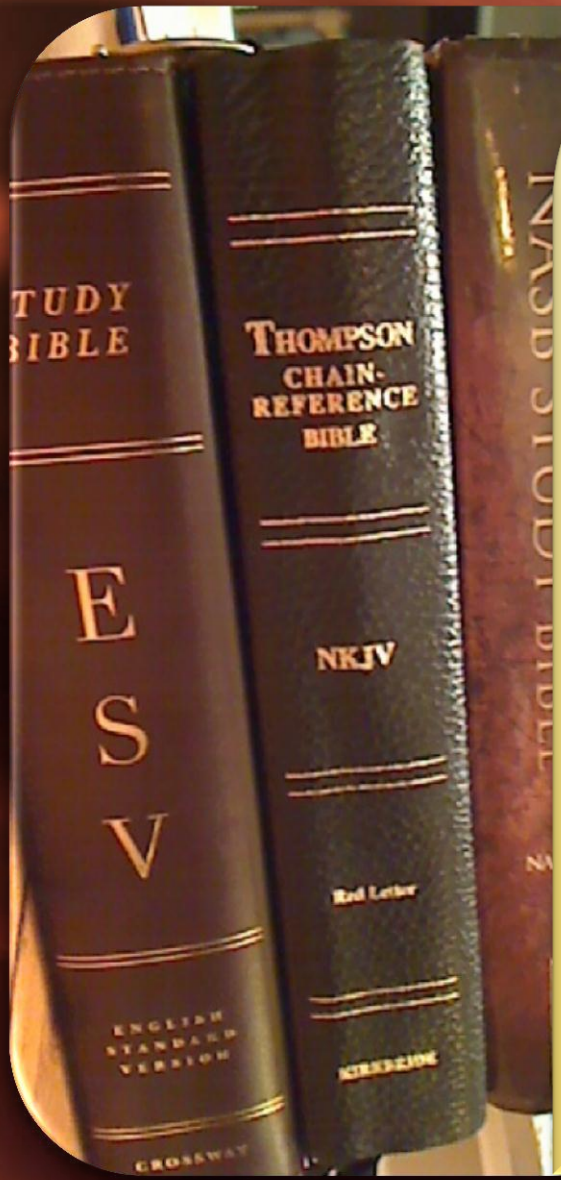
Understanding "God"

Understanding "God"

Jeremiah 9:23-24 (NKJV)

23 Thus says the LORD: "Let not the wise
man glory in his wisdom, Let not the
mighty *man* glory in his might, Nor let the
rich *man* glory in his riches; 24 But let him
who glories glory in this, That he
understands and knows Me, That I *am* the
LORD, exercising lovingkindness,
judgment, and righteousness in the earth.
For in these I delight," says the LORD.

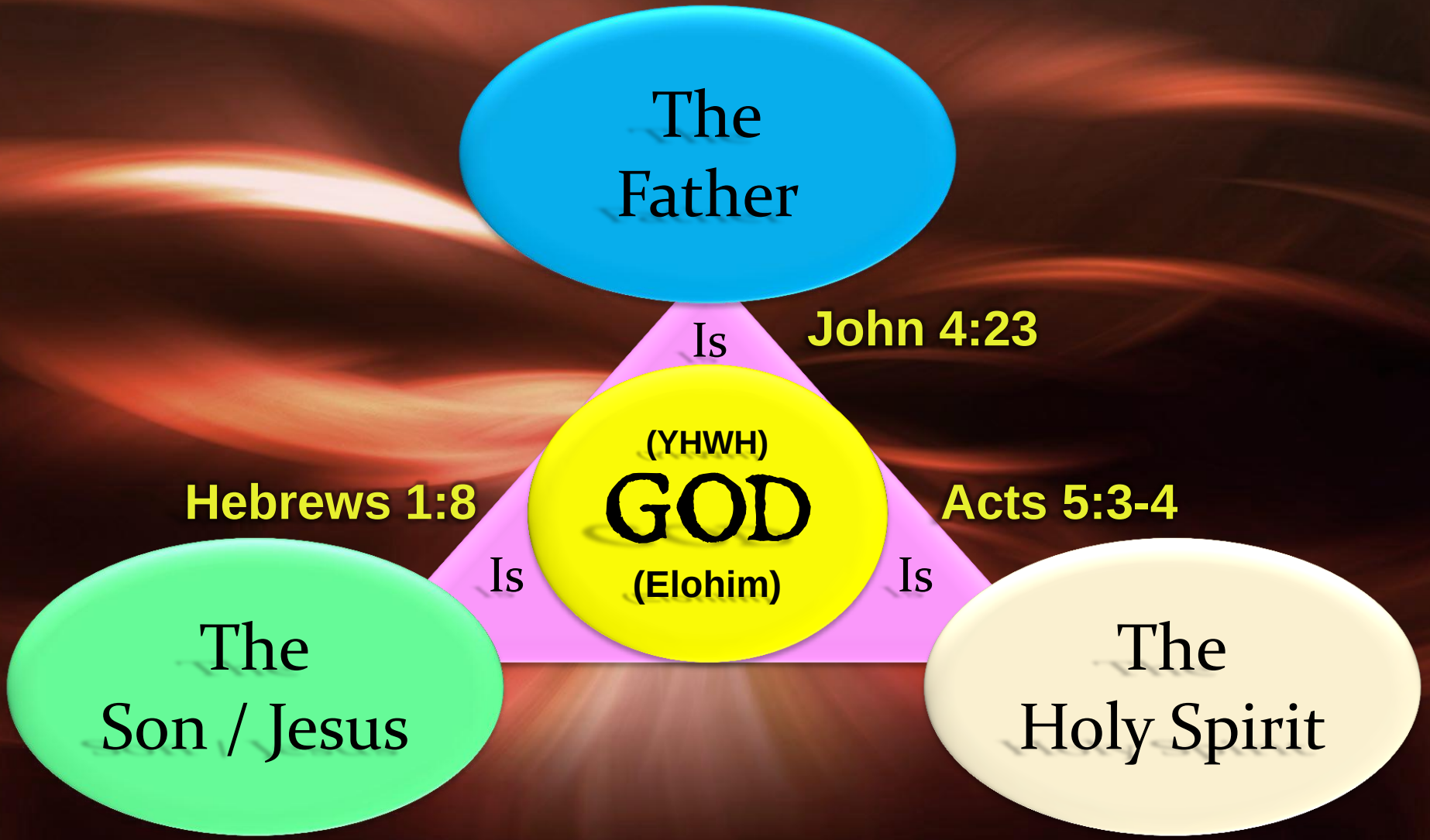
Understanding "GOD"



