

## **Is Our Triune God Eternally Unchanging?**

What we call the Holy Bible is, in its original Greek and Hebrew, an inerrant document authored by the Creator God Himself as He gave it to some forty writers over a period of about 1600 years. It is God's message to His creation in which He described Himself, outlined His purpose for mankind and documented all of past history since creation. In it He also informs us of what will become history until the end of the world, and beyond. In this document He has revealed Himself to be a Triune God and has expressed certain aspects of that Trinity using the titles of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. God's Triune nature can be found in the Old Testament, but is usually so subtly expressed that it can easily escape notice.

However in the New Testament it is most explicit, and necessarily so, given that the "Son" expression of the Godhead came to the physical earth, and through both natural and supernatural means became the Son of Man, named Jesus. The question here to be considered is, did this unique and profound event, and all that has followed, have any effect on the nature or characteristics of our Triune God? Certainly this is not a doctrinal question, or an issue of concern in terms of how we should conduct our lives as faithful obedient Christians. It is simply a matter of trying to better understand as much as possible about the God with whom we expect to live eternally on the new earth that is to come. Who knows, in seeking to answer the subject question, we may learn something that will increase our understanding of how we might better serve Him now in preparation for that long, long future.

As we know, God is eternal. Prior to His creating time He lived in an eternal "now". Since creation He lives in the time domain, as does all of His creation. Only spirit endowed man will live eternally. "They," the Triune Godhead, chose to make man in Their own image and likeness. The purpose for creating man in God's image and likeness was to provide for Himself, and for His own glory, an eternal family having a nature both resembling, and compatible with His own. Therefore, He created man with a

spirit, as He had also created the angels, for God Himself is spirit. The issues of free choice, sin, redemption, etc. are all largely beyond the scope of this commentary. God created the physical realm, including the dimension called time, and originally gave the spirit of man a soul and body of flesh and bones in which to dwell and function eternally. Because the first man sinned, God cursed His creation.

The curse on man was to transform the eternal flesh to bring one that was subject to death and decay. Man was programmed for death by providing him with a flesh and blood body which would be vulnerable to sickness, pain and death. In the initial eternal body only spiritual food was needed. After that, food from the land was necessary. To obtain his food, man killed animals, and in time had desecrated the vegetation and grain producing land as well as the forests, seas, lakes and rivers. This has caused a great increase in health problems, as well as an increase of pain, suffering and premature death. These were inevitable consequences of the sins choice. Insatiable desire for wealth, power, prestige and all other vices abhorrent to God describe what much of mankind has become.

God gave us His Book of Knowledge about Himself and our relationship with Him. One of the more “challenging” of His tasks, if we dare to so limit Him, was to present this knowledge in terms that the human mind, being comparatively infinitesimal, and infinitely inferior to His, could understand. His use of examples, parables, allegories, and similitudes, are ample testimony to that effort. I believe that it is incumbent of all redeemed souls to do their best to understand all that God has written. Why else did He bother? To know Him and what He wants of us, and then to do it, should be the primary purpose and goal of our lives.

Genesis 1:26 tells us that God made man to be “in Their own image and likeness.” From this we know that in our one and only Creator God, there was from the very beginning, an intrinsic form of body which God used as the prototype from creating man. As we continue in the Scripture we soon learn that this plurality is in fact a Trinity, because Scripture identifies God as the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We also find that each

Individual therein is no less than wholly 100% God, just as the three combined as the Triune Godhead is also wholly 100% God. This mysterious and unfathomable complexity, of course does violence to our common sense, our logic, and everything that we are aware of that exists in our physical world.

Try as we may, we cannot put into words or even into embryonic thoughts regarding how such a thing could be. Can a third of something also be all of it? Can a whole of something be added to two more wholes of the same thing, and yet there be no more of it than, the whole of the exact same thing? Because there is no precedent for such a thing in any human experience, we have but two choices, to reject it as impossible, or to accept it on faith. We know that God and His ways are extraordinary and perfect, and in many ways such as this, beyond our capacity to understand, no matter how much additional explanation we might be given.

As we ponder this, we should take great solis in the fact that our God's complexity is beyond our understanding. If it were not, if we could comprehend Him fully then He wouldn't be the Almighty God He is. He would be like all the false gods that Satan through man has created, gods who are by definition all within their "creator's" realm of comprehension! The god that man can fully understand cannot be a god that is greater than the man who created him, for it is axiomatic that the creator must always be superior to what he has created. However, this dilemma must not prevent us from seeking to learn and understand all that He has given us to know about Him that can be found in the wonders of His creation, and in His "Book."

One of God's attributes is Love. Defining love is not easy. However, for love to exist there must be one who loves, and one who is loved, for love cannot stand alone. Who would a singular God have loved prior to creation? The Father, Son and Holy Spirit each loved one another. It was love that caused Him to create, and it is Their expressions love that permeates all of Scripture! How strange it is that only those filled with the Spirit are capable of recognizing this and understanding that the many acts of God that seem cruel, mean and unfair, are in fact indirect manifestations of His love. Again, the Triune nature

of God solves the problem regarding “precreation” love, because each, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit loved and love one another! Also, God is Truth. But what is truth if locked in a singularity, that is in the absence of anyone with whom to share it? We could go on sighting the other attributes of God to further the point, if it were necessary. The point is that even with our primitive minds that He has given us, we have sufficient reasoning ability to cherish Him in all He is.

