

THE NATURE OF GOD

THE GOOD NEWS AND BAD NEWS ABOUT WHAT YOU MAY HAVE BEEN TAUGHT.

Many may read this article and find that they have a good grasp of the nature of God; while others will find that they have been misled. Like so many things, once a doctrine has been put forth and accepted for a long time (centuries in this case), false teachings arise and surround the issue. Some of my Jewish friends ask, “don't you Christians believe in three gods?” Actually, that question is also popular with many non-believers who were not raised in the church. They also ask, “did Jesus claim to be God?” or, “was this divinity issue decided by church councils hundreds of years after the time of Jesus?” Another question raised is whether the God of the Old Testament is different than the God of the New Testament? Surprisingly, many Christians believe that God is different (a mean God versus a God of love), although they are unlikely to mention it to their pastor or fellow parishioners.

All of these questions are important to the concept of salvation, relevant to everyday living by Christians, and significant to all non-believers—who often do want to know the answers despite their protestations to the contrary. At some point all human beings want to know: “what is my nature?” and “what is the nature of God (if there is one)?” A follow-on question then arises: if there is a God, then what does He want me to do? That last question will not be covered in this article, although in a general sense, reading His handbook might be a good idea (the Bible). Also, I won't be covering the question of the Nature of Man extensively in this article, since it was thoroughly covered in a previous article by that title. The purpose of this article is to directly address the revealed Nature of God and show that it need not be “a mystery” as so many are told by clergy—who sometimes have a doctrine that is much like trying to drive a square peg into a round hole.

Disclaimer: I have no allegiance to the particular doctrine of any church related to the Nature of God. I have free will and only trust what the Bible says concerning the matter. We step on toes here; but you have the right to disagree with this article concerning aspects of the Nature of God, and that doesn't make us enemies.

First...a reader quiz

What is your personal belief in regard to the Nature of God? (choose one)

A. trinitarian or traditional trinity belief (a belief in one God who has 3 distinct personalities or personhoods—3 in one)

B. oneness (a belief in one God who has 3 different manifestations (Father, Yeshua, Holy Spirit), but not 3 personalities (they avoid the concept of a God with multiple personalities)).

C. Jehovah Witness' type belief (one God who is the Father, and Jesus and the Holy Spirit are less than God but more than us).

D. Mormon type belief (Father is God, Jesus became God, and we all can become Gods with our own planet system in the future—a many Gods belief).

E. Jewish belief (one God with one manifestation, and the Messiah could be anyone, maybe even me? [not me personally, I was projecting myself into the question as if I were Jewish]).

F. no God (don't be ridiculous, we evolved from primordial sludge/sewage, and my great uncle thousands of generations ago was a chimpanzee or gorilla).

G. I don't care (I'm agnostic and only care about myself; and those even more involved with self cannot pass a mirror without admiring what they see there—the narcissist).

H. hey man, God is "the force" he doesn't have a nature (star wars belief).

I. the cosmic clockmaker (yeah, God exists, but he created this hellhole and then left to do other things).

J. muslim terrorist God (he exists, but only spoke to Mohammed. However, he wants me to blow myself up and kill many people, after which I get 70 or 72 virgins for all eternity [there is an argument over whether it is 70 or 72]).

K. fuzzy, loving God who has gotten a lot of bad press (New Age God)

L. Hindu belief (thousands of Gods—hey that cow is God, so is that dung beetle, so is that tree).

Your answer is...?

Please don't be offended by the little quiz above, since the purpose is to begin to look at the nature of God and learn about the views held by many different groups. It's valuable to do this, because these groups have ostensibly spent much time and brainpower examining the concept of God's nature. Initially, we'll begin by looking at Jesus (Yeshua, in the Peshitta Aramaic New Testament); since this is of interest to Christians of all stripes as well non-believers who wonder whether Yeshua (Jesus) was a man?, was the messiah?, whether Yeshua claimed to be God?, and whether he was God? I am going to address this issue primarily using the Peshitta Aramaic New Testament; since it has nuance of meaning better than the Greek texts.

The eternal memorial name of God in the Hebrew Torah and Tanach is יהוה (YHVH from Hebrew, or YHWH from Aramaic). Jewish people are forbidden by their Rabbis from pronouncing YHVH, since to do so wrongly or irreverently is to break the third commandment and bring punishment on the offender.

Exodus 20:7 You shall not take the name of YHVH your Elohim (the Lord your God) in vain; for YHVH will not hold him guiltless that takes His name in vain (for nothingness).