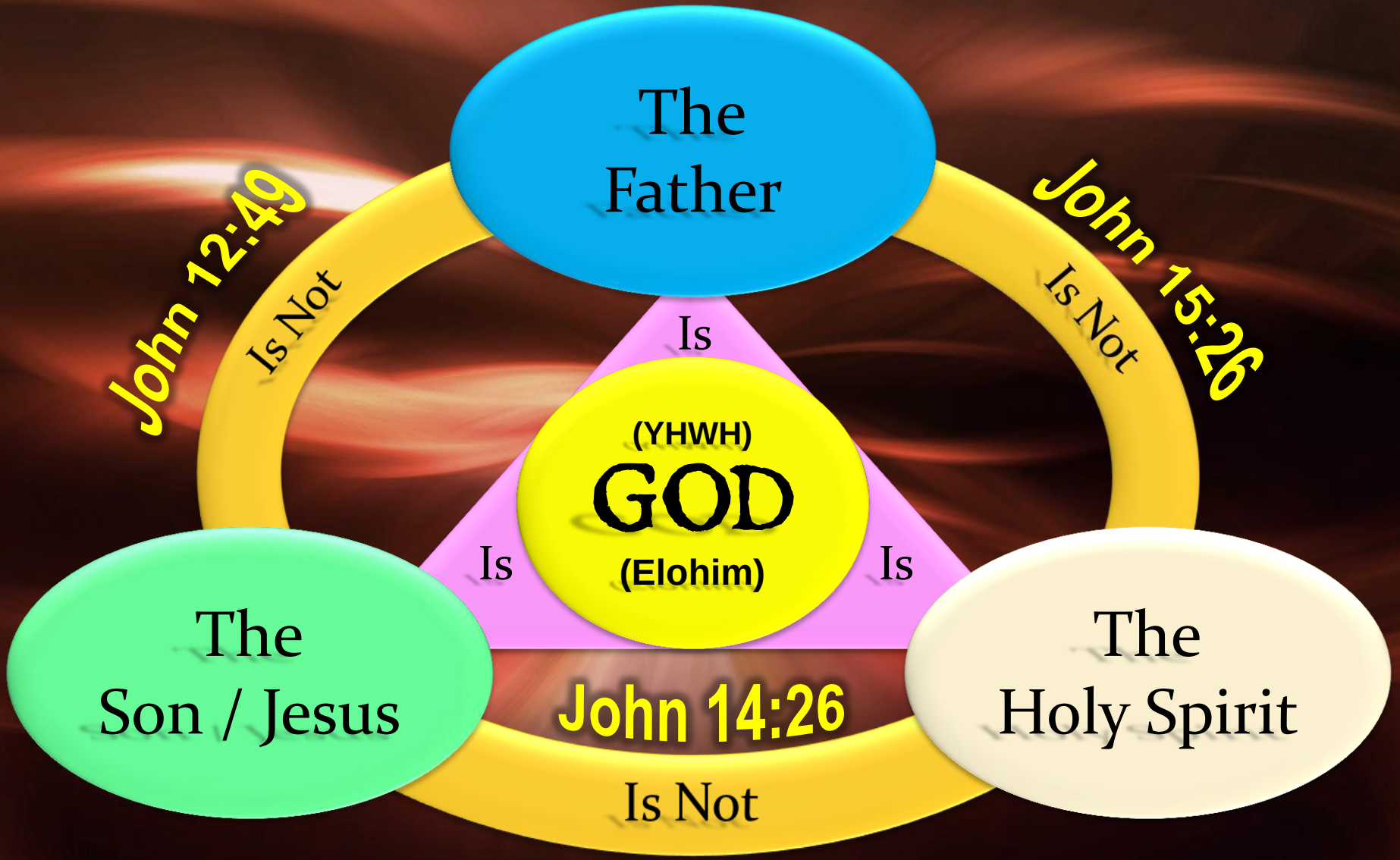
There is one God:

i.e. one divine nature, but there are three persons, i.e., three self conscious rational individualities, each having the divine nature.

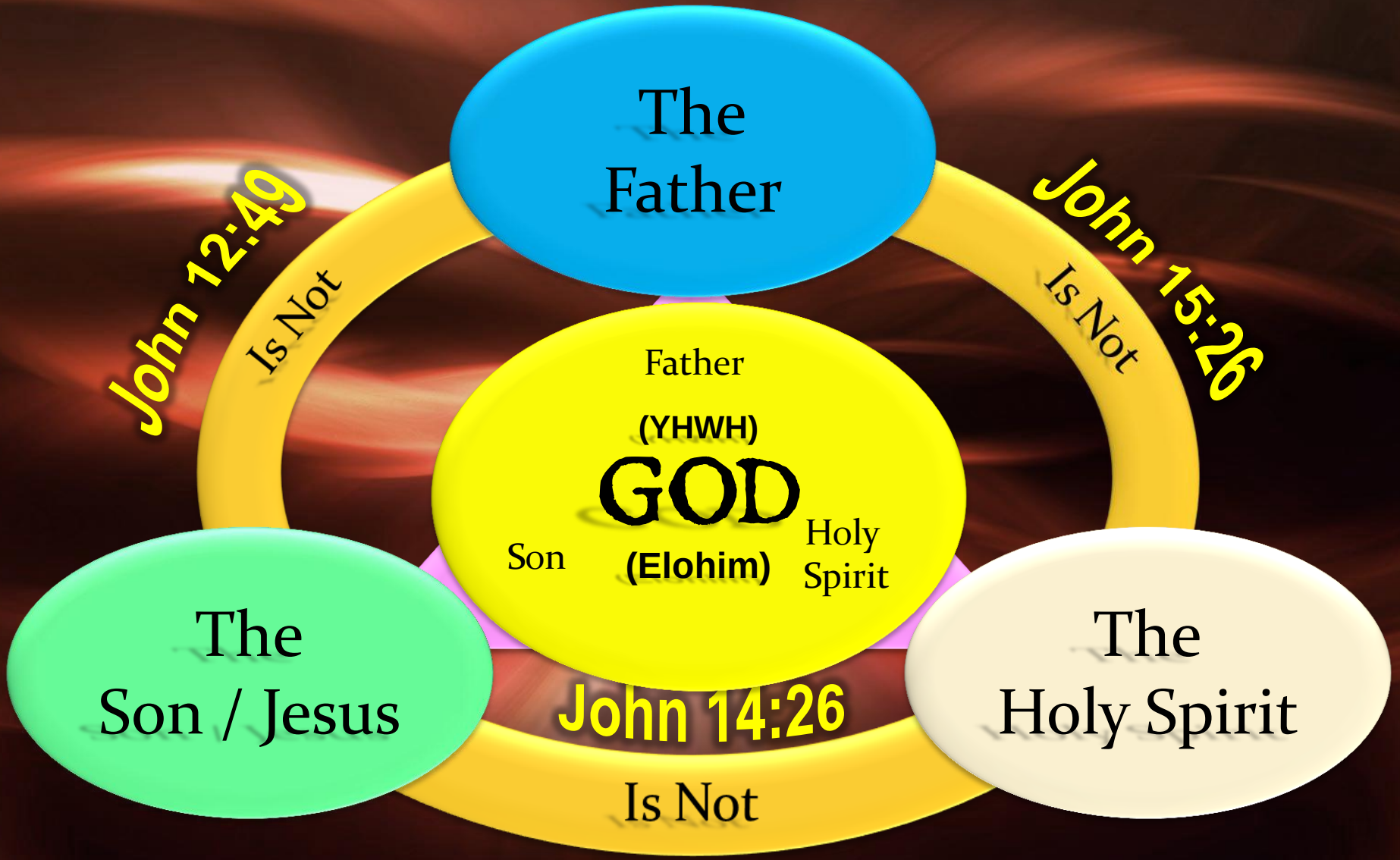
God, Jehovah, Is One



God, Jehovah, Is One



God, Jehovah, Is One



ONE - Can Be A United Plurality

Deuteronomy 6:4 (NKJV)

4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord *is* one [אֶחָד-EHAD]!

Gen 2.24--the man and his wife will be one (ehad) flesh--

Ex 26:6, 11--the fifty gold clasps would be one unit (ehad).