Scripture makes it very clear that the Triune nature of God is highly relevant, and serves a purpose when there becomes a need to educate man regarding the spiritual realm, and to implement the process by which redemption was made possible. God existed in a “now” state as the Trinity. God revealed His Triune-ness so as to allow us to better understand His many ways as He involves Himself in multiple issues through His 3 entities. In studying Scripture, we see this most clearly in the multiplicity of Their varied involvements in worldly and human affairs.

God’ foreknowledge of man’s fall, and His planned and revealed response, provides us with much precious knowledge if we will but study it. God’s Information Book provides the words that give man the imagery and sufficiency of understanding regarding what God wants him to know about the nature of the Godhead, and the three roles of His Being. Now let’s stray further for a moment from the topic in order to delve into some basics by means of which to build a foundation for where we go from here in our subject study.

Because God is all powerful and all knowing, His will and His way are the only forms of truth and righteousness. Therefore any other will that is contrary to His is wrong, and is sin. God made man in His own image and likeness because He had a specific plan for him, and that was to glean from mankind, an eternal family to love, to be loved by, and to share His glorious presence, as well as all else that an eternal new earth will have to offer. However, giving man a free will to choose or to reject that offer was an essential part of the plan. God knew when He did this, that mankind would use his free will to disobey, that is to sin and thereby complicate matters. To have forced him to comply against His

will would have been to remove his ability to love or to choose otherwise. This would have eliminated his ability to express a true commitment, and to voluntarily obey and to love, especially to love Him, because love cannot be created or forced, even by God. It must come from the application of a free will to choose to love, or to choose not to love. Of what benefit would there be for Him to have a family that didn't have with Him a genuine loving relationship, emanating from a restricted volition, or one that was obedient only through fear rather than through loving, trusting gratitude?

However, once having sinned, access to heaven was closed to all of mankind, unless sin could somehow be removed from those who sincerely wanted to repent of their sins and no longer wanted to assert their own negative will, but choose instead to try to live only by God's positive will. How could this be achieved? Sin is indelible on the soul and nothing on earth can remove it. However, God is just, and his perfect justice knows of no compromise. Justice demands appropriate punishment, otherwise it is not justice. The question then was what manner of punishment could satisfy God's justice and remove the ugly stain of sin from the soul/spirit while leaving the person sufficiently unscathed to be able to survive, receive forgiveness and thereby qualify for eternal life in the family of God? No manner of physical punishment could remove this spiritual "crime" against God. It had to be a spiritual punishment. Of course we know that God would not have permitted this situation to happen unless He already had a plan of redemption for those who would accept it.

Consistent with His love and His commitment to share with us what was appropriate for us to know, He very subtly mentioned the essence of His plan to Moses, way way back at Mt. Sinai. We find this in Leviticus 25:27 and 48. In fact, He revealed it way earlier to Adam when He spoke of the seed of the woman. Later He gave us the Book of Ruth where more details were revealed. This Book describes God's provision for the redeeming of land, and of kinsmen who were in physical bondage. It is an example God uses to help us understand the process He chose to extract man from his spiritual bondage to sin. What we learn is that one who was in servitude due to debt, could call upon a near relative to redeem him, that is to buy him back from the one to whom he was indebted, by

paying off that debt. The one called upon to be the redeemer had to be a kinsman, and also had to be willing, as well as able, to fulfill that role. He had to have sufficient wealth and was willing to commit it in order to be able to pay off the entire debt and assume other accrued obligations.

It was the application of this procedure to the spiritual realm that was the way God chose to redeem all hopeless souls in slavery to sin. They need only to ask for, and believe that the kinsman whom God would provide could and would be their Redeemer. But where was such a person to be found where redemption from sin was concerned? In order to be such a kinsman he had to be a man. Many could be found who were willing, but none were able, because only a sinless man having infinite spiritual wealth would be able to pay the spiritual debt that sin had created. Not since Adam “bit the apple” has there ever been, or could there ever be, a completely sinless man, and one of such spiritual wealth.

As we all know, God provided such a Man named Jesus, whom we call and who is the Son of God, and who called Himself the Son of Man, because He was actually born out of a woman’s womb so as to be a genuine Kinsman, growing into manhood in the same way all others did who followed after Adam and Eve. However, Jesus was not corrupted by the original sin because He was born of a virgin with the seed provided from God. Thus Jesus was the perfect in-the-flesh, sinless Man who, as Man, was a kinsman of all mankind. Being sinless and having infinite spiritual wealth because He was Himself God, He was able to perform the task of purchasing every one of His kin who would just ask Him in true belief! That He was a willing kinsman is evidenced by the fact that He, as God, became a man for that specific purpose. He was a perfect sinless flesh-and-blood Man who had the wholeness of God in Him.

Thus the Father God could achieve justice and the payment due by rendering the full measure of spiritual punishment upon Jesus (and also on Himself) for all the sins of the entire world. This horrific spiritual punishment, infinitely beyond anything comprehensible by man, occurred while Jesus was on the cross. However, it was not the stripes inflicted by man, or the nails, or the spear that rendered the redeemable

punishment. It was the Father forsaking Him during His last hours on the cross, as Jesus accepted unto Himself, all of the sins of all mankind. This pain reverberated throughout the entire Godhead, as Jesus confirmed its source when He cried out “My God why have you forsaken me”. The fullness of His success in achieving His purpose was expressed by His somewhat later utterance, “Tetelesti” meaning, “paid in full”. This proved that God’s justice where sin is concerned was once and for all, fully satisfied.

