

# 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)

June 2012

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

## JEHOVAH IS USED OF EACH PERSON:

God speaks of Himself as YHWH (Yahweh or Jehovah) in the Old Testament. Throughout the Old Testament we find God expressing Himself as more than one Person, yet we know that God is One Being (Deuteronomy 6:4).

Genesis 1:26-27 states, "Let Us make man in Our image...." Who is spoken of with the plural pronouns "us" and "our" in this statement? It cannot be angels, because the next verse (27) says that "God created man in His own image," which is not the image of angels. If God was speaking majestically, as some suggest, by saying "us" and "our" when He really meant to say "me," then it creates more problems than what it solves. The first problem is that it makes God confused on His pronouns, by saying "us" and "our" when He really meant to say "me" and the second problem is that God becomes subject to Elizabethan English idioms (i.e., *pluralis majestatis*), which were not part of the Hebrew culture and did not exist when Moses penned this. Then, this becomes more complicated when we ask to whom was He speaking, if, in fact, this was a majestic idiom? We have already ruled out angels, since man was not created in their image and likeness, and since they have no *ex nihilo* creative power. To whomever He spoke, it had to be (1)

someone of equal image and likeness as the speaker and (2) someone with equal *ex nihilo* creative power. God was obviously speaking to some other person who had the power to make man. The answer to this is found in Hebrews 1:2 (the Father made things through the Son), John 1:3 (all things were made by Him), John 1:10 (world was made through Him), Colossians 1:16 (He made all things...).

Had Genesis 1:26-27 been the only place where God spoke in plural pronouns about his personal nature, then it could possibly be attributed as a unique occurrence that we do not understand, but God did it repeatedly, which leads us to the conclusion that He was expressing something important for us to understand.

Genesis 3:22 states, "Then the Lord God said, 'Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil.'" Far too often commentators focus on the "Us," and miss the antecedent "one of" and the verb, "to know." Whoever He was speaking to had to possess the same knowledge as the speaker and the speaker called the other person "one of us," yet we still know that God is One Being. Commentators Albert Barnes and John Gill caught it, but others did not. It is very important. How else does one explain "one of" Us "to know?"

Genesis 11:7-8 states, “let Us go down and confuse their language.” Again, God is speaking with a plural pronoun about an action that He is about to do. This is not the same as “Jehovah came down,” as in Exodus 19:20; Numbers 11:25 and 12:5, but it is “let Us go down.” There is a distinct change of number in the Hebrew, from singular to plural, in the midst of this verse.

Finally, we have Isaiah 6:8, “who will go for Us.” Isaiah is another example outside of Moses where God addresses Himself in the plural. Again, there is a distinct number change in the Hebrew, from singular to plural.

## 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.

Your donations are tax-deductible. Jude 3 Missions handles our finances.

Christian Witnesses  
Box 729  
La Habra, CA 90633  
[cw@christianwitnesses.net](mailto:cw@christianwitnesses.net)  
<http://www.christianwitnesses.net/>

In Christ, *Jeff*

## AUDIOS FOR THIS MONTH

[An Introduction to Christ in the Old Testament](#)  
By [John MacArthur](#)

[The Apostolic Preaching of Christ from the Old Testament](#) By [John MacArthur](#)

## Article

[Yet another Look at the Trinity: The Plurality Study](#) By Matt Slick