2 Samuel 2:25--many soldiers became one troop (ehad)

Gen 34:16 --the men of Shechem suggest intermarriage to become 'one (ehad) people'.

Joshua 9.2 -- the western kings agree to fight Joshua with "one (ehad) accord"

ONE - Can Be A United Plurality

"they shall be ONE *EHAD* flesh" Gen. 2:24'

"we will become ONE *EHAD* people" Gen. 34:16

"The Lord our God is ONE *EHAD* Lord" Deut. 6:4

The One True God - Contrasted With Idols

One Deity

- Omniscient
- Omnipotent
- Omnipresent
- Holy
- Eternal
- Etc.

- Father
- Son
- Holy Spirit

One Divine Nature
Distinct in Person

Many Deities

Zeus

Aphrodite

Apollo

Ares

Poseidon

Hades

All Distinct In Nature
All Imperfect

God, Jehovah, Is One

The LORD -
יהוה - yhwh
our God,
אֱלֹהִים
?elōhîm
the LORD
יהוה - yhwh
is one
אחד 'echâd

- **The Father** was NOT alone – Genesis 1:1,26; John 1:1
- **The Son**, (Jesus) was NOT alone – John 1:1; 8:16; 16:32
- **The Holy Spirit** was NOT alone - John 15:26; 16:13

One God = One Divine Nature

Numerical	1 Eldership Numerical	1 Godhead Numerical
1 1 +1 =3	Karl V. George R. + Hank S. = 3 persons	1 Father 1 Son + 1 Holy Spirit = 3 Persons
	Distinct Individuals Yet Fully Human in nature	Distinct individuals Yet Fully Divine in nature –
	Not three human natures	Not three Divine natures

God, Jehovah, Is One

Deut. 6:4
(NKJV)
Hear, O Israel: The LORD (יהוה - yhwh) **our God, (**אֱלֹהִים ʔelōhîm) **the LORD (**יהוה - yhwh) **is one** אחד 'echâd

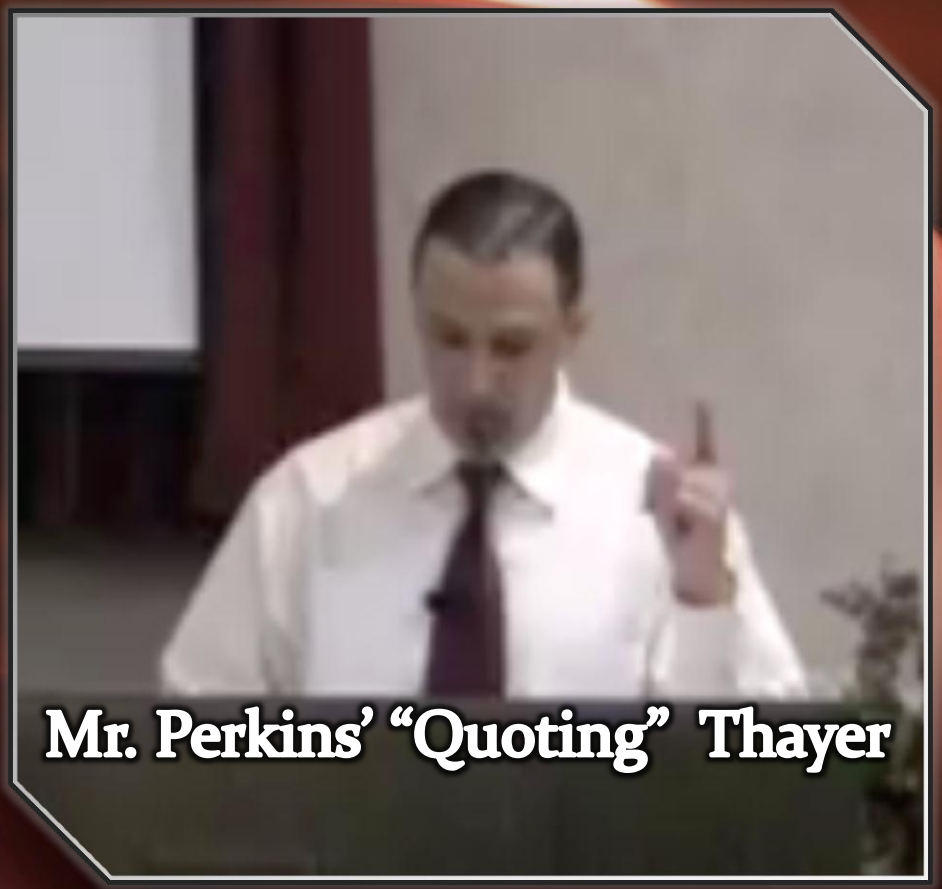
Mark 12:29
(NKJV)
29 . . . *'Hear, O Israel, the LORD* (κυριος G2962 N-NSM) *our God,* (θεος G2316 N-NSM) *the LORD* (κυριος G2962 N-NSM) *is one.* (εις G1520 A-NSM)

Contextomy - *"Quote Mining"*

- Numerical singular one
- Alone
- In contrast to more than one
- Same Greek word as in Mark 14

Contextomy - *"Quote Mining"*

Galatians 3:28 (ye that adhere to Christ make one person, just as the Lord himself);—
Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon



Mr. Perkins' "Quoting" Thayer

- A cardinal numeral
- One
- Singular
- *All* alone
- He translates heis . . . in Gal 3:8 [sic] as one person

The Best Commentary On The Bible

Deuteronomy 6:4
(NKJV)
4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one!

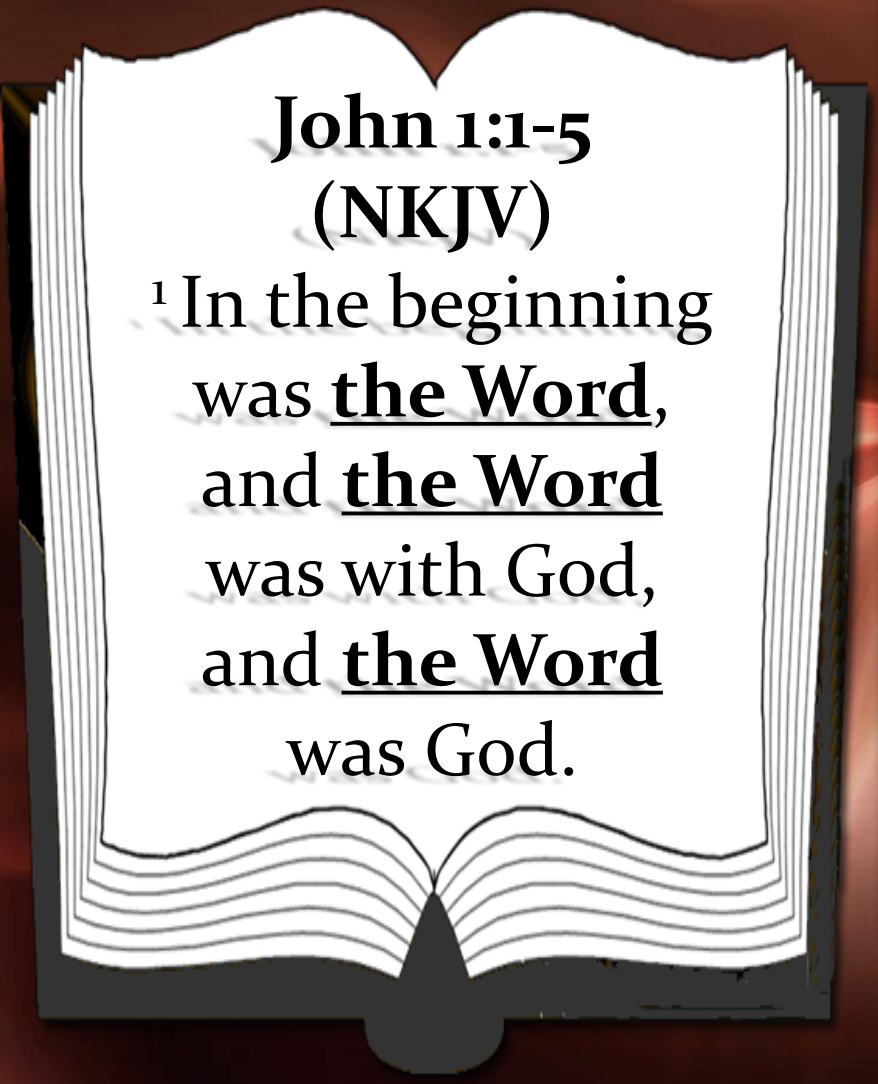
Mark 12:29
(NKJV)
29 . . . *'Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one.*