As an aside regarding choice, we might also consider another one “out of box” is the fact that God, because of His omniscient nature does not and cannot make choices! A choice is an “either / or,” meaning that one can go either one of at least two ways. To choose indicates a thought process by which one mentally weighs the alternatives in a balance. How can God have alternatives to consider when His way is the only way and under no circumstances could there ever have been or will be in His mind any other way. Can you picture God stopping to ponder what to do next or which way to go now? Choice was needed to be given only to His creation, so that their genuine love could manifest in them along with a total acceptance of His will, which is the only will that can exist in eternity.

There is no such thing as choice in God’s inventory of thoughts and actions. I believe, that to believe there is, is to fail to know a principal aspect of His nature. Because in His Book, He has used words and phrases understandable by man, and because we can not fully appreciate the vast difference that separates His glorious nature, and our comparative nothingness, we tend to wrongly impute to Him, certain human characteristics as we try to better understand what He has written. We really should know better than to believe that He can repent or choose or change His mind in the same sense that we deal with these words.

We might say, again in human expressions, that as He created the world, He instantly pre-scanned all of the consequences of thoughtless actions and conditions that would thereby result, and so was instantly aware of every infinitesimal molecule, thought and action relating to every person that would ever live. This foreknowledge precluded any choosing, or changing, or regretting, or repenting, of anything. With that instant scan He

knew everything that would be or would occur, and all contingencies were factored in, even our prayers. He then simply set things in motion on what we call real time, and let it play out as He knew it would. On second thought, there is one instance when God actually made a choice. Creation itself was a choice. Creation occurred because God made the choice to do so rather than not to do so.

Now I'm certain that some will see this earlier statement as being Deistic or most certainly an irrational distortion of God's Word, because we do see an actively living, loving intervening God influencing men and nations in profound ways that seem to change the courses of their lives. My answer is that all of this was evident to Him in that initial scanning. Thus this was already incorporated into His plan. What causes such concern and confusion is the fact that we live in the confines of the time dimension. God is both inside and outside of both time and space. This certainly establishes Him on a level so much higher than us that it is beyond our comprehension, so we have no choice but to accept this fact rather than to try to fully apprehend it.

I believe that if we examine those occasions where Scripture speaks of God changing His mind or repenting, there is usually a petitioning prayer to God involved. Might we not therefore reason that what God may be repenting of is something that He might have done had it not been for the prayers? By saying He repented, He is very subtly showing us the power of prayers. By His divine foreknowledge, He knew these prayers would manifest and therefore He shows us the power of those prayers by using the word "repentance."

Because God can exist outside of time and space, He is not limited in His activities by what limits us and our understanding, in our currently limited space/time realm. To believe otherwise, one must assume that God wasn't capable at the beginning to deal with the incredible maze of complexities that would follow creation, and so felt compelled to "wing it," that is, get things going and then have to get involved, if and as, things swung in various directions He hadn't anticipated. By this reasoning He would have a full time job entering the process and retro-fitting things as necessary when they evolved in a



manner different than what He had intended. That, to me is blasphemous, in that it dismisses, or at least expresses doubts as to His omniscience!

Would He have set up a process where He knew He would have to make adjustments, but didn't know in advance precisely what they would be, and how He would deal with them? Obviously not! How can we call Him our all knowing omniscient God and at the same time discount a portion of that omniscience? Did God, who created the incredible complexities of the entire universe by simply speaking them into existence, then sat down for long hours pondering how He could later deal with the endless labyrinth of human machinations? Did He then finally giving up, deciding to make adjustments along the way when choices became simpler? No way! Yet we all know that He is personally involved in every life, and does seem to alter many things, through our prayers as noted above. What we must understand is that all of this was foreknown and incorporated, even the prayers that He already knew His own would offer up to Him.

Looking back again at the Trinity and Their plan for mankind's spiritual redemption, we can see that there are goings-on in heaven that were absent prior to creation. Already, since Jesus returned to heaven, there are millions of redeemed souls there that were not there previously. And the Son who was given, (Isaiah 9:6) that is that spiritual component of the Triune Godhead called "Son", is now in heaven, as both God and Man. This Man Jesus, whose spirit is yet, and always was the Son aspect of the Triune Godhead, sits also as a Man of incorruptible flesh and bones on the Father's throne as mankind's intercessor.

This is a body, a position and a function that never before existed in heaven. It seems plausible, that, at least in some ways, this is effecting the nature and focus of the Trinity. The serene calmness and simplicity that existed in God's "now" at creation, appears to have ended with creation. Because of the advent of sin, life grew more complex long before Jesus the Man came into existence.

However one might challenge the accuracy of what I'm writing, it is also most evident that the social structure of did heaven changed. Angels have new tasks and reasons for wonderment as they watch the passing scenes "below." Also Scripture reveals godly activity by the spiritual "Son" occurred on earth long before His being incorporated into "birth" as Man, in that He appeared in the form of a man many times as what we call a "theophany", in a manner similar to angels when they were so instructed.

