

# *Sabbechism!*<sup>TM</sup>

*A summary of commonly-held teachings of the Sabbath-keeping Churches of God*

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## The God Family

Some feel that the existence of God cannot be proven. They say that belief in God is an act of faith that requires divine revelation. This is only partially true.

There is no way that a person can look at a precision watch and declare that this timepiece came into existence all by itself. A watch must have a watchmaker. The same applies to an iPod. An iPod does not come into existence by itself. An iPod must have an iPod maker.

And the same applies to the universe which is infinitely more complicated than any watch or any iPod. It is pure folly to claim that the universe was created without a Creator.

This principal also applies to the millions of laws of the universe. You cannot have laws without a Law Giver.

In other words, the created universe and its laws stand as witness to the existence of God!

God's written Word is another witness to His existence. No other book in the history of mankind has made predictions which have accurately come to pass. Time after time, a prophet of God would reveal a future event to a nation and that prediction would take place.

The existence of God is undeniable to the logical and truthful mind. And, if we are going to understand the nature of God, we must go to His written Word to learn. Let's see what the Bible says about God.

### **The Trinity: Fact or Fiction?**

We originally planned to have three separate sections in this Sabbechism for God the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. But since there is so much confusion regarding these issues, we thought it would be good to combine them into one study.

We must begin by making it clear that there is no such thing as a Trinity. It's important to note that the Holy Spirit is not a being. The Holy Spirit is a force like the wind. The Holy Spirit is the power of God that is given through Jesus Christ. After a person accepts Jesus as his Savior, the Holy Spirit dwells within that person. This power

guides (but does not control) the Christian's life. The Holy Spirit within a person makes him a son of God. The Holy Spirit in a person is the reason why he will be resurrected or changed in the twinkling of an eye and the return of Jesus.

The Bible calls the Holy Spirit:

*The Spirit of God*  
*The Spirit of the Lord*  
*The Spirit of Jesus Christ*  
*The Spirit of truth*  
*The Comforter*  
*The Advocate*

It is interesting to note that in the King James Version of the Bible, there is a Scripture that should not be there! Yes, it's true and you can prove this for yourself. I John 5:7 was inserted by translators who wanted the reader to believe in a Trinity. The false insertion goes like this: "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one."

If you look at most other translations of the Bible, you will find that this King James Version insertion is not there. It is unfortunate that the men who translated the King James Version of the Bible felt the need to attempt deception. They felt they needed to be dishonest because there is nothing in the Bible which says the Holy Spirit is a third part of the Trinity.

Well, then, if God is not a Trinity, what is God? **God is a Family!** The current God Family is composed of the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. When Jesus returns, all those who possess the Holy Spirit will become part of that God family.

The belief in the Trinity says that the God family is closed with only three persons allowed in and that there is no room for new members. This is not true. In reality, the Family of God is open to all who will accept His Son as Lord and Savior.



### Definitions

*Trinitarianism* is the belief that God is in three divine Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*Binitarianism* is the belief that God is a Family which is presently composed of two Persons: the Father and the Son. This belief also says that billions of people will be added to this Family at the return of Jesus to the earth.

*Unitarianism* is the belief that only God is divine and that Jesus (while certainly the Messiah) did not pre-exist eternally. Rather, He didn't come into existence until his birth in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago.

*Monotheism* is the belief in one God.

*Polytheism* is the belief in many Gods.

## Questions About God

- 1) What does God look like? Genesis 1:26.
- 2) Did Jesus live before He was born as a human in Bethlehem 2000 years ago? John 8:58.
- 3) Does the Bible say that we are to become actual sons of God? Hebrews 2:10.
- 4) Is Jesus *only* our Lord and Savior? Or is He *also* our firstborn brother in the God family? Romans 8:29.
- 5) Are we really children of God who will actually be receive an inheritance *like Jesus' inheritance*? Romans 8:16-17.
- 6) Did Jesus *always* exist? John 1:1.
- 7) Did Jesus take part in the creation mentioned in Genesis? Colossians 1:16.
- 8) Was Jesus the protector of the Israelites during the time of Moses? I Corinthians 10:4.
- 9) Did God (in the Garden of Eden) prophesy Jesus' crucifixion and Jesus' punishing Satan? Genesis 3:16.
- 10) Was Jesus' role as Savior of mankind known even before the Garden of Eden? Revelation 13:8.
- 11) What was the only sign of Jesus' Messiahship? Matthew 12:40.
- 12) What does Jesus look like now? Rev 1:13-16?
- 13) Does Jesus look like God the Father? Hebrews 1;3.