- **The Father, Son and Holy Spirit distinct in function according to Jesus** – John 14; 15; 16; 17
- **The Father, Son and Holy Spirit are a united plurality** – John 17:20-23
- **Many are one just as the Lord Himself** – Gal 3:28

The Three Persons of The Godhead Are Distinct In Function

Two Eternally Distinct Individualities

The Divine Personality of The Word



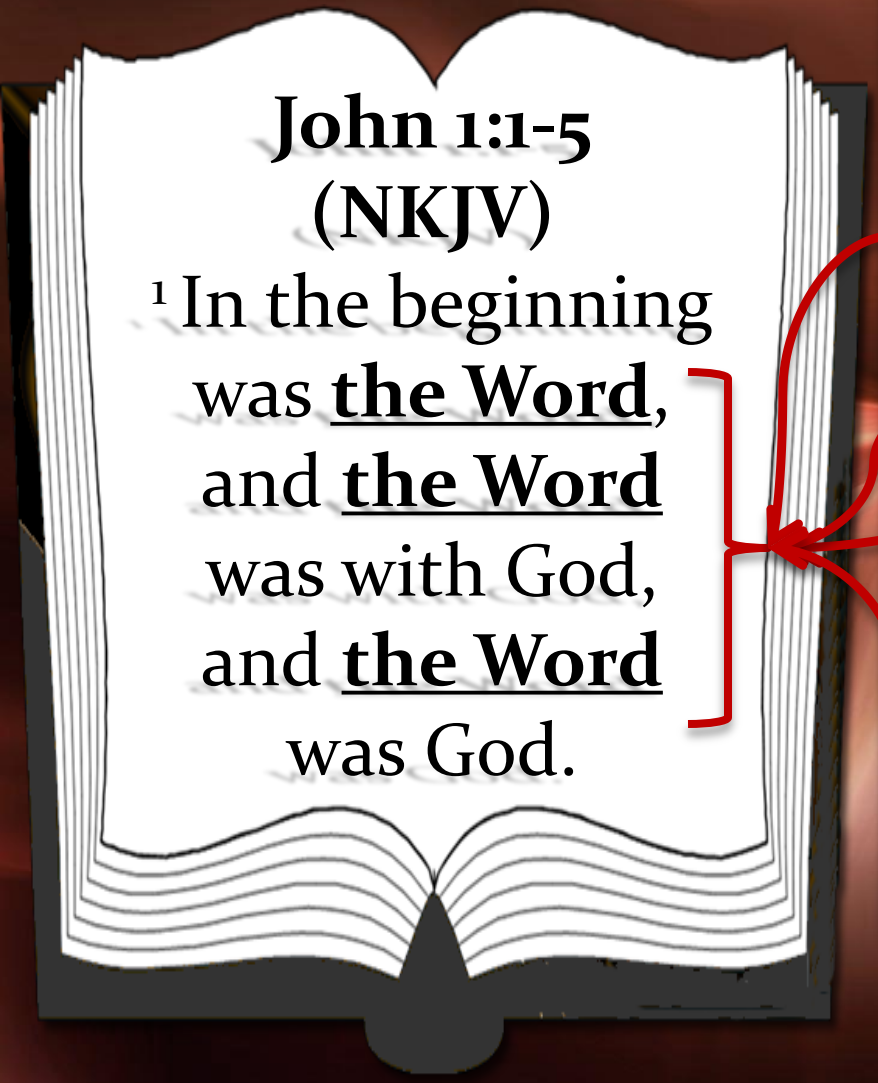
John 1:1-5
(NKJV)

1 In the beginning
was **the Word**,
and **the Word**
was with God,
and **the Word**
was God.

- **Eternal –** He (The Word) was in the beginning
- **Distinction** – He (The Word) was WITH God
- **Divinity** – He (The Word) WAS God

Two Eternally Distinct Individualities

The Divine Personality of The Word

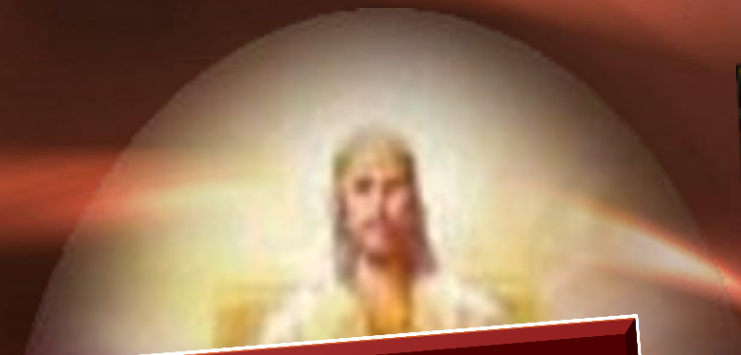


John 1:1-5
(NKJV)

1 In the beginning
was **the Word**,
and **the Word**
was with God,
and **the Word**
was God.

2 **He** was in the
beginning with God.
3 All things were made
through **Him**, and
without **Him** nothing
was made that was
made.
4 In **Him** was life, and
the life was the light
of men.

"The Son Created . . ."