God was and is everywhere, guiding, loving, influencing, physically rewarding and, punishing, and carrying out innumerable works among His creation all in accordance with His pre-ordained plan.

From the Book of Revelation we are privileged to see into heaven, and many of the activities that will go on there during the end portion of the end-times in which we now live. If we ever thought that heaven was an unchangeable place, it should be evident now, that it is far from that. In this sense, even the existing heaven has a finite life and will end, as we learn in Revelation. There we are told that both the present heaven and earth will be destroyed, and that God will create a brand new heaven and earth in which He and His family of saved mankind will dwell forever! Tragically, there will also exist another "celestial body" somewhere in the outer darkness where those who chose not to be redeemed will dwell throughout eternity. This is a place of eternal suffering euphemistically called the "lake of fire." We think in terms of actual fire and flames. I doubt that. It will simply be a place of eternal suffering and the absence of God.

Since the ascension, there has been the Man Jesus in heaven, as part of the Godhead Trinity. Scripture assures us that God is unchanging which of course must be true. Therefore, the Triune God of which Jesus is a part, has no effect on God's sameness, even though the Man Jesus is now incorporated with them the Triune God.

Therefore, we must believe that the Triune Godhead is wholly as the Godhead was even while Jesus as Man remains also, wholly man and wholly God through the Son as the Spirit of His soul/Spirit. In terms of something that severely and uniquely effected the

Godhead, consider the crucifixion. As Jesus was made sin, and endured the incredible physical and spiritual suffering while in that state, we obliged to conclude, as previously described, that this spiritual pain was also suffered by the entire Trinity? This certainly was a uniquely monumental that very much involved the whole Triune Godhead.

Isaiah 53 and 1Thessalonians 5 tells us not to grieve the Holy Spirit. The fact is, He is grieved millions of times each day by God's own creation. Through these circumstances, we can see that, at least there is an on-going condition that didn't previously exist regarding the Trinity.

Will the Man Jesus, after His reign during the millennium, continue as Man on into the eternal new heaven and earth, or will all things past include His reversion wholly into the pure spiritual realm of the Godhead, absent the Man aspect of Jesus? Scripture tells us quite clearly that Jesus will continue to be a Man forever (1Corinthians 15:28)

Scripture makes it abundantly clear that Jesus, the Son of God/ Son of Man is eternally, a part of the Triune Godhead.

The physical features of Jesus as Man, as well as those of all saved souls, will continue throughout eternity. Perhaps the wounds will disappear in as much as they may have served their purpose, once the Jews see the "One whom, they have pierced." The Triune God will live on the new earth along with all of the heavenly hosts, the redeemed Jews and all of mankind who have been saved. Jesus will continue as an Intercessor between the Godhead and mankind who will dwell with Him on the new earth. This, I believe, may be because of the vast differences that will continue to exist between the Father God and man, even though man then will continue be in "Their image and likeness." I don't believe that the image and likeness relate much if at all, to the Father. It is the Son of God with which Jesus became one. That is why I believe Jesus will be the interpreter and intercessor of the Father's will.

The God, who needed but to speak a thought in order to create the entire universe, including man, is totally incomparable, as well as incomprehensible. Again, I believe

that comfortable, effective communication, between the Godhead and man as he will co-exist on the new earth, will continue to be made possible by our great Intercessor, our Lord and Redeemer, the God-Man Christ Jesus! How the Son of Man-Jesus can co-exist as an integral aspect of the Son of Man Jesus, and yet be completely and wholly within the Triune Godhead, is beyond human reason in the same way as is the Trinity of God, as already discussed. As noted above, one aspect this great mystery, the question for it is found when we accept the fact that His Spirit, the Son of God is in the Trinity. In this case however, as noted, Jesus the Man has the Spirit that not only provides immortality, but is also fully assimilated as part of the eternal Godhead. This as I see it, differs from the God of the eternal now as He was at the time of creation.

There is another change that will take place in heaven. Scripture indicates that God exists outside of time and space that is in a dimensionless and timeless state of “now”. Therefore we may conclude that this “outside of time and space” was no longer necessary after creation, and therefore no longer a utilized “place”.

Recall what the apostle John saw in heaven as recorded in Revelation. He saw living creatures and the “Lamb of God as it had been slain.” This was not imagery, or only spirit, but substance, existing and moving about in a space / time continuum. What was revealed to John was that the Son of Man, when He ascended to heaven, He and all who were in heaven, were functioning in space / time dimensions, as on earth. However, having commenced at creation, everything in heaven and on earth will eternally continue sequentially, that is in the time dimensions as we know them. After His resurrection, Jesus acquired several other dimensionalities beyond the 4 that we live in.

Because John was able to see the past, present and future, does not preclude, and in fact proves, that time was and is operational in heaven as it was and is on earth. Everything that John recorded from Revelation chapter 5 on, will soon occur, now nearly 2,000 years after he saw it. As we study what he recorded, we realize that he was seeing the end time events which have already commenced. However, when the fullness of the Gentiles be

come in (Romans 11:25) the Rapture will happen. This will take all of the Body of Christ, living and dead, to heaven.

