

DOGOMATIC THEOLOGY

St. Michael's Eritrean Orthodox
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WHAT IS DOGMATIC THEOLOGY?

- ❖ **Dogma:** a principle or set of principles laid down by an authority as indisputable truth.
- ❖ **Theology:** the study of the nature of God and religious belief.
- ❖ Derived from *Theos* = God and *Logia/Logos* = word
- ❖ *"Hold fast the pattern of sound words which you have heard from me, in faith and love which are in Christ Jesus."* **2 Timothy 1:13**
- ❖ My son, keep your father's command, And do not forsake the law of your mother.
Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck. **Proverbs 6:20**
- ❖ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. **Hosea 4:6**



WHAT WE SHOULD KNOW BEFORE TRYING TO STUDY GOD

- ❖ We cannot study God
- ❖ We can only know Him from what He has revealed to us through creation, tradition and scriptures
- ❖ “For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse,” **Romans 1:20**
- ❖ “For God may speak in one way, or in another, *Yet man* does not perceive it.” **Job 33:14**
- ❖ “No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.” **John 1:18**
- ❖ Having agreed on the points above, we will now try to understand God.

WHAT IS GOD? (HIS ATTRIBUTES)

God is divine being

❖ “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” **2 Peter 1:2**

God is Spirit

❖ “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” **John 4:24**

❖ “The Lord is a Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” **2 Cor. 3:17**

❖ God is foreign to every kind of bodily nature or materiality. At the same time the spirituality of God is higher, more perfect, than the spirituality which belongs to the created spiritual beings and the soul of man, which manifest in themselves only an “image” of the spiritual nature of God.

WHAT IS GOD?

God is Eternal

❖ “Your years are throughout all generations. Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment; Like a cloak You will change them, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will have no end.” **Psalm 102:24**

God is Omnipotent (Almighty)

❖ “For He spoke, and it was *done*; He commanded, and it stood fast.” **Psalm 33:9**

❖ “The Also Your righteousness, O God, *is* very high, You who have done great things; O God, who *is* like You?” **Psalm 71:19**

❖ God is the Pantocrator from Greek Pantos (all) and Kratos (might/power)

WHAT IS GOD?

God is Unchangeable

- ❖ “Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 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.” **James 1:16**
- ❖ Numbers 23:19, Hebrews 13:8

God is Love

- ❖ “God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.” **1 John 4:16**
- ❖ “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” **Romans 5:8**
- ❖ “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” **John 3:16**

WHAT IS GOD?

- ❖ God is Just
- ❖ God is Judge
- ❖ God is Merciful
- ❖ God is One
- ❖ God is Self-Sufficing and All Blessed
- ❖ God is Omnipresent
- ❖ God is All-Righteous
- ❖ God is Omniscient
- ❖ God is all Good
- ❖ We will be here forever if we try to study all his attributes. So let's move on.

WHO IS GOD?

Creator

- ❖ “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” **Genesis 1:1**

Father

- ❖ “Do you thus repay the LORD, O foolish and unwise people? Is He not your Father, who bought you? Has He not made you and established you?” **Deuteronomy 32:6**
- ❖ “In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven,” **Matthew 6:9**

Shepherd

- ❖ “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.” Psalm 23:1
- ❖ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.” **John 10:11**

Saviour

- ❖ “I, even I, am the Lord, And besides Me there is no saviour.” **Isaiah 43:11**

NAMES OF GOD

- ❖ El is another name that is translated as "God" and can be used in conjunction with other words to designate various aspects of God's character.
- ❖ EL SHADDAI (LORD GOD ALMIGHTY): **Genesis 17:1, 28:3, 35:11, 43:14, 48:3**
- ❖ EL ELYON (THE MOST HIGH GOD): **Genesis 14:18-22, Psalm 57:2, 78:35**
- ❖ ADONAI (LORD, MASTER): Adonai is plural; the singular is adon. **Genesis 15:2**
- ❖ YAHWEH (LORD, JEHOVAH): I AM WHO I AM, **Exodus 3**
- ❖ JEHOVAH TSIDKENU (THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS): **Jeremiah 23:6**
- ❖ JEHOVAH MEKODDISHKEM (THE LORD WHO SANCTIFIES YOU): **Exodus 31:13**
- ❖ JEHOVAH SABAOTH (THE LORD OF HOSTS): This name denotes His universal sovereignty over every army, both spiritual and earthly. The Lord of Hosts is the king of all heaven and earth.
- ❖ And many more