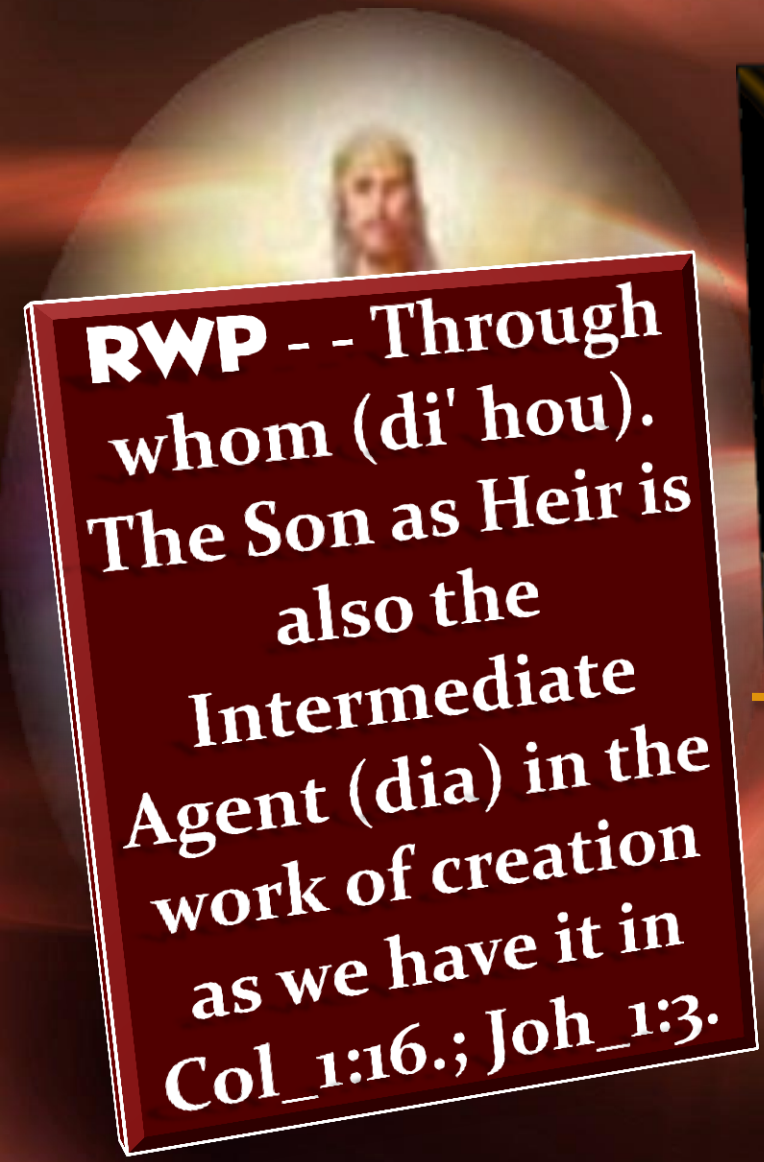
"a primary preposition denoting the *channel* of an act;"—Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary

Hebrews 1:1,2 (NKJV)

1 **God**, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

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;

"The Son Created . . ."



RWP - - Through whom (di' hou). The Son as Heir is also the Intermediate Agent (dia) in the work of creation as we have it in Col_1:16.; Joh_1:3.

Hebrews 1:1,2 (NKJV)

1 **God**, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

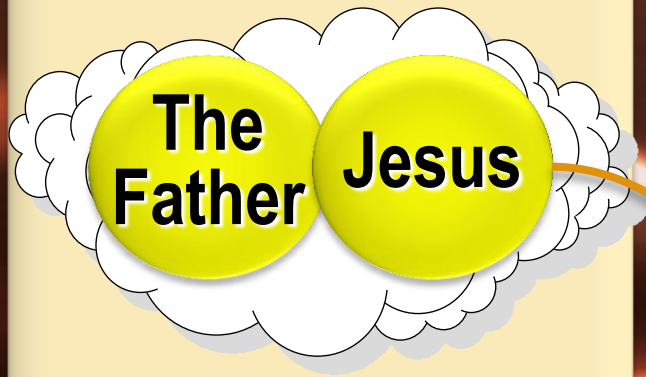
2 has in these last days spoken to us **by *His* Son**, **whom He** has appointed heir of all things, through **whom** also **He** made the worlds;

The Son Is God

- **The Son made the worlds –** Heb 1:2
- **The Son is the express image of His person –** Heb 1:3
- **The Son is upholding all things by the word of His power –** Heb 1:3
- **The Son is better than the angels –** Heb 1:4
- **The Father never called an angel His Son –** Heb 1:5
- **The angels worshipped the Son –** Heb 1:6
- **The Son is God –** Heb 1:8,9

The Father And Jesus Are Distinct

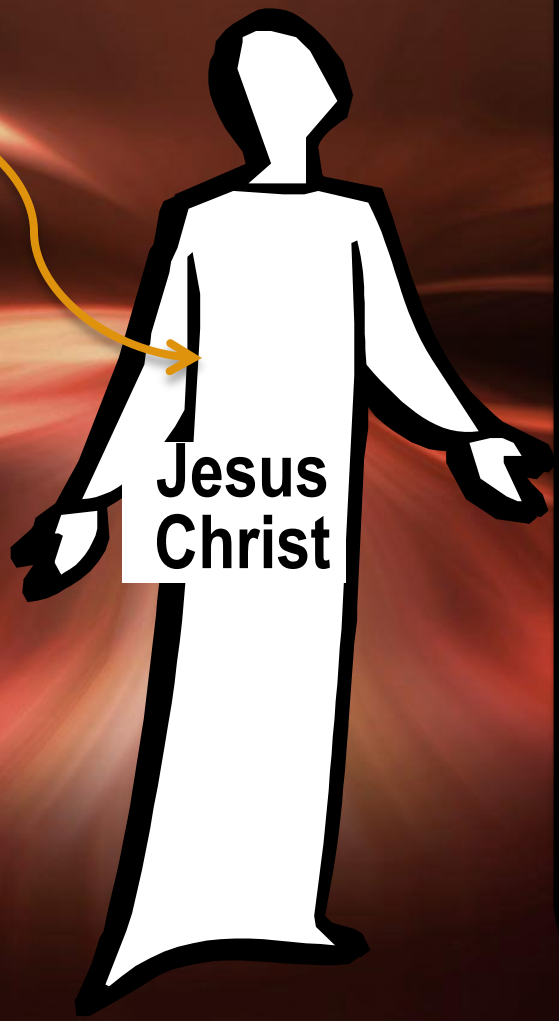
Pre-incarnate



John 1:1-5 (NKJV)

1 In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, and **the Word** was God.

(cf. Phili 2:6; 17:5; Heb 1:3; 1 John 1:2)