As noted, there are also other higher dimensions, such as those Jesus applied after the resurrection, but as yet, not discernable or understood by man. All ascended souls will have incorruptible bodies. And of course later, the new heaven and earth will be free of the destructive forces of entropy. The new heaven and earth, like the flesh and bones of resurrected man will never decay. God instituted entropy as a result of the fall of man into sin. Entropy is the decaying process that God used to fulfill His admonition to Adam when He told him that if he disobeyed, that is sinned, he would surely die.

Not only would Adam and Eve die, but all life which had been created to be eternal now fell into this escape-proof entropy snare where death and destruction of all things physical is inevitable. The physical world of eternity must of necessity, involve at least 4 dimensionalities in which we live. Scripture clearly says so. The existence of time in eternity future is expressed in Revelation 22:2 “...*was there the tree of life, which bear twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month..*” Reading this portion of Scripture alone reveals several allusions to things that cannot be understood absent a time dimension. The obvious one is the “month” which surely is a measurement of time. Another is the existence of living substance as evidenced by the tree. Furthermore, God’s future abode will be literally on this new earth, again as Revelation clearly states.

Please be patient with me as my mind wanders trying to find the words with which to articulate convincingly what I believe is the answer to our topic question. For the biblically matured this may be too simplistic and repetitive. However, these efforts are also for the novices who I believe need repetition and detail.

After the son of Man died the physical death, He rose again, and now physically and spiritually sits at the right hand of the Father on the Father’s throne in heaven. With this event, the condition in heaven changed because of His presence. He is not only a

physical Man but He is deity! He is God in every way, because His Spirit, is the Son aspect of the Triune Godhead! The Man aspect of His being remains undiminished, and if we can express it this way, it is an added characteristic of the eternal Son! Prior to the physical birth of Jesus, that is in Old Testament times, the Son visited the earth as a Theophany, that is, in the form of a physical man, just as did the angels. We find this clearly expressed in Genesis 19 and in Joshua 6 and several other places. There is no evidence in the New Testament of the Son of the Triune Godhead ever again visiting earth as a Theophany. He no longer could, nor needed to, because the Son and Jesus were now one.

Through the inerrant word of God, we know that Jesus' coming will happen only after this dispensation and after the Tribulation. Then He will return and remain here as Jesus the God /Man ruling the earth for a thousand years. Dispensations cannot overlap. A new one begins the instant the previous one ends.

Jesus the Man became an eternal integral aspect of the Triune Godhead at the instant of the impregnation of Mary. Then in this aspect, our Eternal Triune God, since the advent of Jesus, may be thought of as having changed. However, this cannot be, because Scripture makes it very clear that God is forever unchanging! God is the Logos, the Word and the Creator God, as He has expressed Himself in the Holy Bible. The presence of the Man, born of woman from the moment of inception has been indelibly incorporated in the Son of God. Nevertheless our Creator God is and always will be, the same entity that "They were" at the moment of creation. As, previously noted, just as we who are saved are each endowed with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, so it must be that Jesus is similarly endowed with the Son of God as His eternal Spirit. Neither of these "endowments" in any way alters the fullness and integrity of the Triune Godhead.

So what is the answer to the topic question? Based on the case attempted to be presented here, I believe that it is intrinsically, yes, the eternal essence of the Triune Godhead is unchanging! This is true because Scripture tell us emphatically that our God is an

eternally unchanging God. However, something most glorious has been wholly integrated in the Son of the Trinity. It is Jesus, the Man wrought from God's own creation.

There will also be eternal, changes effecting the God's eternal realm, things that didn't exist before. Surely during this present interlude between creation and eternity, there are some functional changes. The advent of Jesus the man becoming part of the Godhead who resides in heaven cannot be denied as being unique and somehow different from what existed in the past, where there was only the pure simple unchanging integrity of the Triune Godhead. The "immigration and naturalization" (read glorification) of billions of re-embodied souls into heaven must also in some way effect, at least the daily "operations and interests" of the Godhead, even if it's nothing more than assigning angels new tasks with which to deal. Then of course, there is that pain and suffering episode on the cross where the Godhead also suffered. Additionally, most of the Book of Revelation is loaded with new and different activities by Jesus and the Godhead as they proceed to end sin, as well as the very earth on which it exists. As we realize those things, and that the Man Jesus will dwell eternally, and that the Holy Spirit will indwell every saved soul, I believe that the case has been made that eternal future of heaven will involve a number of major things that were absent in Their eternal "now", that is at the time of creation.

One last clue that I believe supports this contention. In Revelation 22:1 we read "*and he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.*" The Lamb is, of course, Christ Jesus, here indicative of being a separate entity having His own throne. The pure water is spiritual water that will sustain all of mankind. It is the water which Jesus spoke about to the woman at the well (John 4:14) In Genesis 1 it was the One Triune God who created the world. In the Gospel of John 1:1, 2 "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God.*" My interpretation of this is that it was long prior to the birth of Jesus. Notice in John 1 that nothing is mentioned of Jesus until verse 14 where it speaks of the word being made flesh! To me, that is a powerful confirmation of what I have indicated above. It was the Son of the Trinity that created, totally in absent of Jesus. After that, when the Word was made flesh, that Jesus was

permanently made to be One with the Son of God. John sees Jesus as “the Lamb”, after the Lamb had died on the cross.