It's important to show you that the commandment specifically states that misusing the name YHVH is what is prohibited (using it lightly or as nothingness). Christians often use different pronunciations of YHVH such as Jehovah and Yahweh. We know Jehovah is a wrong pronunciation because there was no hard “J” in Hebrew unless using the letter gimel (which it doesn't in the spelling of YHVH). Throughout this paper, I will just use YHVH for the eternal memorial name of God (Tetragrammaton).

Is there real evidence in the New Testament that Yeshua (Jesus) was YHVH? Yes. Here are a few examples: (Peshitta Aramaic NT and Murdock translation into English)

אתילד לכון גיר יומנא פרוקא דאיתוהי **מריא משיחא** במדינתה דרויד
Luke 2:11 For there is born to you this day a deliverer, who is **MarYah (Lord Yah or Lord YHVH) The Messiah**, in the city of David.

הי דין אמרת ולא אנש **מריא** אמר דין ישוע אפלא אנא מחיב אנא לכי זלי ומן השא טוב לא תחטין
John 8:11 And she said: No man, **MarYah (Lord Yah or Lord YHVH)**. And **Yeshua (Jesus)** said: Neither do I condemn thee. Go thou, and henceforth sin no more.

שריראית הכיל נדע כלה בית איסריל **דמריא ומשיחא** עבדה **אלהא** להנא ישוע דאנתון זקפתון
Acts 2:36 Therefore, let all the house of Israel know, assuredly, that **God** hath made that **Yeshua (Jesus)** whom ye crucified, to be **MarYah (Lord Yah or Lord YHVH)** and **The Messiah**.

אמר להון שמעון טובו ועמדו אנש אנש מנכון בשמה **דמריא ישוע**
לשובקן חטהא דתקבלון מוהבתא **דרוחא דקודשא**
Acts 2:38 Simon said to them: Repent, and be baptized every one of you, in the name of **MarYah (Lord Yah or Lord YHVH) Yeshua (Jesus)**, for the remission of sins; so that ye may receive the gift of the **Holy Spirit**.

מטל הנא מודע אנא לכוון דלית אנש דברוחא דאלהא ממלל ואמר דחרם הו ישוע
ואפלא אנש משכח למאמר דמריא הו ישוע אלא אן ברוחא דקודשא

1 Corinthians 12:3 I therefore inform you, that there is no man, that speaketh by the Spirit of God, who saith that Yeshua (Jesus) is accursed: neither can a man say that Yeshua (Jesus) is MarYah (Lord Yah or Lord YHVH), except by the Holy Spirit.

וכל לשן נודא דמריא הו ישוע משיחא לשוכחא דאלהא אבוהי

Philippians 2:11 and that every tongue should confess that Yeshua (Jesus) The Messiah is MarYah (Lord Yah or Lord YHVH), to the glory of God his Father.

The examples above are some of the 32+ direct references to Yeshua as MarYah (special thanks to pastor Dave Bauscher and Andrew Gabriel Roth for suggesting the above examples) in the Peshitta Aramaic New Testament. As a reminder, in the Peshitta Tanach (Old Testament), MarYah is used every time for the name YHVH from the Hebrew text. There should be no doubt in your mind now, that Yeshua (Jesus) is Lord Yah or Lord YHVH from the Old Testament. These examples directly show that the Jehovah Witnesses and Mormons are mistaken in relegating Yeshua (Jesus) to a “lesser God” status.

Yeshua (Jesus) is MarYah (Lord Yah or Lord YHVH) and The Messiah.

Why Quote The Peshitta Aramaic NT And Not The Greek?

On a small tangent, some readers might wonder why I am emphasizing the Peshitta Aramaic New Testament over the Greek. The reason is that the name of God is used in the Peshitta Aramaic NT (Yah), and is never used in the Greek manuscripts. This tells us that the Peshitta is the original and not the Greek manuscripts (there are many other reasons too). I have read and studied the Bible for over 3 decades and have only recently arrived at the conclusion that the Peshitta Aramaic NT is the original. I wanted to mention that point, so you know I am not coming from a denominational bias in this regard.