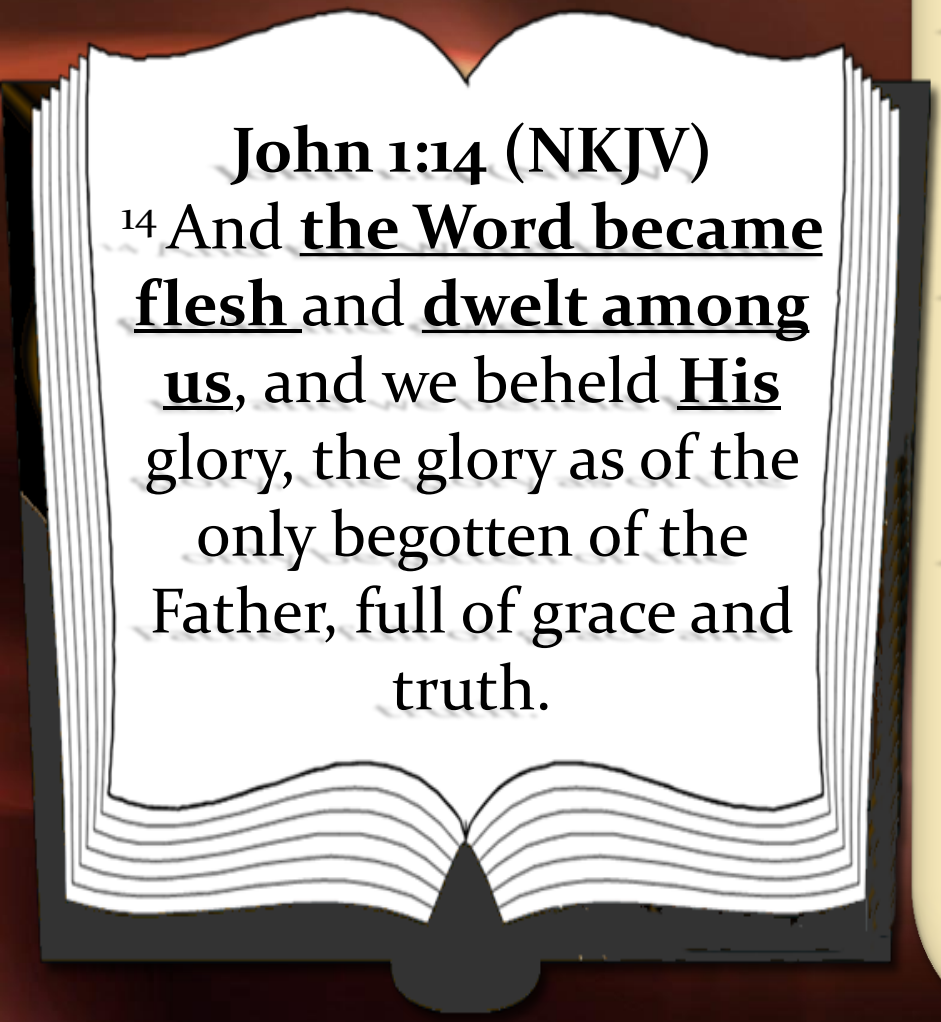
Incarnation

John 1:14 (NKJV)

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

(Cf. Phili 2:7; Hebrews 2:14,17; 10:5)

The Word Became Flesh



John 1:14 (NKJV)
14 And **the Word became flesh** and **dwelt among us**, and we beheld **His** glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

- The Word entered into a new *mode* of being, not a new *being*. (Phili 2:7,8)
- He became flesh, and did not merely *clothe Himself* in flesh. (Heb 2:14-18)
- The incarnation demands that the Divine Spirit of Jesus assumed self imposed limitations, so as to undergo the human experience.

Two Eternally Distinct Persons

Four Undeniable Truths

John 17:5 (NKJV)

5 And now, O Father;
glorify Me together
with Yourself, with
the glory which I had
with You before the
world was.

1. Jesus Christ is distinct from His Father .
2. Jesus Christ existed in glory WITH His Father in eternity past.
3. Jesus Christ surrendered, in becoming the incarnate Son, the glory He had WITH His Father in eternity past.
4. Jesus Christ exchanged heavenly glory for earthly suffering and death.

The Father And Jesus Are Distinct

Philippians 2:5-8 (ASV)

5 Have this mind in you, which was also in
Christ Jesus: 6 who, existing in the form of
God, counted not the being on an equality
with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied
himself, taking the form of a servant, being
made in the likeness of men; 8 and being
found in fashion as a man, he humbled
himself, becoming obedient *even* unto death,
yea, the death of the cross.

The Father And Jesus Are Distinct

There Are Two Undeniable Truths Affirmed In This Text:

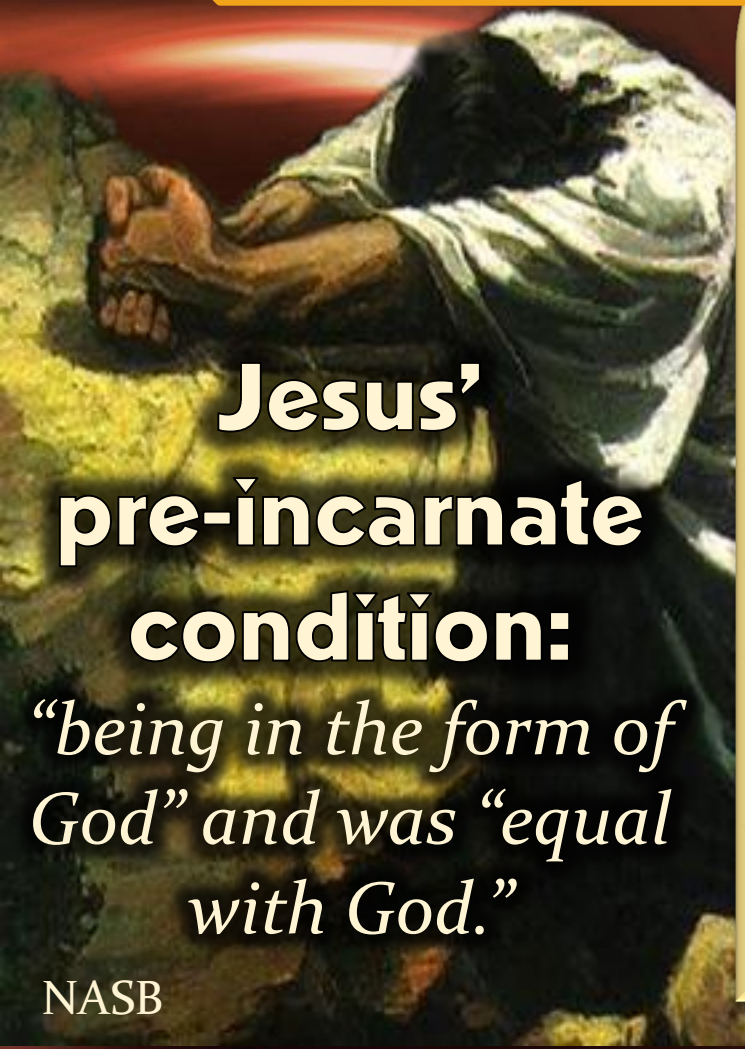
(1) The pre-incarnate distinction between the Father and Jesus Christ (2:5-6)

(2) The humble and sacrificial condescension of Jesus in "becoming flesh" so that He might fulfill the role of a servant and be "obedient unto death" (2:7-8).

Jesus Humbled Himself!

The main lesson of the text!

A sacrificial attitude like Christ Jesus.



Jesus' pre-incarnate condition:

"being in the form of God" and was "equal with God."

NASB

Jesus Humbled Himself:

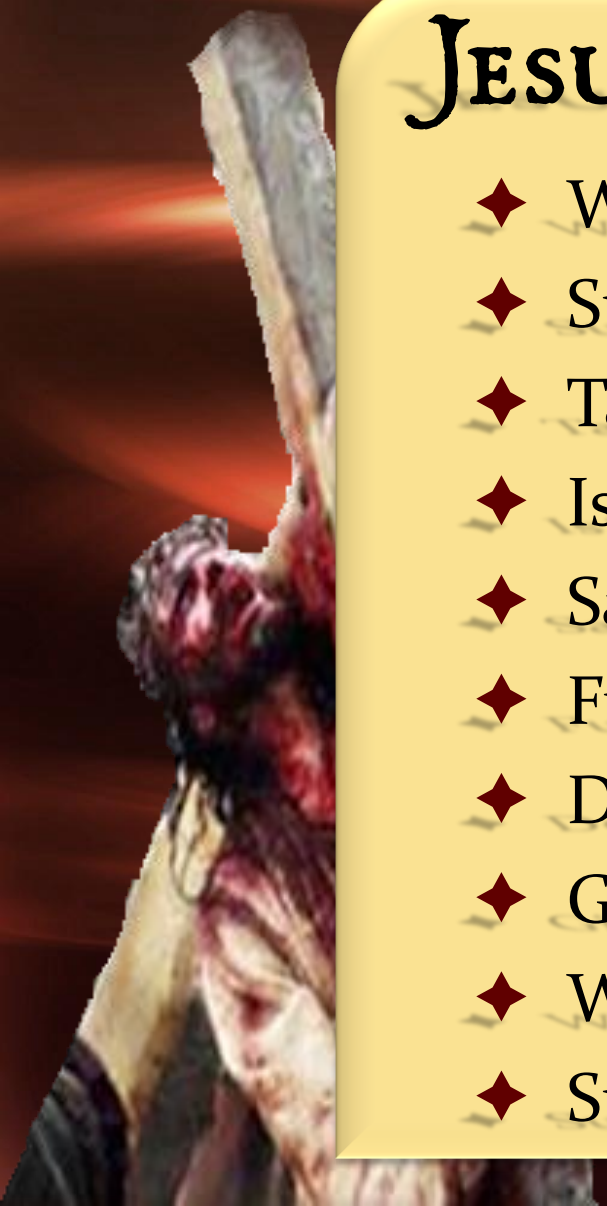
- Jesus - emptied Himself, (*not of His divine essence – but of His Pre-incarnate glory and advantages*).
- "Taking the form of a bond-servant,"
- "Being made in the likeness of men."
- "Being found in appearance as a man,"
- "by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Jesus Himself