## **Names of God**

In the Old Testament, we read of God's many names. Each name portrays a particular aspect of the divine and loving character of God. Here are God's names in Hebrew:

*Elohim = Creator*  
*YHVH = the Eternal One*  
*YaH = Becomer of our Salvation*  
*EL = the Almighty*  
*Eloah = He Who is to be Worshipped*  
*Elyon = the Most High*  
*Shaddai = the Almighty One*  
*Adon = Lord*  
*Adonai = Lord (in His relationship to the earth)*

## **Names of Jesus**

In the New Testament, Jesus is called many things. Some of them are metaphors to help us understand more about His perfect nature. Here is what the New Testament calls Jesus:

*Advocate, Lamb of God, The Resurrection, The Life, Shepherd, Bishop of Souls, Lord of Lords, Man of Sorrows, Head of the Church, Master, Faithful and True Witness, the Rock, High Priest, the Door, Living Water, Bread of Life, Rose of Sharon, Alpha and Omega, True Vine, Messiah, Teacher, Holy One, Mediator, the Beloved, Branch, Carpenter, Good Shepherd, Light of the World, Image of the Invisible God, The Word, Chief Cornerstone, Savior, Servant, Author and Finisher of Our Faith, The Almighty, Shiloh, Lion of the Tribe of Judah, I Am, King of Kings, Prince of Peace, Bridegroom, Only Begotten Son, Wonderful Counselor, Emmanuel, Son of Man, Day Spring, The Amen, King of the Jews, Prophet, Redeemer, Anchor, Bright Morning Star, The Way, The Truth, The Light.*

## **Interesting Points**

When Jesus was about to be arrested just before His crucifixion (John 18), He was told by the mob that they were looking for Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus and the crowd did not speak English to each other. In their language of that day, His response to them was,

“Ehyeh Asher Ehyeh.” These are the very words that God spoke to Moses on the mountain when He answered Moses’ question as to what God’s name was. When we read about the mob falling backward after Jesus’ answer, they were NOT falling down to worship. Why would they fall down to worship someone they were about to arrest? Besides, when you worship, you fall forward—not backward. The crowd was **knocked** backward by the very force of the name of God! Jesus’ statement to the crowd showed that Jesus was claiming to be the “I Am” of the Hebrew Scriptures and the God of the Hebrews in human form.

When Jesus talked to Peter (Matthew 17) about Peter’s role in the future church, Jesus did NOT say that the church would be built upon Peter’s leadership. Jesus spoke to Peter in Greek and used two different Greek words when using the word *rock*. The first word was *petros* which means a *piece of gravel* which is loose and moveable. The second word was *petra* which means *mass of rock* which is solid and unmovable. Jesus said, “...thou are Peter (*petros*) and upon this rock (*petra*) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” The *petra* that Jesus referred to was Himself! Jesus never said He would build His church on Peter who as a mere man was no more than a piece of gravel. Jesus said **He Himself would be the foundation** upon which His church was to be built. Jesus is the Rock!

Those who do not believe that Jesus is divine accuse most Christians of having polytheistic beliefs. They say that only our Father in heaven is God. To make their point, they quote the Shema of Deuteronomy 6:4 which says, “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord.” A more accurate translation of this verse would be, “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God alone is Lord.” This Scripture backs up the uni-plural nature of God. One of God’s names is Elohim in Hebrew. It is a uni-plural word like family our group. There is only one family, but that family has more than one member. That is why in Genesis 1:26 God said, “Let US make man in OUR image.”

Jesus said you could worship Him in vain. In Matthew 7:21 He said, “Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in Heaven.”

We hope you will set out to do God’s will by abandoning any false teachings you have learned about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. Instead, learn more about the real God Family which is taught in the Bible!

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⌘⌘⌘ *ChainLink*-- *John 1:1; 8:58; Romans 8:16-17, 29; Hebrews 2:10* ⌘⌘⌘

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