When I was growing up and attending parochial schools, I was taught that the Greek NT manuscripts were the original and that the people in Israel 2000 years ago generally spoke Greek. Both of those points are in error. Flavius Josephus was one of the foremost historians of the 1st century AD, writing both *The Antiquities of the Jews*, and *The Wars of the Jews*. Flavius Josephus' name was actually Yosef ben-Mattityah (Joseph ben Matthias) and he was born to a priestly Jewish family. Many people think he wrote his two histories in Greek, but that is not true. Josephus himself wrote:

The War Of The Jews (Preface, 1:3) I have proposed to myself, for the sake of such as live under the government of the Romans, **to translate those books** into the Greek tongue, **which I formerly composed in the language of our country**, and sent to the Upper Barbarians (Parthians and Babylonians); I Joseph, the son of Matthias, by birth a Hebrew priest, and one who first fought against the Romans myself, and was forced to be present at what was done afterwards, [am the author of this work].

Note that Josephus himself states that he wrote the histories in the native tongue used in the land of Israel; that it was later translated to Greek for those who lived under the Roman government abroad, and who may have needed it in Greek. Note also that he had first sent it to the Parthians (part of lost 10 tribes) and the Babylonians—both groups which spoke Aramaic—and there was no need to translate it for them. Josephus also stated:

The Antiquities Of The Jews (Book 20, chapter 11:2(263-265)) For those of my own nation freely acknowledge that I far exceed them in the learning belonging to the Jews. I **have also taken great pains to obtain the learning of the Greeks, and understand the elements of the Greek language, although I have so long accustomed myself to speak our own tongue, that I cannot pronounce Greek with sufficient exactness:** for our nation does not encourage those that learn the languages of many nations, and so adorn their discourses with the smoothness of their periods; because they look upon this sort of accomplishment as common, not only to all sorts of freemen, but to as many servants as please to learn them. But they give him the testimony of being a wise man who is fully acquainted with our laws, and is able to interpret their meaning; on which account, as there have been many who have done their endeavors with great patience to obtain this learning, **there have yet hardly been so many as two or three that have succeeded therein,** who were immediately rewarded for their pains.

Josephus was far more learned than the average Jew of his day; and in 64 AD, he visited Rome as a member of the Jewish embassy. And yet Josephus tells us directly that in spite of his trying, he had not learned Greek of sufficient exactness to use it well (speaking and written). He goes on further to say that there have only been two or three Jews who've learned Greek well—because young men were encouraged to learn the Torah and Jewish laws, and discouraged from learning languages of other nations. The fact is that Aramaic was the language of the day and even Josephus didn't know Greek well enough to write his histories in Greek. Mel Gibson had it right in making his movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, using Aramaic with English subtitles.

A third piece of evidence—for primacy of the Peshitta Aramaic New Testament as the original—is the written testimony of Bishop Papias in Syria. He was an early bishop in Syria and wrote that the book of Matthew was translated from the original into Greek by the apostles; and he further wrote that the translation of Matthew was poor (as compared to the Peshitta Aramaic original).

Evidence shows that the original manuscripts of the New Testament are the Peshitta Aramaic and NOT the Greek.

Many nitpicking arguments by scholars over the exact meaning(s) of a particular Greek word could often be settled by looking at the Peshitta Aramaic NT. One of the reasons that so many churches emphasize the Greek NT manuscripts is that scholars and pastors and theologians have invested years in the Greek NT and have ignored the Peshitta Aramaic NT. They therefore have a bias towards the Greek to protect decades of their labors. Regardless, the evidence supports the primacy of the Peshitta

Aramaic NT; and there is anecdotal evidence that the books may have been assembled by the apostle John slightly before his Revelation vision in 95 AD (since ancient Peshitta NT books did not have Revelation in it, which presupposes assembly by John before the isle of Patmos visions). The canon of the New Testament—as we have today—was largely in place in ~400 AD after Synods in Cathage and Hippo. However, direct evidence exists that the Pauline Epistles were collected together in Clement's days in ~97 AD; and the gospels collected together by at least by 100-110 as mentioned by Ignatius, Polycarp and in the Didache.

The ONENESS of God

The most important concept—related to understanding the nature of God—is that God is One. However, the concept of One means different things to different people. Some see One as a single entity in a numerical sense. Others see One as a plurality, as in the example of “one people” composed of many individuals, or a church as “one congregation” comprised of all those who attend the church.

Trinitarians believe that the Oneness of God is the latter—where One God means multiple personalities belonging to the Godhead or God family. The Athanasian Creed from Alexandria originated in the ~5th century the concept of the Trinity, where God the Father, Yeshua (Jesus) the Son, and the Holy Spirit are different persons/personalities. Meanwhile, there are millions of Christians who believe the Oneness of God means numerically one God, with different manifestations in offices or roles. They reject the strict Trinitarian belief originating with the Roman Catholic church in the Middle Ages (Nicene Creed from 325 AD did not use “Trinity”). What do the scriptures show in this regard?