Hebrews 2:9 (NKJV)

9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

Deity Prayed, Suffered, & Died



Jesus Himself - (Hebrews 2)

- Was Made Lower Than The Angels (9)
- Suffered (9)
- Tasted Death (9)
- Is The Captain of Our Salvation (10), *(cf. 1:2)*
- Sanctifies – (11)
- Fully Partook Of Flesh & Blood – (14)
- Delivered Us (15)
- Gives Aid to Mankind (16)
- Was Made Like His Brethren (17)
- Suffered Being Tempted (18)

You - A Body - & Me!!

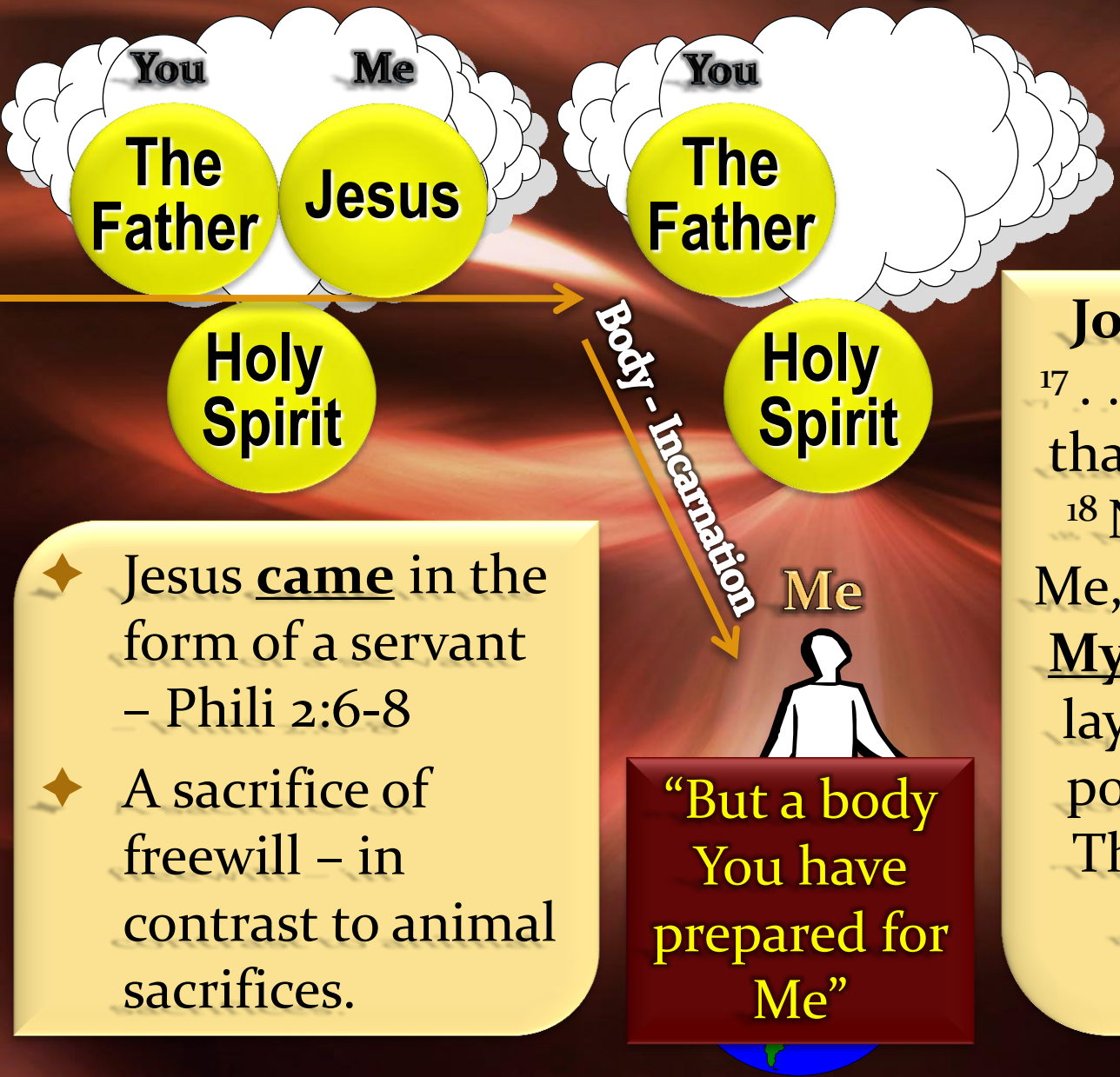
A Body

Who Is The You??

Hebrews 10:5 (NKJV)
5 Therefore, when **He came into the world**, He said: *"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, But a body **You** have prepared for **Me**.*
(Psalm 40:6-8)

The Divine Person
Jesus Christ!

You - A Body - & Me!!



- Jesus **came** in the form of a servant – Phili 2:6-8
- A sacrifice of freewill – in contrast to animal sacrifices.

John 10:17-18 (NKJV)

17 . . . **I lay down My life** that I may take it again.
18 No one takes it from Me, **but I lay it down of Myself**. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

Two Distinct Self Conscious Individualities!

- There are CLEARLY TWO distinct & different wills in this passage – the will of the Son and the will of the Father!
- The will of the Son is the will of a Divine Individual!

