

## Doctrine of God and Monotheism

1. The Biblical view of God is that of monotheism manifested in the Shema.
  - *Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord: 5 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*
2. The nature of God is so central to the religious life of Israel it must be given to the children on a daily basis.
3. Because there were so many pagan gods, the Hebrew people were reminded not to have any other gods. There are no other gods.
  - *Exodus 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*
4. In light of the emphasis on monotheism, how can there be a trinity? Christians have been accused of worshipping three Gods: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Christians denied this accusation but insisted on affirming the doctrine of the trinity.
5. The basis for the trinity is in the New Testament, which speaks of God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
  - *John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
  - *John 1:14 And 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.*
6. The Greek term for “word” is “logos.”
7. A distinction is made in verse 1 between the Logos and God. The Logos was “with God.”
  - with – *sun* (English, *syn*, synchronize) in the sense of a synagogue, together with.
  - with – *meta*, in the sense of being alongside of something.
  - with – *pros* (prosophone, face), in the sense of face to face, the closest possible relationship.
8. In the same verse the logos was God. The Logos was God, and God was the Logos.
9. If Jesus is not true God, then the second commandment is also violated, because Christians do worship Christ, and Jesus received worship.
  - *John 20:27 Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. 28 And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God.*

10. Only God can forgive sins, and yet Jesus forgave sins.

- *Mark 2:7 Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God only? 8 And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts? 9 Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? 10 But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) 11 I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. 12 And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion.*

11. Only God can create. The Logos, the Word, is the creator.

- *John 1:3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*
- *Colossians 1:16 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: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*

12. Only God has life in and of Himself. The Logos, the Word has life.

- *John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*
- *Acts 17:28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.*