict--Good versus Evil--Christ versus Satan--, that there are fundamental Truths and for each Truth, the Adversary has a Counterfeit. The nature of a counterfeit is that it is almost a perfect replica of the True, as we see with people making and presenting counterfeit money.

Satan was not always Satan, as we well know. His name originally was Lucifer--son of the morning. He was also the Leader of the angelic hosts and the heavenly choirs. He was a magnificent created being, the covering cherub, till iniquity was found in him...and we are very familiar with rest of the sad story.

Could it be that Satan, who was familiar with the Ancient of Days, and the heavenly government, an "echad" or unity of Three Distinct Persons, would try to build a near perfect replica, a counterfeit, of the True God? ---a "Trinity" ---in place of "The Godhead" as Scripture calls God.

The very first chapter of Genesis portrays God as more than one Person. "In the beginning God---and God said, Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness." Just something to consider.

We have read what the early church leaders believed, but that does not mean they were always correct in their understanding of Truth. They made many errors such as time setting for Jesus' return, the Shut Door doctrine, the understanding of the Daily, the understanding of prophecy and lots more. The Bible patriarchs and prophets also made mistakes, but we don't "throw out the baby with the bathwater". We cut them some slack, and allow them to be as human as we are. We all grow in our understanding of Truth, as the Lord unrolls the Scroll for us in His own good time. Ellen White, an early pioneer of the Advent movement, says very emphatically, that "we have much to learn and much to unlearn." She also says:

There is no excuse for anyone taking the position that there is no more truth to be revealed, and that our expositions of Scripture are without error. The fact that certain doctrines have been held as truth for many years by our people, is not a proof that our ideas are infallible. Review and Herald December 20, 1892

**FCE 473** Great truths that have lain unheeded and unseen since the day of Pentecost, are to shine from God's Word in their purity. To those who truly love God, the Holy Spirit will reveal truths that have faded from the mind, and will also reveal truths that are entirely new. They will start into action forces that cannot be repressed.

In Genesis 1, the Hebrew word “Elohim” is used for “God”. “Elohim” is the plural form of “Eloha”. Some years ago I came across a very interesting dialogue between a Jew and a minister of religion, and I will relate the discussion below, as it is very clear and pertinent to this study. Surely a Jew would understand his native tongue better than we would.

The Godhead. (as in Acts 17:29: Romans 1:20 and Col 2:9)  
(by David L. Cooper D.D.)

One day as I was journeying from Los Angeles to Denver, I had a most delightful interview with an elderly Jewish man. I was sitting in my carriage reading my Hebrew Testament when this man appeared at my side.

“You cannot read that!” he declared.

Immediately, I gave him a practical demonstration by reading a passage. With a shrug of his shoulders he asked,

“Where did you learn that?”

“In the Seminary and the University.”

“Well, you do not know what it means.”

Again I read it, and translated a verse for him.

“Hmmm, and you are not a Yid!” he commented.

Moving over, I invited him to a seat beside me and introduced myself. My new acquaintance told me his name was Baron. Then we settled ourselves for a chat.

“Can you read this Mr Baron?” I asked.

“Sure.” At once he read fluently the passage I indicated.

“Now will you tell me what it means?”

He translated with difficulty , although he seemed to understand the substance of what he had read.

“Mr Baron, are you acquainted with this book?” I inquired. He turned to the Title Page. He read the words “New Testament”. He had never seen it before.

Reaching for my grip, I pulled out my Hebrew Bible. (Old Testament), and said,

”Mr Baron, I want to ask you a question. What is the meaning of this word ‘Elohim’?”

“It means ‘God.’ ”

“But,” I said, “my teachers have told me that this word means ‘Gods’.”

“They do not know what they are talking about!” he retorted emphatically.

“But Elohim is a plural number.”

“You are wrong, my friend declared. “I went to Yeshibah, ( Rabbinical School), and I know ‘Elohim’ means God---singular!”

“What is the meaning of the word ‘Baal’, Mr Baron?” I inquired.

“ ‘Master,’ ” was his ready reply.

“What is the meaning of the word ‘Baalim’?”

“Masters,” was his ready reply. “More than one.”

“What is the meaning of seraph?”

“One of the angels.” he said.

“Seraphim”? I asked.

“Many of them”, he answered. “More than one.”

