

These Perilous Times
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What Do God's Remnant People Believe?
Part II

Some Seventh-day Adventists cringe when they hear the word “**trinity**” spoken. They associate it strictly with a Catholic teaching—because of the Catholic Church’s inclusion of Mary as a deity, and an equal part of the God-head!

According to Webster’s Dictionary, trinity means: 1. the condition of being three or threefold. 2. A set of three persons or things that form a unit. In Christian theology, **the union of the three divine persons, {Father, Son and Holy Spirit...}** ¹ {Emphasis supplied}.

Though the word “**trinity**” is not mentioned in scripture there is no need to be alarmed. The word “**trinity**” simply means three or three-in-one—in this case three in one God!

¹ Webster’s New World Dictionary of the American Language,
College Ed.} Cleveland & New York, World Pub. Assn., 1964, p. 1557.

The words, “rapture,” {catching away} and “millennium,” {milli-1000} are not mentioned in scripture either, and may not be fully understood by some newly converted Seventh-day Adventists. These Perilous Times, {TPT} will cover them in more detail in future presentations.

Note: It’s a matter of fact that Seventh-day Adventists do not believe in the false doctrine of a “secret rapture,” {a secret catching away/resurrection}” but we do believe in the resurrection of the righteous dead at Christ’s second coming when we will be caught up, {raptured} to meet Jesus in the clouds!

What does this mean for us?

Obvious Signs Do tell the Season

2. The Godhead

“There is one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal Persons. God is immortal, all-powerful, all-knowing, above all, and ever present.

He is infinite and beyond human comprehension, yet known through His self-revelation. **He is forever worthy of worship, adoration, and service by the whole creation.** {Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; II Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4-6; I Pet. 1:2; I Tim. 1:17; Rev. 14:7},” {Emphasis supplied} ²

Some of God’s Names

“At the time the scriptures were written, names were important, as they still are in the Near East and Orient. There a name is considered to reveal the character of the bearer... The importance of God’s names, disclosing His nature, character, and qualities are revealed in His command, “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain,” {Ex. 20:7}.

“Holy and awesome is His name,” {Ps. 111:9}.
“Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted,” {Ps. 148:13}.

² Seventh-day Adventists Believe, “A Biblical Exposition of Fundamental Beliefs,” Boise, ID, Pacific Press Pub. Assn., General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, Md. 2005, pp. 23-35.

The Hebrew name *El* and **Elohim**, {"God"} reveal God's divine power. They depict God as the strong and mighty One, the God of Creation, {Gen. 1:1; Ex. 20:2; Dan. 9:4}.

Elyon, {"Most High"} and *El Elyon*, {"God Most High"} focus on His exalted status, {Gen. 14:18-20; Isa. 14:14}. **Adonai**, {"Lord"} pictures God as Almighty Ruler, {Isa. 6:1; Ps. 35:23}. These names emphasize the majestic and transcendent character of God. Other names reveal God's willingness to enter into a relationship with people.

Shaddai, {"Almighty"} and **El Shaddai**, {"God Almighty"} portray the Almighty God, the source of blessing and comfort, (Ex. 6:1; Ps. 91:1).

The Name **Yahweh**, translated **Jehovah** or Lord, stresses, God's covenant faithfulness and grace {Ex. 15:2, 3; Hosea 12:5, 6}.

In Exodus 3:14, Yahweh describes Himself "I am who I am," or "I shall be what I shall be," indicating His unchangeable relation to His people. "³ Is there only one? What of Christ and the Holy Spirit?

³ Ibid. p. 26.

Although the Old Testament does not explicitly teach that God is **triune**, it alludes to a plurality within the Godhead. At times God employs plural pronouns such as: “Let **Us** make man in **Our** image,” {Gen. 1:26}; “Behold the man has become like one of **Us**,” {Gen.3:22}. ⁴

God’s people should all be familiar with Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptist. In the New Testament it states very clearly that **all three persons of the Godhead were present**.

Now when all the people were baptized, it came to pass that 1. **Jesus** also was baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, and the 2. **Holy Ghost** descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon **Him**, and 3. a **voice** came from heaven, which said, **Thou art My** beloved **Son**; in **Thee I am** well pleased.” Luke 3:21, 22



⁴ Ibid. p. 29.