Matthew 26:39 (NKJV)

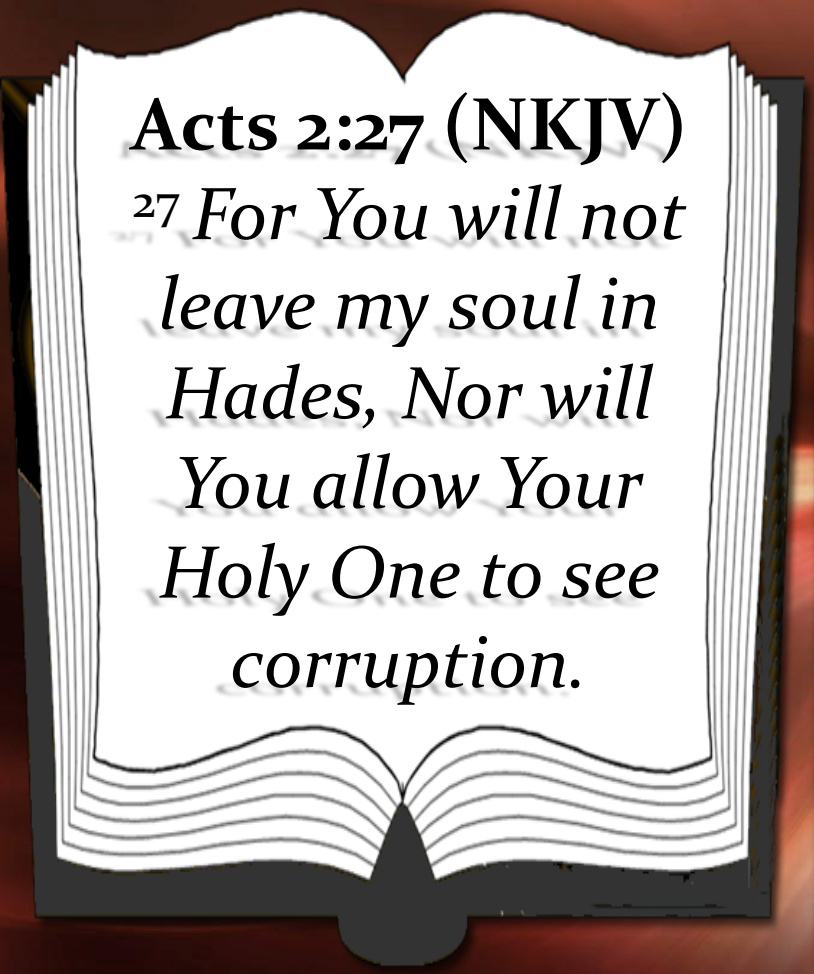
39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You *will*."

Jesus Committed His Spirit To The Father

Luke 23:46 (NKJV)

46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, *'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'* " Having said this, He breathed His last.

This Jesus God Raised Up



Acts 2:27 (NKJV)

27 *For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.*

- **Jesus** was separated from His fleshly body, (i.e. death) – (vss. 23,24)
- **Jesus** went into the hadean realm – (vs 31)
- **Jesus** was not left in the hadean realm – (vs 31)
- **Jesus** was reunited with His body – i.e. the resurrection. (vss. 30-32)
- **Jesus** is at the right hand of His Father – (vss. 32-36)

Acts 2:31 (NKJV)

31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

Body of Jesus

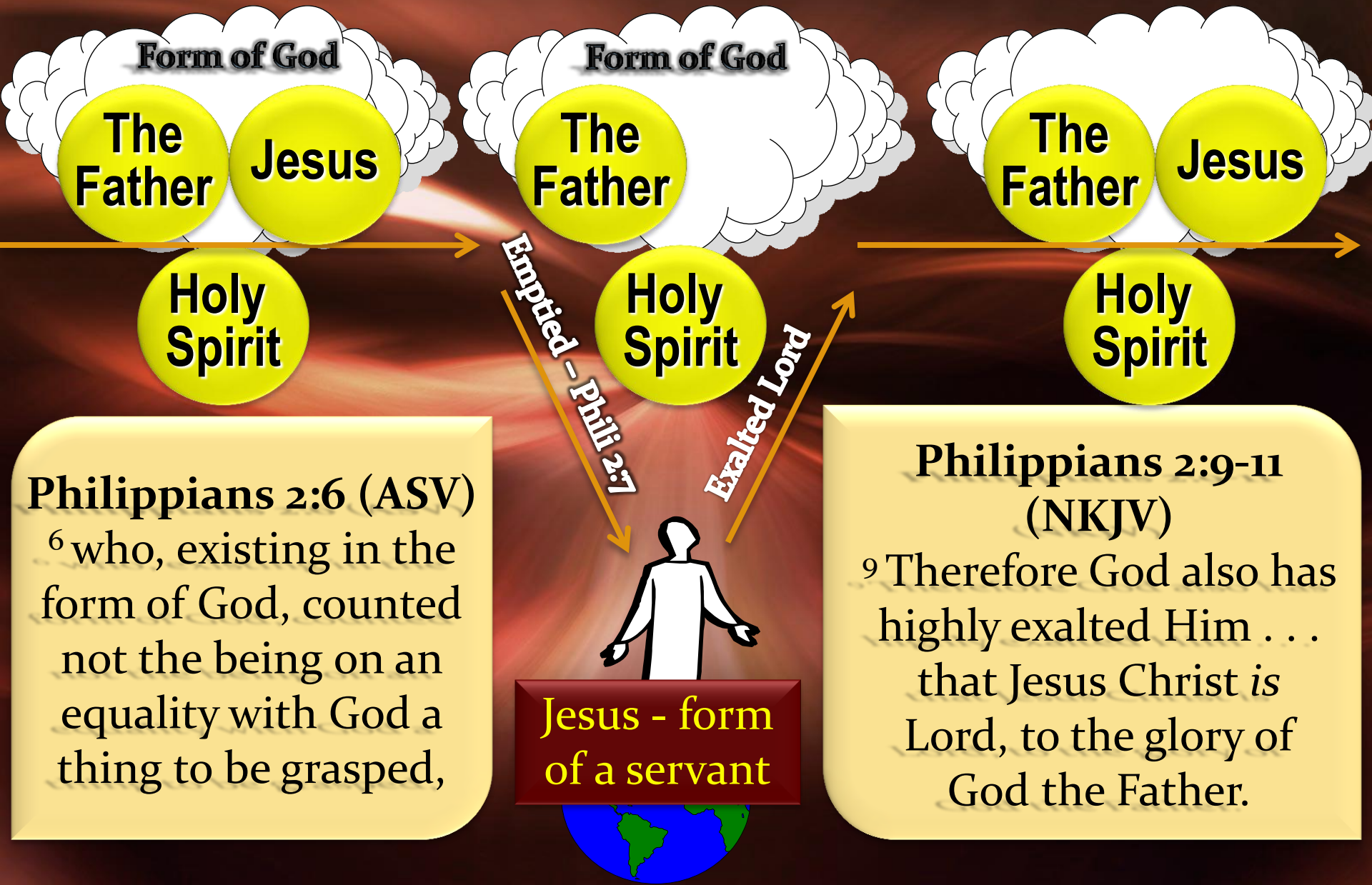
Sprit of Jesus

God Purchased The Church With His Own Blood

Acts 20:28 (NKJV)

28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Jesus Died & Was Raised!



Philippians 2:6 (ASV)

6 who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped,

Philippians 2:9-11 (NKJV)

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him . . . that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

"This Jesus"

God sent His Son – Jesus willingly came in the flesh and lived as a man and died for How sins
He was raised from the dead and is NOW Lord and Christ

- Jesus Prayed -
- Jesus Suffered –
- Jesus Died –
- Jesus' Body Was Buried
- Jesus' Spirit/Soul Went To Hades –
- Jesus Was Resurrected –
- Jesus Was Exalted -

Acts 2:22-36
Phili 2:5-10
Heb. 2:9-18
1 Peter 2:21-25

Understanding God

Their Is One God!

A United plurality of three distinct self conscious rational individualities.

Who Died For Us?

The Son (distinct from the Father) is God

Deity Prayed, Suffered, & Died

Understanding God

Charts by Don McClain
Prepared March 17-19, 2011
Preached March 20, 2011
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