

## Rules to Be Observed in Gathering Witnesses, p.67

1. When the Scriptures speak of God in the plural(אלהים) rather than the singular(אל) it is reference to the plurality of persons  
Genesis 1:2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep.  
And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.  
Gen 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."  
Genesis 3:5; "For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."  
Gen 3:22 Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—  
Genesis 11:7 "Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."
2. When God is speaking about God, as a person about a third person, the three persons of the Deity are indicated.  
2 Peter 1:21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.  
Hosea 1:7 Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, Will save them by the Lord their God,  
And will not save them by bow, Nor by sword or battle, By horses or horsemen."  
Gen 19:24 Then the Lord rained brimstone and fire on Sodom and Gomorrah, from the Lord out of the heavens.  
Isaiah 60:9 Surely the coastlands shall wait for Me; And the ships of Tarshish will come first, To bring your sons from afar, Their silver and their gold with them, To the name of the Lord your God, And to the Holy One of Israel, Because He has glorified you.
3. When the name of God is repeated three times in the same sentence.  
Psalm 67:6-7 Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God, shall bless us. 7 God shall bless us, And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.  
Deuteronomy 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!  
Isaiah 6:3 And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"  
Numbers 6:23-27 "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: 24 "The Lord bless you and keep you; 25 The Lord make His face shine upon you, And be gracious to you; 26 The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, And give you peace." ' 27" So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them."  
Isaiah 33:22 (For the Lord is our Judge, The Lord is our Lawgiver, The Lord is our King; He will save us);
4. The Description - Yahweh sends His angel, to whom the name of Yahweh has been given. The Third Person, the Holy Spirit, always signifies a person when He speaks in the Holy Scriptures  
Exodus 23:20-21 "Behold, I send an Angel before you to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have prepared. 21 "Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him.  
Jeremiah 23:5-6 "Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord(Yahweh), "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD(Yahweh) OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Psalm 33:6 **By the word of the Lord** the heavens were made, And all the host of them **by the breath of His mouth.**

Daniel 9:19 "O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

Psalm 2:7 "I will declare the decree: The Lord has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

Psalm 110:1-5 The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

2 The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!

3 Your people shall be volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth.

4 The Lord has sworn And will not relent, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

5 The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath.

### **Useful and Necessary Observations, p.74-76**

1. As in the Creed, the Father is called the Creator but not to the exclusion of the others. A work may be attributed to one, yet it is the common work of the Trinity.

#### **Creation:**

John 1:10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.

Hebrews 1:2 ...has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

Psalm 33:6 By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

#### **Preserving/Sustaining All Things:**

Matthew 6:26 "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"

Hebrews 1:3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Psalm 104:30 You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the earth.

2. Sometimes one, two, or three persons are mentioned, that we may know that each and all are the true God.

#### **Blessings:**

2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Ephesians 3:16-17 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

John 10:30 "I and My Father are one."

1 John 3:24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

3. The exact same activity is attributed sometimes to the Father, sometimes to the Son, and sometimes to the Holy Spirit.

**Establish, Confirms, Strengthens**

Romans 16:25 Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began

1 Corinthians 1:8 who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 3:16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man,

**Enlightens**

James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

John 1:9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

Ephesians 3:7-9 of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by **the effective working of His power**. 8To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9and **to make all see** what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;

4. When the Deity is placed in opposition to Idols. The mention of one person does not exclude the others.

1 Timothy 6:15-16 ...which He will manifest in His own time, He who is **the blessed and only Potentate**, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

Romans 16:27 ...to **God, alone** wise, be glory through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

Luke 18:19 So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? **No one is good but One, that is, God.**

John 17:3 "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, **the only true God**, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

John 8:16 "And yet if I do judge, My judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I am with the Father who sent Me.

John 8:28-29 Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things. 29"And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."

John 16:32b ...And yet I am not alone, because the Father is with Me.

**Idols are excluded**

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life.

John 16:15 "All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

Matthew 11:27 "All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

1 Corinthians 2:11 For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

Revelation 19:12b, He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

5. Prayer is always directed to the one true divine essence, and at the same time to all the persons and individually.

John 14:9-10 Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? 10"Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.

John 5:23 "that all should honor the Son just as they honor the Father. He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him.

John 8:54-55 Jesus answered, "If I honor Myself, My honor is nothing. It is My Father who honors Me, of whom you say that He is your God. 55"Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.

6. The persons are distinguished by internal and external differences (with a certain order and with the properties of each person preserved).

1 Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 11:36 For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

1 John 3:24 Now he who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him. And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit whom He has given us.

7. Concerning the names applied to the Deity, some refer to the essence, and some to the person. i.e. We cannot say that there are three eternal ...

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

2 Corinthians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

Hebrews 12:9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

Galatians 4:6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!"

John 4:23-24 "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24"God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

## Controversies, p.67ff

### 1. Unitarianism (Monarchianism or Anti-Trinitarianism)

- a. **Modal** - 3<sup>rd</sup> Century God is a unity, but uni-personal, revealed in three different modes/forms

Praxeas (200 AD) He said there was only one person in the Deity, but with different aspects.

Sabellius (260 AD) He said there were three names within the Deity, as in one man there is body, mind, and spirit.

Noetians – The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are distinguished by their activities

Servetus (1553 AD)- misused the term “person” as “a role or character”)

- b. **Dynamic** – teaches Jesus was a mere man, preeminently endowed. The Holy Spirit is a divine power

Paul of Samosata (265 AD) God is one, and in God is His Word and His Spirit. (primarily against the person of the Son.)

### 2. Tritheists and Subordinationists – three divine essences

- a. **Tritheists** – three essences of equal quality  
John Philoponus(6<sup>th</sup> century), Roscellin(11<sup>th</sup> century)
- b. **Subordinationists** – three essences of unequal quality  
Arians(Christ the first created in time)