“Then if Baalim and Seraphim mean more than one, would not Elohim mean more than one?” He looked puzzled.

“Let us turn to the Ten Commandments, and notice the First Commandment.

‘Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.’ Now, what does the word ‘gods’ mean?”

“It is plural and means ‘many’—more than one.” he replied and added, “It means all those heathen gods.”

Turning back to the first verse of the book of Genesis, I said,

“You admit that ELOHIM in the passage we have just seen means ‘Gods’ “. He nodded.

“Then what about the same word here at the beginning of the book of Genesis.?”

For an answer my companion put his hand to his head in a quick gesture of complete surprise.

“ The Rabbi did not tell us that!”

“Never mind about the Rabbi, I rejoined. “If the word is plural and means ‘gods’ in one instance, then it must be plural in the other instance, for it is spelt exactly the same way.”

“That sounds right.” he admitted, “but I wonder why they did not tell me that at Rabbinical School?”

“Mr Baron. What is the meaning of ‘Shema’ , (The Rabbinical name of the Great Confession of Deuteronomy 6:4) ? I want to ask you particularly about the meaning of ELOHENU? My Instructors have taught me that it means ‘Gods’,” I continued.

“Well, they are wrong. It means ‘ONE GOD’ .“

“What is the meaning of the word ‘Abhothenu’?”

“Our fathers.”

“Of Eholayenu?” I asked.

“Our sicknesses.”

“Pesha’enu?”

“Our transgressions.”

“And Avonothenu?”

“Our sins.”

“Then Mr Baron, “ I concluded, “if all these words ending in ‘ENU’ means ‘fathers’, ‘sicknesses’, ‘transgressions’, ‘sins’; surely ‘ELOHENU” means ‘Gods’, plural.”

For answer, my Jewish friend threw out both hands in a gesture of helpless perplexity. “But the Rabbis ....” he breathed.

“We are not interested in the Rabbis just now,” I told him. “You admit that it is right that we should translate it plural do you not?” He slowly nodded.

I continued, “One more question. What is the meaning of ‘ECHAD’?”

“One”, he promptly replied.

“My teachers have told me that it is a word which means ‘UNITY’ “ I replied.

“Well, you were taught wrong!” he retorted quite hotly.

“My friend, here in the first part of Genesis, we are told that there was evening and a morning making one day. There was darkness and light, two different and opposite things. Put them together and they make one. A little further on, we are told that a man was to leave his father and mother, and cleave unto his wife, and the two were to become one flesh. When two are married they become one. God speaks similarly about Himself.

**“The Shema really says, ‘THE LORD, OUR GODS IS ONE LORD.’ --Echad—a UNITY.”**

**I then took him to various passages of the Old Testament, and concluded with the words,**

**“The Scriptures teach, that there is a GODHEAD of THREE PERSONS, and that the second Person of the Godhead came to earth to dwell among us, and gave His life for us all.”**

**His face was a study. He said,**

**“I am old now. If I had only met you many years ago, how different my life would have been.” He then said, “I certainly would have changed my religion.”**

**I urged him to change then and there, and to accept Jesus as His Saviour. This was bringing home the Truth to a Jew in a language he understood clearly.**

In the Gospel of John 1:1-3, we are told that “In the beginning was the **WORD** (or **LOGOS** in the Greek), and the **WORD** was with God and the **WORD** was God.”

“The same was in the beginning with God.

All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made.”

In verse 14, we are told, “and the **WORD** was made flesh and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”

Nowhere in the Old Testament have I been able to find any definitive reference to the **WORD** as God’s Son. The Scriptures plainly state that “the **WORD was with God and the WORD** was God.” See also **1John1:1; 5:7 and Rev 19:13.**

What about the three Hebrews thrown into the fiery furnace?

Nebuchadnezzar said he saw a fourth who looked “like the Son of God!” (KJV Daniel 3:25)

I looked it up in the Jewish Bible, the TANAKH, and it simply says, “and the fourth looked like a divine being.” Other translations say he looked “like a son of the gods”, which is more likely what a pagan king would say, since he had never seen or met Jesus.

**<sup>24</sup> Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished and rose up in haste. He declared to his counselors, “Did we not cast three men bound into the fire?” They answered and said to the king, “True, O king.” <sup>25</sup> He answered and said, “But I see four men unbound, walking in the midst of the fire, and they are not hurt; and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods.” *Daniel 3:25*  
*English Standard Version.***

**The TANAKH is a translation from the Hebrew language, and one would have to agree that they would be most likely to render a correct rendering from their native tongue. After all the Bible is a Jewish Book, written by Jews, about Jews, for Jews. Salvation is of the Jews. John 4:22 Our Saviour , Jesus Christ, was the most important Jew! He was the Lion of the tribe of Judah!**

**What about that text in Psalms 2, where it says “Kiss the Son....” I checked it too with the Jewish TANAKH, and it says nothing about the Son either.**

***Tehillim - Psalms - Chapter 2:11,12***

**11. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with quaking. 12. Arm yourselves with purity lest He become angry and you perish in the way, for in a moment His wrath will be kindled; the praises of all who take refuge in Him.**

**Clearly verse 12 is referring to the Lord, as in verse 11, and doesn't mention “the Son” at all.**

Well, what about that text in Proverbs, where it speaks of the son.? Proverbs 30:4 “Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell? “

Some have equated the son with Proverbs 8 which speaks of Wisdom, but there is a real problem there in that Wisdom there is profoundly and repeatedly referred to as feminine gender, which carries over to chapter 9 as well. Sons are not referred to as “she” as in these passages of Scripture.

Since there are no other definitive references in the Old Testament to Jesus as the Son of God, would it be reasonable or logical to base our belief that Jesus was somehow “brought forth”, like a clone, from the Father’s body way back in eternity, before He was born of Mary and was to be called “the Son of God.” (Future Tense.) There is no Scripture that I can find to support this belief.

Before His birth, Jesus was known as the Word. He was also called “the Everlasting Father, the Mighty God” in Isaiah 9. Micah says Jesus was from Everlasting. Micah 5:2. *Isn't there a problem when we can't substantiate supposed truth in God's Word? “To the Law and to the Testimony...”*

**Today salvation is available to “whosoever will”. Revelation 22:17**

**When we accept Jesus as our Substitute and Example, when we declare allegiance to Him, we become “spiritual Jews”, Romans 2:28,29, and heirs according to the promise to Abraham. Galatians 3.**

**When we accept the Gift of God, Salvation in Christ, we become sons and daughters of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, 1 John 3, and subjects of His kingdom which is to be established here on this planet, a kingdom which will never pass away. Daniel 7:13.14 What a privilege to be princes and princesses of the Great God of the Universe—the Omnipotent, Omniscient, Omnipresent God! 1 John 3. With Him on our side, who can be against us. All fear is gone! 1 Peter 5:7 1John 4:18**

**When we accept His amazing grace and pardon for our sins, we have passed from Eternal Death to Everlasting Life, John 5:24, and though we might physically die, it is really just a sleep till the Lifegiver calls when He returns to ‘gather His wheat into His garner’ Matthew 24:30,31. What a blessed hope we have in Christ Jesus. Titus 2:13.**

**Matthew 1:21-23 says it a little differently, but with virtually the same meaning— God was to take on human flesh and be called Emmanuel which means ‘God with us!’ So, as in John 1:1, God the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, as one of us, as the unique (monogenes) One, the Son of God.**

**The very first definitive reference to the Son of God is found in the New Testament when the angel Gabriel is speaking to Mary about baby Jesus and His coming birth, and both of these references are in the FUTURE tense -- ‘shall be called –the Son of God.’ Since there are no definitive references to Jesus as the Son of God in the Old Testament, and the Scriptures clearly refer to that name as applying to the Word becoming flesh as a baby boy in the future tense, when He would be born, Jesus was Who He said He was, and Who the Scriptures say He was—The ‘only begotten Son of God,’ John 3:16,17, the ‘I am’ John 8:58, ‘I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last’. Rev 22:13, the ‘Mighty God, the Everlasting Father’, Isaiah 1:18. This text from Isaiah is really incredible, as it is a prophecy that a virgin would have a son, (Jesus), and His name would be called... (future tense again.)**

Luke 1:32 He shall be great, and **shall be called the Son of the Highest**: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: (Future Tense)

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee **shall be called the Son of God**. (Future Tense again.)

I see a very real danger in believing that Jesus was the Son of God before His incarnation, for it implies that Jesus was somehow born way back in the ages, that He somehow came out of the Father's Person, and therefore had a beginning, whereas the Scriptures say many times over that Jesus was with God and that He was God, and that He was part of the Eternal Godhead of three Persons. I John 5:7 makes it clear that there are three Persons in the Godhead also, and the central Person is the Word.