THE HOLY TRINITY

- ❖ God is one in Essence and three in Persons
- ❖ Trinity – from two words Tri = three and unity

Indications of the Trinity in the Old Testament

- ❖ The truth of the Tri-unity of God is only expressed in a veiled way in the Old Testament, only half-revealed. The Old Testament testimonies of the Trinity are revealed and explained in the light of Christian faith, , as the Apostle Paul wrote concerning the Jews.
2 Cor. 3:15
- ❖ The chief passages in the Old Testament which testify to the Trinity of God are the following :
 - ❖ Genesis 1 : 1 “In the beginning God [Elohim] created the heavens and the earth.”
 - ❖ Genesis 1 : 26 “Then God [Elohim] said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;”
 - ❖ Genesis 11 : 6 “Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” ”
- ❖ In the above verses : the name of God (“Elohim”) in the Hebrew text has the grammatical form of the plural number.

THE HOLY TRINITY

❖ “Then the Lord appeared to him by the oak of Mamre, as he was sitting in the tent door in the heat of the day. So he lifted his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing by him;” **Genesis 18:1**

The teaching of the Holy Trinity in the New Testament.

- ❖ The manifestation of God in Trinity was accomplished at the Baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ, which is why this Baptism itself is called the “Theophany” or “manifestation of God.”
- ❖ “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” **Matthew 28:19**
- ❖ “For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.” **1 John 5:7**

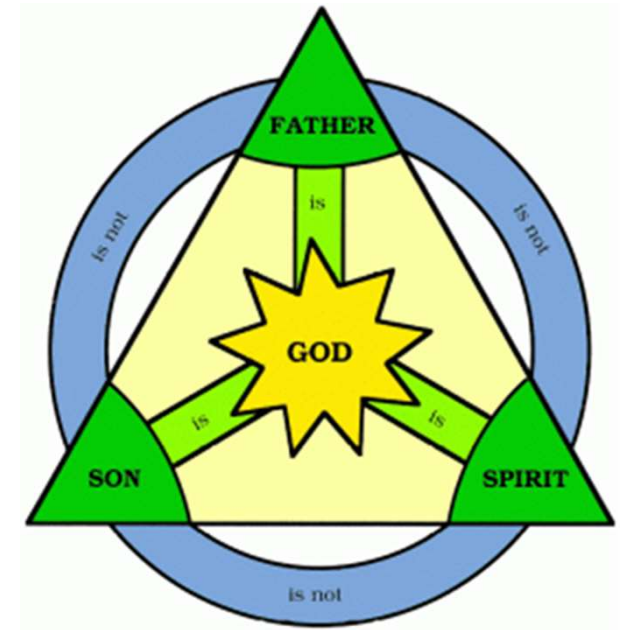
THE HOLY TRINITY

How are they Three

- ❖ The Father – The begetter
- ❖ The Son- The begotten (Begotten of the Father before time)
- ❖ The Holy Spirit – The proceder (proceeds from the Father only)

How are they One

- ❖ In their Will
- ❖ In their Divinity
- ❖ “Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one!” **Deuteronomy 6:4**
- ❖ “one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.” **Ephesians 4:6**



THE HOLY TRINITY

- ❖ Desiring to bring the mystery of the All-Holy Trinity a little closer to our earthly concepts, to bring what is beyond understanding a little closer to that which is understandable, the Fathers of the Church used comparisons from nature. Among these comparisons are:
 - ❖ The sun, its rays and light
 - ❖ The root, trunk, and fruit of a tree
 - ❖ Fire, and the light and warmth which come from it;
- ❖ But this is what St. Gregory the Theologian says regarding these attempts at comparison :
“I have very carefully considered this matter in my own mind, and have looked at it in every point of view, in order to find some likeness of this mystery, but I have been unable to discover anything on earth with which to compare the nature of the Godhead.”
- ❖ “For in Him [Christ] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.” **Colossians 2:9**

WHERE IS GOD?

In Heaven

- ❖ “In this manner, therefore, pray: Our Father in heaven,” **Matthew 6:9**
- ❖ “The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, And His sovereignty rules over all.”
Psalms 103:19

Every where (Omnipresent)

- ❖ “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; ...” **Psalms 139:7**
- ❖ “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.” **Proverbs 15:3**



**GLORY BE TO THE FATHER, THE SON AND THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

GOD IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE