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Section: Doctrine of God

**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q2. Are there more gods than one?**

No. There is only one true God.

**Q3. God exists eternally as how many persons?**

God exists eternally as one God, three Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.

* **There is only one true God**

**Deuteronomy 6:4** “Hear, O Israel! The LORD our God, the LORD is one!”

* False views corrected in Scripture:

**1 Corinthians 8:5-6** For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

Paul is saying the people have made gods many and lords but none of these are truly God.

In Isaiah chapter 40, Israel returns from exile, and Isaiah declares that God is the only God, and the future hope of the Messiah will come to pass.

Chapters 41-46 of Isaiah declare that God is the ONLY God and that the idols of these other nations are nothing.

* True view from Scripture:

**Isaiah 40:27-28** Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, “My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God”? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

**Isaiah 41:4** Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? **I, the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he**.

**Isaiah 41:16** you shall winnow them, and the wind shall carry them away, and the tempest shall scatter them. And you shall rejoice in the LORD; in the Holy One of Israel you shall glory.

**Isaiah 43:3** ”For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior …”

**Isaiah 43:10-11** “You are my witnesses,” declares the LORD, “and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. **Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. I, I am the LORD, and besides me there is no savior**.”

**Isaiah 44:6-8** Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: “**I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me?** Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! **Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”**

**Isaiah 45:5-6** “**I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God**; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that **there is *none besides me*; I am the LORD, and there is no other**.”

**Isaiah 45:14b** [speaking of highly esteemed people from various places] “They will plead with you saying: ’Surely God is in you, and **there is no other, no other God besides him**.’”

**Isaiah 45:18** For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens (he is God!), who formed the earth and made it (he established it; he did not create it empty, he formed it to be inhabited!): **“I am the LORD, and there is no other.”**

**Isaiah 45:21-22** ”Declare and present your case; let them take counsel together! Who told this long ago? Who declared it of old? Was it not I, the LORD? And **there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me**. Turn to Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth; For **I am God, and there is no other.**”

**Isaiah 46:9-10** ”remember the former things of old; for **I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me**, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose’”

God proclaims, “I alone am LORD. I alone am God; besides Me there is no other.”

God clearly declares in these chapters of Isaiah that He knows of no other god. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last--there are NO OTHER gods!

**Jeremiah 10:10** But the LORD is **the true** God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation.

In Paul’s letter to the Corinthians and in Isaiah’s prophecy to the Old Covenant nation of Israel, we see clear teaching of there being no other gods. Why draw out that significance? When people are in danger (or already guilty) of worshiping idols, God graciously and boldly or directly reminds them that there are no other gods.

There are no other gods. You must get this right, or it leads to idolatry, and God will not allow His glory to be given to another.

**Deuteronomy 4:35** “To you it was shown, that you might know that the LORD is God; there is no other besides him.”

Moses says that God was gracious to choose them and reveal to them that He alone is God; there are no others beside Him.

**Deuteronomy 4:39-40** ”know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the LORD is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. 40Therefore you shall keep his statutes and his commandments, which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land that the LORD your God is giving you for all time.”

If God never offends you, if God never contradicts your fallen desires, then the God you worship probably isn’t the God of Scripture.

* Mankind’s necessary response to this truth:

When we rightly acknowledge that there is only one God, then we must also acknowledge that we are to submit to Him. He is due all respect, honor, and obedience.

Two primary reasons we struggle with the Trinity:

* We don’t want to submit to the one true God; our flesh wars against it. If there is only one God, then we cannot be god, and that’s a real struggle for man.
* We regularly try to get God to fit our natural human understanding. When there are truths proclaimed in Scripture and we do not have a natural mental category for them, we try and make them fit what we know.

This is backwards. If God declares two things to be true, and we don’t understand them because we don’t see “how” they can be true from our own perspective and experience, then we must *change our view--*NOT what God has said.

As Pastor Rob taught last week, we cannot know God exhaustively, but we can know Him truly based on a right understanding of Scripture.

* **God eternally exists as one God, three persons**

**Q3. God exists eternally as how many persons?**

God exists eternally as one God, three Persons: God the Father, God the Son (Jesus), and God the Holy Spirit.

**Trinity:** One God, three Persons. There is but one eternal Godhead that exists in three co-equal, co-eternal Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each Person is fully and completely God; each has the same essence and is described in Scripture as possessing the attributes of God.

The Baptist Confession of Faith declares this of the Godhead: “The Lord our God is one, the only living and true God. This divine and infinite Being consists of three real persons, the Father, the Word or Son, and the Holy Spirit. These three have the same substance, power, and eternity, each having the whole divine essence without this essence being divided.”

When we use the word “person” in our common English language, we never think to separate “personhood” from “being.”

The three Persons of the triune God are distinct, but they are not divided.

Distinction example: The Father sends the Son, the Son dies for the elect, and the Spirit causes new birth (called *regeneration*) within the elect person unto salvation. God the Father elects, Christ comes and pays the sacrifice, and the Holy Spirit applies the work of Christ to the once dead in sin person when He causes new life (*regeneration*)!

The Father, Son, and Spirit have different functions or roles that they willingly perform, but they do not have a different value or dignity, for they are all fully God.

To these points, let’s hear from the historic confession again: “All three [Persons of the Godhead] are infinite and without beginning and are therefore only one God, who is not to be divided in nature and being. Yet these three are distinguished by several distinctive characteristics and personal relations.”

**John 1:1-3** 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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.

John 1:1 starts with the phrase “In the beginning.” Genesis 1:1 also starts with this phrase “In the beginning.” This was meant to point the reader back to God creating and existing from eternities past.

Distinction: The Word *WAS* God and He was *WITH* God.

To be continued next week ...