We are not told how this can be, and it is best not to conjecture about it as we are simply the creatures He has made, and who are we to presume to know all about our Creator. What is revealed we can believe, but further than that we must wait on the Lord and be content with what He has told us, in His Holy Word.

Who is the Holy Spirit? Is He a Person, and a Member of the Godhead? Here are a few truths we have found in the mine of Truth—God's Word:

From the first chapter of Genesis to the last Book of Scripture, the Holy Spirit plays a very important role as a very special Person in the Godhead. Some folks argue that He is just the Power of God, or the Spirit of the Father, and the Spirit of Christ, but in our search for Truth, we have come to believe that He is indeed a very real Person, with all the attributes of the Father and the Son.

Many years ago when I was a young man, I remember my father taking a service in which he presented evidence from God's Word to the effect that the Holy Spirit was actually Melchisedec, Who appeared to Abraham in human form, after the slaughter of the kings when Abraham rescued Lot and his family. He based his sermon on the Book of Hebrews and in particular chapter 7. At the time it seemed reasonable, and I did not think much more about it till recently, when we had certain people assuring us that Melchisedec was just a man, and that the Holy Spirit was the Spirit of God or His Power. **Gen\_14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. (This was in Abraham's day—about 1913BC).** **Psa\_110:4 The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. (David came on the scene about 1063BC.)**

***If Melchizedek or His order, was just a man or human ministry, he and his order would have been very, very old by the time David came on the scene about 1063BC, and even much older in Jesus' day. Men did not live that long after the flood!***

**Heb\_7:3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.**

***What does continually mean? Ongoing, not like earthly priests who die and have to be replaced.***

***Who only has no beginning of days nor end of life? Only the Eternal Godhead!***

**Whenever we quote this Scripture people will inevitably say that it just means the genealogy for Melchisadek was not recorded. But let's really consider the whole chapter, (and chapters 5 and 6 also), and the possibility that Melchisedek really is God in His Spirit form.**

**When Jesus was speaking to His disciples, He said it was expedient for Him to leave and return to heaven, but that He would "send another Comforter, the Holy Spirit" (John 14:16,17), to be with them and in them, to empower them to be His emissaries to the whole world of the Gospel message. He told them to wait for the forty days at Jerusalem till Pentecost, and we have that wonderful account of the Holy Spirit descending on the disciples and bringing special gifts for them to use in the ministry of the Gospel to the world. See Acts chapter 2.**

**When Jim Arabito was alive he found and shared a very interesting record of what Ellen White, a prophetess in the early Advent Movement, had to say on Melchizedek, and I'd like to share it with you:**

**At a Council Meeting at Avondale School, about the year 1893, there were present—Elder Haskell, W.H.Baker, G.B. Starr and their wives and Sister E.G, White and also Brother W.A. Colcorde, who was the Editor of the Australasian Signs of the Times, the following incident took place:**

**Elder Colcorde requested the privilege of reading some articles regarding the personality of Melchisedec. (Slightly different spelling in the New Testament.) We all listened and were surprised that Sister White listened also with seeming interest, as she was not accustomed to listening to any argumentative writings. As Elder Colcorde was reading, Sister White interrupted him saying, "Elder Colcorde, I would not publish these articles if I were you!" "Why not?" he inquired. "Because they are not correct!" she added. He then asked, "Who was Melchisedec?" She replied, " I'll tell you who Melchisedec was. He was the Holy Spirit, the third Person of the Godhead, Who took the form of humanity and represented the Lord Jesus to that generation."**

That ended the counsel on that subject, and Elder Colcorde offered no argument to refute her position. All seemed perfectly satisfied with the statement, and in fact I had never heard an explanation that was satisfactory before.

After the meeting, Elder S.N. Haskell said to me,

“Elder Starr—when the Spirit of Prophecy speaks so plainly as that about a matter, it can be proved from the Bible—so let’s go look.”

We found that the description of Melchisedec in Hebrews 7:3 was fully met by the Holy Spirit. “Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life: but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.”

We found that in Hebrews 9:14 that statement—“the Eternal Spirit.” That would meet also with the term— “ without beginning of days or end of life.” Then in Romans 8:26 we read, “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Itself maketh intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered.” Thus these statements make the Holy Spirit—a High Priest forever, but can not be met by any angel or human being.

