

# Christian Witnesses

Christian Witnesses is about sharing the Gospel in various venues.

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 (ESV)

August 2012

Kurt Van Gorden wrote the piece below. It is part of an article on the Trinity he wrote. We included this in a response to a Jehovah's Witness that contacted me a number of months ago. This is part two of the piece.

## JEHOVAH IS USED OF EACH PERSON:

All of the early Church fathers regarded these verses as indications of the plural persons within God's singular being. It was not until later that others, who were further from the apostolic Church, began attaching other meanings to it, like *pluralis majestatis*. Shall we say that later commentators knew more about the original apostolic interpretations of this than what the apostolic Church did itself?

In translating the Old Testament there was two ways to denote the Lord. When the translators indicated YHWH (or Jehovah), they usually used all capital letters—LORD. When the term Adonai appeared, it was translated in lowercase letters—Lord. While the word Adonai is sometimes used of men, the word YHWH (LORD) was never used of men. It was always used of God alone. There are places in the Old Testament where sometimes two and three distinct persons are shown to be YHWH.

In Genesis 18, the LORD appeared in a physical manifestation (a Theophany or Christophany—an appearance of God or an appearance of Christ) to Abraham. By the time we get to Genesis 19:24, we find that the LORD (YHWH) rained fire and brimstone upon Sodom and Gomorrah FROM the LORD (YHWH) out of heaven.

Clearly there are two persons named Jehovah in this verse. One was on earth in a Theophanic form while the other was in heaven raining fire and brimstone. God is still one being, but two Persons are shown as YHWH.

In Isaiah 44:6 we see two distinct persons with the divine name YHWH (LORD). One is the LORD, the King of Israel and "His Redeemer, the LORD of hosts." Do you have any guesses who the Redeemer is? Hint: It is all through the New Testament. Jesus is our Redeemer. Isaiah made it clear that YHWH addresses Him as a distinct Person, yet He is also called YHWH, the Redeemer.

Isaiah 45:11 shows us two persons speaking as one. The LORD (YHWH), and His Maker (two persons), spoke as One Being—"Ask Me...."

Isaiah 48:16 shows us three persons with the same divine nature as YHWH. The LORD was speaking (vs. 12), then the LORD God (vs. 16) and His Spirit sent Me. But, the "Me" in verse 16 is the same speaker as in verse 12, YHWH. The person speaking is sent by the other two persons of whom He spoke.

Amos 4:11 and Jeremiah 50:40 are two of the greatest confirmation verses that you will find commenting on Genesis 19:24.

They clearly state that there were two divine Persons who destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah.

There are several other verses in the Old testament that show more than one person existing within God's nature: Isaiah 51:15 (YHWH speaks of "His name," not "my name."); Isaiah 56:4-6 (YHWH spoke as "Me" all through this passage and suddenly changed His pronoun to "Him," yet "Him" still refers to YHWH); Jeremiah 23:5-6 (This is clearly messianic in speaking of Jesus, but here, He is called YHWH by YHWH. No man or angel is ever called YHWH because "This is My name," Exodus 3:15); Jeremiah 50:33-34 (YHWH is speaking and states, "Their Redeemer is strong, the LORD of hosts is His name.") Why did He use the third-person, "His name," instead of the first-person, "My name?" Simply look in the New Testament to see who the Redeemer is and you will find Jesus as the answer. See also Zechariah 2:8-11, "The LORD of hosts has sent Me," in verses 9 and 11, but the speaker is the LORD of Hosts Himself, from verse 8.

Finally, see Zechariah 12:10, this is a classic messianic prophecy about Jesus being pierced for the world's sins, but here He is called YHWH, "Me" whom they have pierced. When was YHWH "looked upon" by humans and "pierced" by them? It was in Jesus alone.

## Events

Our annual tract outreach at the La Habra Corn Festival is coming up. This is our 10<sup>th</sup> year to be at the Corn Festival. The dates are August 3,4, and 5.

If you would like to volunteer at an event, please visit the calendar section of the website and let us know.

If you are led to contribute financially, we do need your assistance in one of two ways. We need regular contributors who see this missionary work as important to help us meet our needs, and we need special one-time contributors who help us with our big projects. You can make checks payable to Christian Witnesses and send them to the address below. Jude 3 Missions handles our finances; your donations are tax-deductible.

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In Christ, *Jeff*