I now feel compelled to offer the following insight which I pray and strongly believe was given to me to incorporate into my ministry studies. It is something that few, if any Christian believers will accept. That is because most, or probably nearly all have an absolute indelible uncompromising belief that does not allow any different view. Because this type of information has no relevance to the quest for salvation, many will say “who cares” and move on. However, the Bible tells us that all Scripture is for our learning, (Romans 5:4 & 2Timothy 3:16, 17) if we choose to do so, and I do. If possible, I pray that you will be patient and as open minded as you can be while I offer the following observations.

First, I believe, with all my being that our Creator God is a Triune God, that as Scripture so forcibly states. It is a Trinity which consists of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Nothing more and nothing less. That is sacrosanct!

What I believe is the faulty belief that troubles me, is the belief that it was Jesus, the Son of God/ Son of Man who did the creating. It was the Son of God, absent the Son of Man, Jesus, who did the creating! Jesus the Man was not in any way a participant in creating! The Scriptural basis from which I draw this conclusion is as follows:

1. John 1:1-4 “*1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. 4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.*” These verses make it unmistakably clear that God did the creating. If Jesus the Man was at the creation, what was the purpose of creation the Son of Man of which John the Baptist refers to? The Son of Man named by God to take away the sins of the world? The first mention of Jesus is in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1. Soon after God told Joseph to name the son that would be born of Mary, to name Him Jesus. Neither John the Baptist nor Mary or Joseph were at creation. They, and the birth of the Man Jesus all occurred 4000 after creation! In several other Scriptural passages it’s made



- clear that it was the Son of the Trinity that did the creating. In verses 6-18 speak of John the Baptist, as the man God chose to be the herald who would announce the coming of the Son of God / Son of Man. The Man Jesus had finally come into existence that is, was born only 30 years earlier, not 4000 years earlier at the instant of creation!
2. There is no flesh mentioned in John's verses 1-4. It is only the Word that is mentioned. Why? Because there was no flesh at that time! I believe that inasmuch as God's Word did not mention the Word as having been made flesh until verse 14 is very supportive of the delay of which I claim. Notice again, that it is through John the Baptist, who we know came 4000 years after creation who he made his announcement. To me, this again makes it evident that there was at creation, no Son of Man there, but only the Son of the Triune God! It was 4000 years later that the Creator Son of God, and Jesus became one. The delay in mentioning flesh until the 14<sup>th</sup> verse is consistent with the delay (4000 years) until John the Baptist came to herald the coming of Jesus the Lamb of God.
  3. With all of this in mind, if we yet claim that Jesus the Man was instrumental in creation, then how do we deal with these verses that appear to provide contrary evidence?

The word "theophany" is a combination of two Greek words "theo" and "phany" "Theo" is God, and "phany" means "to show". According to Webster's it is defined as a visible manifestation of deity. You can't have my Jesus at the creation when He wasn't born in the flesh until 4000 years later! It was the Son of God alone that did the creating!

Genesis chapter 1 tells us that man was made in Their image and likeness. That decision resulted in God's creating Adam and Eve. In doing so, He also made provisions in them for the continuing of generations of mankind. The Son of God manifested several or probably many times during the Old Testament dispensation. As examples, we know that He spoke and walked with Adam, Cain, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, etc. Jesus was not a part of any of this. It was when He

was humanly conceived, that the Son of the Trinity became the Spirit of Jesus thereby making Jesus both Son of God and Son of Man. After Jesus came, we never read of a theophany. That has ended because of this “inseparable” union with the Man Jesus.

It is at the instant of conception every human being is provided a soul. The soul is who the person is in terms of their unique genealogical history. This is who the person is at the instant each receive a soul. The spirit needs not be customized because I believe that at least its initial function is to provide immortality. This is the condition of all mankind, that distinguishes them from every other created creature. All animal life has a soul. It is what defines who or what it is. The biggest difference between animals and man in this sense is the spirit. Jesus’ spirit however was totally unique in that it was the Spirit Son of God. It was by this means only that there could be a person who is both the Son of God and the Son of Man, all in One person! If this is too difficult to understand, and not worthy of your time, then drop it in favor of a far more important mission, that is being right with God, by praying without ceasing, by seeking to eliminate your sinful nature, and in all things preparing yourself for the day you stand before Jesus.

In Googling the origin of how it became universally accepted that Jesus was the Creator, I find nothing as to how it began. Every entry simply seems to indicate that it is so obvious that it needs no explanation. It is a sacrosanct fact and therefore need no further thoughts. Isn’t the “fact” of evolution just as sacrosanct today? People lose their jobs, their friends, and are severely persecuted and even jailed if they doubt it as being absolute truth! Every reference I have found simply uses the same verses I use to “prove” that Jesus was not the Creator. Every reference concludes that this fact is too obvious to question. Certainly, the eleven most prominent “church fathers” made no mention of this presumed “absolute “fact.” As we will soon see, they were all commandeered by Satan to build His universal church.

If Jesus is not yet the center piece of your life, if you are not yet one of the pilgrim sojourners, get at it!! The last train out of Sin City bound for New Jerusalem may leave a lot sooner than you think!! All of your “could of’s, should of’s, would of’s” will have absolutely no value in hell!

P.S.

