

The Only True God

Jeff Rogers / Lamplighter Bible Study

John 17:1-5

In the first five verses of John 17, we see the unveiling of the glory of God revealed to us in the plan of salvation. It is the glory of the Trinity: Is Jesus the only way to Heaven? Often asked, seldom explained beyond **John 14:6**. Yes, that would be enough, but there is so much more.

Presuppositions: one, God is the Creator of all things. "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen 1:1)

- **The eternal council of the Godhead (Hebrews 13:20)**

- God the Father handed over all created things to God the Son: (**Ephesians 1:3-6, esp vss. 7-10**, *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth.* **Matthew 28:18**, *And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me."*) Jesus, Son of God, was appointed the Head of all men. Upon His incarnation, He became the second Adam)
- God the Father gave to the Son a people (**John 17:2, John 17:6, 9, 24; 6:37, 39; 10:29**)
- God the Father provided a "work assignment to God the Son (John 17:4)

I. The Vocabulary of John 17:3

- A. **Eternal** – everlasting; continuing forever; indefinitely. An unlimited duration of time. In the context of 'eternal life,' there is not only a temporal element, but also a qualitative distinction. These implications are divine and supernatural attributes. Among them is the idea that 'eternal life' means more than simply 'never dying.' There is an infinitely better quality of life implied by the word 'eternal.'
- B. **Know** - know, understand (1 John). John is captivated by 'knowing' God. This knowledge reaches beyond a mere intellectual pursuit to an experience. To speak from experience is the implication. The more important distinction is that God is personal (not an inanimate 'force') and can be known.
- C. **Only** - lone; being the only one; single and isolated from others. The implication here is that there is no other choice among the 'gods.' God is the only 'Theos.' (**John 5:44; Romans 16:25; 1 Tim 1:17; 6:15-16; Jude 25**).
- D. **Sent** - to dispatch; to send away towards a designated goal or purpose. 'Apostello' to send out.

II. The Only True God

- A. He is a Person
 - 1. **Hebrews 11:6**, *And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*
 - 2. **Isaiah 46:8-11**
 - 3. **Psalms 115:1-8**
- B. He is the Creator
- C. He is Lord of the universe
- D. His Character (**1 John 1:5**)
- E. His equality with the Father (**John 17:3**)
- F. He is the Christ (Messiah; the High Priest who keeps)
- G. He is eternal life (the second Adam) **1 Corinthians 15:22**

III. The Lord Jesus Christ

- A. Lord (As the O.T. Angel of the Lord & New Testament Miracles) Sovereign Ruler of the Universe
 - 1. As the Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament (**JOHN 17:4**, the first finish line)
 - a) The Angel of the Lord appeared to Hagar (Genesis 16:7-13)
 - b) The Angel of the Lord appeared to Abraham at the offering of Isaac (Genesis 22:11-18)
 - c) Jacob wrestles with God at Peniel (Genesis 32:24-30)
 - d) In the flame of fire in the bush to Moses (Ex 3:2-6)
 - e) In the confrontation with Balaam as the donkey speaks (Numbers 22:22-35)
 - f) To Joshua as the commander of the Lord's Host (Joshua 5:13-15)

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- g) To Gideon commissioning him as a military leader (Judges 13:2-22)
 - h) As a minister to Elijah (1Kings 19:5-7)
 - i) As the fourth man in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:24-25)
 - 2. The Lord's Demonstration of Power over His Creation in Miracles
 - a) Global flood covers the earth (**Genesis 7:10–24**)
 - b) Sodom & Gomorrah destroyed by fire & brimstone; Lot's wife/pillar salt (**Genesis 19:24–26**)
 - c) Red Sea parts for Israel (**Exodus 14:21–31**)
 - d) Earth opens and swallows Korah's rebellion (**Numbers 16:32–34**)
 - e) Balaam's donkey speaks (**Numbers 22:28–30**)
 - f) Jordan River parts for Israel (**Joshua 3:14–17**)
 - g) Walls of Jericho collapse (**Joshua 6:20**)
 - h) Sun and moon stand still at Joshua's command (**Joshua 10:12–14**)
 - i) Fire from heaven consumes Elijah's sacrifice on Mount Carmel (**1 Kings 18:38**)
 - j) Shadow moves backward for Hezekiah (miraculous sign) (**2 Kings 20:9–11**)
 - k) Three men preserved in the fiery furnace (**Daniel 3:24–28**)
 - l) Daniel is kept unharmed in the lions' den (**Daniel 6:22**)
 - m) Every miracle of Jesus performed while on Earth that is recorded in the Gospels.
 - B. Jesus (The Prophecies of Messiah's coming) (JOHN 19:30, the second finish line)
 - 1. The Seed of the Woman - **Genesis 3:15**, *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he [the "seed" of the woman] shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.* (Protoevangelium – the first gospel)
 - 2. The Nation of Israel - **Genesis 12:3**, *I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.* (cf. **Galatians 3:16, 8** cited)
 - 3. The Tribe of Judah - **Genesis 49:10**, *The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.*
 - 4. The Family of David - **2 Samuel 7:12–13**, *When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.*
 - 5. The Virgin - **Isaiah 7:14**, *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*
 - 6. The town of Bethlehem - **Micah 5:2**, *But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.*
 - 7. The times of His birth – **Daniel 9:25**, *Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time.*
 - 8. The Star of His birth - **Numbers 24:17**, *I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth.*
 - C. Christ (The High Priest) – Messiah
 - a) The historical fact of the resurrection (**1 Corinthians 15:1-8**)
 - b) Our Lord's High Priestly office fulfilled.
 - (1) **John 20:11-18 – Mary sees the resurrected Christ as High Priest**
 - (2) **Hebrews 9:11-15 – Our Lord's Work as High Priest**
 - (3) **Revelation 5:1-12 – The coming final confirmation of the Lord Jesus Christ as Redeemer.**
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