Elder Haskell published this matter as recorded above, in his paper, at South, Massachusetts. Thus we have two witnesses of the truthfulness of Sister White’s statement regarding the Person of Melchisedec.                      Signed : G.B. Starr

It seems very reasonable from the evidence in the written Word of God, that when Jesus was inaugurated as our High Priest, our Mediator, (Hebrews 8, and 9), in heaven after His ascension, at Pentecost, He simply changed places with Melchisedec Who came to this little world of ours as the Holy Spirit, Who can be omnipresent, everywhere at once, whereas Jesus as one of us, with a physical body like ours, “made like unto His brethren”, (Hebrews 2), can not be omnipresent, and that’s why “it was expedient that He go away.”

***QUESTION: Would Divinity (Jesus) follow another human being , to become our High Priest, our Advocate, our Mediator in Heaven? I think not!***

No doubt we are all aware of the Scripture which says:

**Hebrews 13:2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.**

When I shared my study with a friend he said, “ If Melchisedec could descend on Jesus at His baptism in the form of a dove, and as tongues of fire on the disciples at Pentecost, then He could certainly appear to Abraham as a man, as the High Priest of the Most High God. “ Angels have often taken the form of men, and I personally know of instances where this has happened in my lifetime.

**Now what else do the Scriptures say about the Holy Spirit? They plainly give Him the attributes of a Divine Person over and over.**

**He can “teach” --John 15:26 ;**

**He can “comfort us”-- John 14:16-18 ;**

**He can be “lied to”– Acts chapter 5, Ananias and Sapphira. “you have lied to the Holy Ghost”.... “you have not lied unto men, but to God.” One doesn’t lie to a power! **Here Peter equates the Holy Spirit to God, and names Him AS God.****

**He can “testify” of Jesus—John 15:26;**

**He can “guide” us –John 16:13 ;**

**He can “hear” and “speak” and “show us things to come,” John 16:13;**

**He can “be grieved”. Ephesians 4:30;**

**He can “be vexed”. Isaiah 63:10;**

**He can “be despised”. Hebrews 10:29;**

**He can “be blasphemed against”. Matt 12:31 ;**

**He can “be spoken against”. Matt 12: 32;**

**He can “be tempted”. Acts 5:9;**

**He can “convict us”. John 16:8;**

**He “instructs”. Nehemiah 9:20;**

**He “speaks and directs”. Acts 13:2;**

**He “commissions”. Acts 13:4;**

He “guides the church”. Acts 15:28;  
He “searches”. 1Cor 2:10-11;  
He “seals the believer”. Ephesians 4:30;  
He “inspires”. 2Peter 1:21;  
He “strives” Genesis 6:3;  
He “has a mind”. Romans 8:27;  
He “intercedes”. Romans 8: 26-27;  
He “communes”. 2Corinthians 13:14;  
He “calls and says, “Come””. Revelation 22: 17.

**And that’s just a partial list! The Scriptures indeed speak of Him as a Divine Person!**

**The Father, and the Holy Spirit sent Christ, (the Word), to be the Messiah.**

**Isaiah 48:16 Come ye near unto me, hear ye this; I have not spoken in secret from the beginning; from the time that it was, there *am I: and now the Lord GOD, and his Spirit, hath sent me.***

**My wife and I have done some extensive study on the question from the Word of God, and believe that Melchisadek is indeed the “priest of the most High God, the King of Salem which means the King of Peace.” Where it says he was without father or mother, without descent, without beginning or end of days” (all in Hebrews 7), we believe it means what it says, and only the Eternal God can be spoken of like that.**

**There we have the Godhead as much as has been revealed in the Word of God—the Holy Scriptures. There is much we still do not understand, but what has been revealed shows the character of our God, the Godhead, and we love what has been revealed. We serve One Loving God Who manifests Himself now in three Persons, as “the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.” Matthew 28: 19,20.**

**We trust you will consider the wonderful Truths we have shared in this study, and that you will find it helpful and inspiring. What a wonderful God we serve!**

**With love to all, and malice toward none.**

**Don and Ruth Menkens.**

**61428100527    Email: [ruthandon@gmail.com](mailto:ruthandon@gmail.com)    09/12/2014**