If you choose, here is something else to ponder, that I may not have articulated adequately. While it’s human logic to think this way, how can one rightly speak of any eternity past when time was one of the dimensions that came into being when God created the heavens and the earth? To put “past” in the context of eternity suggests that time already existed before creation. At that “time” God was, and as we say, outside of time and space. Since we know that God created the time dimension at the same “time” He created the heavens and the earth, there could not have been an eternity past. Had there been a past, there would have to have been a time beginning of that past and so the word eternity is not a valid concept, at least as we tend to understand it. That’s a dilemma that, it seems to me, to be reconciled only by acknowledging there was no eternity “past”, that is prior to the creation, there was only a “now,” in which God existed. When we speak of past or future, we are introducing by definition, a time element. This “now” solves the problem. As noted earlier, this was alluded to quite powerfully to Moses at the burning bush. (Exodus 3:14) God told Moses that **I AM THAT I AM**. To me, God is speaking of being in the **NOW!**

To speak of “now” there is no sequencing implied. God existed in the now, absent of such a sequential concept as a past. Since creation, God exists in the time continuum, as do we, and everything else. God, the heavenly hosts and man will live literally forever. Again, God, along with man and the angels, will henceforth live in His created time dimension, on and on in a never ending eternity.

After the millennium God will destroy this sin-filled earth and create a new eternal earth. God Himself, along with the celestial beings and redeemed people will dwell there together in sequential time. In terms of faith, the Gospel, salvation, and how to conduct

our lives as servants of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior, this delving into things beyond is not essential, and can indeed be considered completely irrelevant. However, for those who chose to wonder about such things and who don't let them subordinate true worship and obedient service to Him, who knows, such thoughts as these, and their results might provide an even higher level of understanding love and awe of our incredible God, and how He functions. This in itself is reason enough to so muse, provided that we feel so persuaded after prayerful consideration.

The following will summarize my conclusions regarding the subject of this study:

1. In the sense of the fullness of His being, God is unchanging. Scripture demands this to be true. He is the same omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent God that He was prior to creation as He existed in the "now".
2. In John 1:1-4 we learn that God created all things. In other Scriptural passages, we learn that it was the Son of the Triune Godhead who did this creating.
3. Only later in John 1:14, sometime after creation, was the Word made flesh. This assuredly speaks of Jesus, however this didn't happen until about 4,000 years later, when Jesus was born of flesh.
4. From this we can conclude that the Word was made flesh, that this Man became in some way "fused to", or became One with the Son of God who was the "Word."
5. My belief is that at the instant of conception, it was the Spirit Son of the Trinity, that became the Spirit of Jesus. Therefore, Jesus was then, and forever, within the Trinity.
6. With full respect for the truth of item #1 above, I believe that the God of today has absorbed the Man Jesus, yet the same God who called Himself, the IAM THAT I AM, which equates to His being in the "now"! Of course, when He spoke those words, He was also, and forever, within the time realm.
7. As things stand now, the man aspect of the Son of God / Son of Man is forever an integral part of the Triune Godhead because His Spirit is the Spirit of God's only Son.

I believe that we need to examine the issue of what the early church father's taught regarding whether or not Jesus was the personage who did the creating. The earliest of these that I have found wrote sometime between 50 to 100 years after Jesus died. The latest and last of the eleven was Augustine. This list came from an earlier study titled "What Do We Learn From our Early Church Fathers." This provides far more detail than I've provided here.

Now I am prompted to discuss an issue that was highly controversial during the early centuries after Jesus died. It was the issue of whether or not Jesus was the Creator. It went on for many decades and was seemingly settled. The "winner" was on the Jesus-as-Creator side. What was the stronger evidence which caused this? I don't believe that there was any! It happened because the priestly powers favored the concept that Jesus was there at the instant of creation and was in fact the Creator. Their power was so great that none other belief was allowed to have any credence. In defending this choice many claim that it was the early church fathers, because they were closer in time to when Jesus lived. Strangely however, I find no evidence to indicate that any of these eleven addressed this. As I have Googled all of the relevant writings of any age the universal presumption has always been that Jesus was the Creator. Some speak of "Christ" as the Creator. Because this word means the "anointed one" I accept that term as accurate unless the term is synonymous with Jesus. The more I have examined the issue the more I am convinced of the accuracy of my analyses even though I apparently stand alone in this belief. There is nothing in my work that in any is contrary to God's Word. Mine is only a different, yet equally biblically based belief.

Speaking of the church Fathers, let's see what they had to say. Let's examine the writing of the eleven most prominent biblical interpreters of that age:

1. Ignatius (AD5± to 110 AD±) He was the "Bishop" of Antioch, perhaps the largest church of that day. As Bishop, he had superior authority over all elders. He asserted that no church, absent a ruling Bishop, had any authority to conduct communion and all churches were to be part of a universal church. That is Catholicism already manifested! It's evident that Irenaeus' teaching led to the

