

Convent Avenue Baptist Church  
Bible Study 1/13/10  
Pastor Jesse Williams

*The Articles of Faith; What we believe...*

### **Article II. THE TRUE GOD**

Genesis 1:1; Exodus 3:14, 6:2-3; Deuteronomy 6:4; Jeremiah 10:10; John 4:24  
1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6; Colossians 2:6-10; 1 Timothy 1:17; 1 John 5:7

Notice that all of the articles of faith after the first one all begin with the words “we believe that the scriptures teach...” or something very close to that wording. So, we can see that the scripture forms the basis of all of our doctrinal belief and teaching. Since we learned that the scriptures have God as the author, then it follows that after we establish a proper understanding of scripture then the next logical question would be “*who is God?*” We see from this article of faith that we believe that there is one and only one true God who is an infinite, intelligent Spirit and whose name is Jehovah. We believe that the scripture teaches us that God is the supreme ruler of heaven and earth, and that He made all of creation. We also see that God reveals Himself in a “Trinitarian” way. God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the three are in perfect unity with one another operating harmoniously and distinctly in God’s plan of redemption. The trinity does NOT mean three different gods! We worship one God in three persons of the trinity who operate in perfect unity. While this seems to be strange to some, one must acknowledge that God is infinite and is therefore beyond our human finite understanding of life and reality. Because of this, we can never fully *define* God! The best we human beings can do is to *describe* God, and our description is based on what God chooses to reveal to us about Himself and humanity’s experience with God. That is why the Bible is so critical to our understanding of God, since it contains stories about God’s interaction with human beings throughout human history. Among all of the important things to be known about the true God, this article highlights the following:

#### **The Names of God**

In Exodus 6:3 we see God referring to His name “Jehovah”. However, scripture also reveals several other names of God which include: Elohim, which means God; Adonai, which means Lord; and several other compounds of Jehovah which describe God’s activity in a given situation. In the New Testament, the word Theos is used for God, and Kurios means Lord in the Greek text. Additionally, there are numerous other titles given to Jesus which include Son of God, Son of Man, Christ, Word, Master, Messiah, etc... All of the various names of God reflect descriptions of how God worked with human beings in a given situation and how human beings responded to God, usually through worship, praise or a commitment to a covenant way of life. It is interesting to note that the name “Jesus” means *Jehovah is salvation*. The name Jehovah comes from the tetragrammaton in the OT. That is the unpronounceable name for God in the OT scripture that Jews would not say because they believed it was holy. Jehovah then is an approximate transliteration from the Hebrew to English but we do not know the actual pronunciation.

## The Attributes of God

The Scripture teaches us that God has certain attributes that are consistent throughout all creation and history. God has both *natural* attributes and *moral* attributes that we see in scripture. God's natural attributes are:

- Self existence**, God is an eternal being and He exists because of Himself
- Immutability**, God does not change His character, nature or purpose
- Omnipresence**, God is present everywhere at all times in all of creation
- Immensity**, God is superior to space, He is not bound by space or time
- Eternity**, God has no beginning or ending; past, present and future are in His hands
- Omniscience**, God knows all things, He has all knowledge
- Omnipotence**, God has all power, He can do anything He wants to.

God's moral attributes are:

- Holiness**, God's supreme moral excellence
- Righteousness**, God's nature affirms right over wrong, and good over evil
- Truth**, God is the source and grounds for all truth in all of creation
- Love**, God is Love, unconditional pure devoted love that has absolute loyalty

## The Trinitarian Nature of God

While the actual word "trinity" does not appear in the bible, we acknowledge that the bible does speak in "Trinitarian" language about God. We know that in the OT the word *elohim*, which is a name for God, is in the plural form. Additionally, we hear God speaking in the plural voice by saying "let *us* make man in our image..."(Genesis 1:26) and also "whom shall I send and who will go for *us*"(Isaiah 6:8). Another compelling argument occurs in Colossians 2:9 that speaks about the "Godhead" dwelling in Jesus Christ bodily. 1 John 5:7 is also a definitive statement about the Trinitarian nature of God. Additionally, we cannot ignore that Jesus himself speaks in Trinitarian language in Matthew 28:19 and several other places in the scripture.

We believe that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit make up the trinity and that One God reveals himself in this Trinitarian way. We believe that all three persons of the trinity operate in perfect unity and harmony with each other. **God the Father** is the reigning providential authority over all of creation and the universe and all who dwell in it. The Father directs the flow of human history according to His redemptive plan.

**God the Son**, Jesus is the word made flesh. He is the incarnation of God who came to earth as the fullest and most complete revelation of God in bodily form. Jesus came as our savior to die on the cross for the salvation and redemption of the whole world. He arose from the dead on the third day, according to the scriptures with all power in His hand. He is the standard by which all scripture should be read. He is King of Kings, and is coming back to judge the world.

**God the Holy Spirit** is the living active power of God in the world. He conceived Jesus in the Virgin Mary. He reveals God to humanity, works through humanity, convicts us of sin, lives within us and comforts us. The Holy Spirit also gives us spiritual gifts as people of God.