

Studies on YHWH Part 3 - Roles of the Trinity in Creation

Introduction - Roles of Trinity in Creation

- Jesus - the agent of creation
 - All Things Came Into Being Through Him
 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being **through** Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. - John 1:1-3
 - Word - mamre
 - Throughout the Tanakh, the Word is a person sent to the earth (see Psalm 147:15, Psalm 107:20) to accomplish the will of God. For example:
 - so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. *(Isaiah 55:11, ESV)*
 - There are also many occasions where the Word meets with specific people. For example, in Genesis 15 he makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham:
 - *Then the word of the Lord came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir." He (the word of the Lord) took him outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars — if indeed you can count them." Then he (the word of the Lord) said to him, "So shall your offspring be." (Genesis 15:3–4, NIV)*
 - The Word became flesh
 - John's narrative reaches crescendo when the Word — who made the world, is fully God, and accomplishes God's will on earth — becomes human flesh:
 - *The Word became flesh and made his dwelling [tabernacle or tent] among us. (John 1:14)*

- Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that hovers over its young, - Deut 32:11a
 - **ruach also = "breath" or "wind" in OT**
 - By the word of Yahweh the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host. He gathers the *waters of the sea* as a heap; He lays up the *deeps in storehouses*.- Psalm 33:6-7
 - By His breath the heavens are *made* beautiful; His hand has pierced the fleeing serpent. - Job 26:13
- **Creating in the NT - pneumatosis**
 - The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will *overshadow* you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. - Luke 1:35
 - *overshadow* - ἐπισκιάσει (**episkiasei**), **very similar to "brooding"**
 - Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. - John 3:5
 - "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life." - John 6:63
 - See also Romans 8:11
- **Spirit keeps the Universe Running**
 - Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand or marked off the heavens with the span [of his hand]? Who has gathered the dust of the earth in a measure or weighed the mountains in a balance and the hills in scales? Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or who gave Him His counsel? (Isaiah 40:12, 13 HCSB).
- **The Holy Spirit Adorns the Universe** - The Holy Spirit adorns the physical universe with its beauty
 - By His Spirit He adorned the heavens (Job 26:13 NKJV).
- **The Spirit sustains all life**
 - If God were to take back his spirit and withdraw his breath, all life would cease, and humanity would turn again to dust (Job 34:14, 15 NLT).
- **The Holy Spirit Renews the Universe** - The preservation and renewal of God's creation is another ministry of God the Holy Spirit. We read the following in the Book of Psalms:

- When you send your Spirit, new life is born to replenish all the living of the earth (Psalm 104:30 NLT).
- **The Spirit of God preserves His creation** - He is the One who keep everything running efficiently. Thus, from Scripture, it is clear that the Spirit of God is intimately involved in smooth functioning of creation.

What about the plurality in Genesis 1:26-27 and "elohim"? Is this evidence of the Trinity?

- Then God (elohim) said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness, so that they will have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. - Genesis 1:26-27
 - cf Genesis 3:22 for similar statement
 - Then Yahweh God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us to know good and evil; and now, lest he send forth his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever"
- Context
 - How did original readers understand it?
 - word study of elohim - can refer to all spiritual beings
 - YHWH - Psalm 82, Genesis 2:4-5, Deut. 4:35
 - Members of the divine council/assembly - Psalm 82:1,6
 - gods of the nations - Judges 11:24, 1 Kings 11:33
 - demons - Deut 32:17
 - angels - Gen. 35:7
 - the deceased - 1 Sam. 28:13
 - who was with YHWH?
 - Divine assembly - Job 1:6, Psalm 29:1-2, 38:7, 1 Kings 22:19-20, Psalm 82, 89:5
 - what is an image?
 - represent God on earth, not necessarily a physical resemblance
 - we are to have dominion over earth - we are rulers
 - we are to relate in community as he does - Trinity existed in community, so do we
 - function over material - giving order

- Where does that leave us?
 - Despite the ANE and Jewish worldview which did not understand the full weight of YHWH's activity via the work of each member of the Trinity, we can from our post-Cross perspective have full confidence that each member of the Godhead were present and at work. YHWH alone is Creator and worthy of our worship as such.
 - Hebrews 1:1-3 - "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power."
 - Revelation 5:13 - And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!"