- multi-layered structure of the Catholic Church and onto the establishing of the succession of a Pope who had infallible authority as “Vicars” of Christ!
2. Justin Martyr (100± to 165 AD) What he didn’t understand, he simply allegorized. He developed the idea of an intermediate state between heaven and hell! This is the excepted role of the Catholic Church known as purgatory!
  3. Irenaeus (125±AD to 202 ±Ad) While of Lyons France, he wrote a treatus titled “Against Heresies.” In it he supported bishop rule, and the validity of tradition beyond what Scripture allows, as well as a real presence of the Body of Christ “in the Eucharist”! Thus we know another root from which the unbiblical Catholic Church grew! We call this Transubstantiation.
  4. Clement of Alexandria (150±AD to 255±AD) He further advanced the allegorizing of Scripture, and intermingled Plato’s philosophies with Scriptural interpretation. He further advanced the doctrine of purgatory suggesting that most will eventually be saved from the weigh station of suffering.
  5. Tertullian (155±AD to 255±AD) He lived in Carthage in what is now Tunisia. He believed in the literal-ness of the Eucharist as being the Body of Christ Jesus. He taught that all churches were to be part of one universal church. ( the doctrine of Catholicism) This maybe where the idea of Peter being the first Pope began. Widows who remarried became fornicators, and baptism was for the forgiveness of sins! He classified sin into 3 categories and believed in the confession of sins only to Bishops. He believed Mary, by her obedience, remedied the disobedience of Eve!
  6. Cyprian (200± AD to 258± AD) He was Bishop of Carthage. He believed in a church hierarchy and that Bishops had authority over Pastors. All Pastors must submit to their Bishops. He also suggested the efficacy of infant baptism.
  7. Orgin (185±AD to 254 AD) He was persecuted by Roman Emperor Decius for his Christian beliefs. Lutheran historian Mosheim describes him as a “compound of contraries” Here is a summary of what this “early father” professed:
    - a. The Bible is not infallible.
    - b. Early Chapters of Genesis are not to be taken literally.
    - c. Infant baptism is efficacious for salvation.

- d. Salvation by works
  - e. The Holy Spirit may have been created.
  - f. There is a purgatory, but not a literal hell.
  - g. Men's souls were pre-existent and perhaps the stars and moon also.
  - h. Jesus was a created being and not eternal.
  - i. There is no body resurrection.
  - j. Allegorized the Bible saying Scriptures are of little use to those who understand them literally.
8. Eusebius of Caesarea (270± AD to 340±AD) He collected Origen's writings and promoted them. Constantine, the actual founder of the Catholic Church, hired Eusebius to produce a Greek New Testament.
9. Jerome (340±AD to 420±AD) He produced the Vulgate which is the official Bible of the Catholic Church. He believed celibacy to be spiritually superior to marriage; in the veneration of holy relics such as the bones of Christians; the saints in heaven hear prayers and intercede on our behalf; that Mary is instrumental in helping to redeem the human race; and that she remained a virgin. He believed in blessing of water, and justified the death penalty for heretics.
10. Ambrose (339 AD to 397AD) He was the Bishop of Milan Italy. He had a strong influence of Augustine. His teachings include the following:
- a. He used the allegorical-mystical method of Bible interpretation characteristics of Origen and Plato.
  - b. Christians should be devoted to Mary, and pray for departed saints.
  - c. The church had the power to forgive sin.
  - d. Believed in Transubstantiation.
  - e. Offering prayers for the dead.
11. Augustine (354AD to 430AD) Many consider him to be the primary "father of the Catholic Church". He seems to have institutionalized a great many of the major heresies that permeate the Catholic Church, and the Reformation churches. There is much regarding his entire life available, and very disturbing from a Christian perspective. However, we'll limit this to his blasphemous doctrinal policies which he brought into the Catholic Church and added forces to their legitimacy.

- a. Father and perpetrator of the doctrines of persecution which among other atrocities, led to the Inquisition.
  - b. He credited himself as an amillinalest, allegorizing biblical prophecy and teaching that the Catholic Church is the kingdom of God.
  - c. He taught that sacraments provided saving graces.
  - d. Infant baptism took away sin and all who reject this decree were cursed.
  - e. Mary was sinless, was to be worshipped, and plays a role in salvation.
  - f. Believed in purgatory and celibacy of priests.
  - g. Believed authority of Church over the Bible
  - h. Believed in that true interpretation of Scripture was found only in the declaration of the Church Councils.
  - i. Interpreted the early chapters of the Bible as figurative.
  - j. Taught that God preordained some for salvation, and others for damnation.
- Calvin admitted that he derived his TULIP Theology directly from Augustine.

12. Here are 11 of the so-called early church fathers, and what they taught. I didn't select them for any reason other than that they seem to be the best known. Perhaps these were all honorable God-fearing men who meant well, but most certainly none of the favorably expressed biblical truths. Instead I see them as building the foundation, and the building brick by brick Satan's universal church. As we see now, these layers of apostate dogmas are growing larger and larger, it's evident that this is Satan's prized program through which he believes will achieve his 5 I Wills! (Isaiah 13, 14) Remember, it's their time there were but the continuous Scripture absent any individual book chapters or verse. Under that situation, who today could correctly interpret Scripture? Only those with the ability to memorize it completely. Then to have total recall of any portions of it from which they could accurately "connect the dots" thereby arriving at a true understanding of what Scripture teaches. Based on their teachings, it's evident that none had this attribute.



What a great time Satan had influencing and manipulating the minds of these poor souls to cause them to lay such a firm foundation of his inevitable world-wide church. While this side trip did very little in dealing with the Jesus as Creator issue, I believe that it took away any credence to the argument that early church fathers had any Jesus-honoring contributions.