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear O Israel! YHVH (the Lord) is our God (Eloheinu); **YHVH is One**.

Deuteronomy 4:35 To you it was shown that you might know that **YHVH**, He is God (Elohim); there is **no other** besides Him.

Deuteronomy 4:39 Know today, and take it to your heart, that **YHVH**, He is God (Elohim) in heaven above and upon the earth beneath; there is **no other**.

Malachi 2:10 Do we not all have **one Father**? Has not **one God** (El) created us?...

Matthew 23:9 And call no one on earth, father; for **One** is your **Father in heaven**.

1 Corinthians 8:4 As concerning the eating of the food offered to idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that there is **no other God but One**.

Galatians 3:20 Now a mediator does not represent one alone; but **God is One**.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is **one God**, and one mediator between God and men, the Son of Man, Yeshua The Messiah (Jesus the Christ).

James 2:19 You believe that there is **one God**; you do well. The demons also believe, and they tremble.

YHVH is God; He is One.

It was mentioned earlier that the Peshitta Aramaic Tanach (Old Testament) uses **MarYah** in all of the 6500-7000 times that the memorial name of God, **YHVH**, is used in the Hebrew Tanach. MarYah means: Master or Lord Yah = YHVH, where Yah is the short version of YHVH. The short name of YHVH, Yah, is used 47 times in the Hebrew Tanach directly, besides the 100's of times used in the names of kings and prophets of Israel. A sampling follows:

Isaiah 12:2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid. For **Yah YHVH** is my strength and song; He will become my salvation.

Psalms 89:9 (8 in English Bible) **YHVH God of hosts**, who is strong like You **Yah**? And Your faithfulness surrounds you.

Exodus 15:2 **Yah** is my strength and song; and He will be my salvation. This is my God and I will prepare Him a habitation (some translate: and I will praise Him); God of my father and I will exalt Him.

Isaiah 26:4 Trust in **YHVH** witnesses of eternity (or, forever), for with **Yah YHVH** is an eternal rock (or, an eternal refuge).

The small sampling of verses shows that Yah=YHVH=God. Using the name Yah is not some slight against God (YHVH), since it is used 47 times in the Tanach. These uses include the 10 times in the Psalms where **hallu Yah** (in English, halleluyah; meaning **praise Yah**) is used. Therefore, when the Rabbis translated the Hebrew Torah and Tanach into Aramaic—for use by a growing population for whom Aramaic had become their first language after the Babylonian captivity of Judah—they used MarYah in Aramaic for YHVH (6500 to 7000 times). The Shma Yisrael in both the Hebrew Torah and Peshitta Torah reads:

Deuteronomy 6:4

(from the Peshitta Aramaic Torah) Hear O Israel, **MarYah** is our God, **MarYah** is One.

(from the Hebrew Torah) Hear O Israel, **YHVH** is our God, **YHVH** is One.

YHVH=Yah=MarYah=God=Yeshua (Jesus)=The Messiah

If the box above startles you, go back to pages 3-4 and look again at the sampling of verses from the Peshitta Aramaic New Testament where it clearly shows that: MarYah is Yeshua (Jesus); and He is The Messiah. One does not get this direct evidence from the Greek Septuagint or Greek NT manuscripts, because in neither of those is the name of God used. Rather, the translators used Kurios (Lord) most often in the Greek Septuagint and Greek NT in place of YHVH or Yah or MarYah; and the second most used substitution in the Greek Septuagint and Greek NT for YHVH/Yah/MarYah is

Theos (God). Therefore, the Greek manuscripts obscure the name of God and have caused many Christians over the centuries to wonder if Yeshua (Jesus) is God?, or a lower God?, or other? If you look at the original texts—Hebrew for the Tanach, and Peshitta Aramaic for the New Testament—these things are clearly shown and do not raise those sorts of questions. The original manuscripts of the Old and New Testaments—the Hebrew Tanach and Peshitta Aramaic New Testament—add clarity to these and many other issues.

The Jewish Objection to Yeshua as The Messiah and as YHVH or God

The Hebrew Tanach scriptures are very clear that there is only One God; that YHVH is One; and He alone is Israel's savior and redeemer. This paper is in no way an evangelistic effort to convert Jews to Christianity; but rather, it is solely to explore and explain the nature of God. In fact, I personally believe that this central Jewish concern “that God is One, and YHVH alone is Israel's savior and redeemer” is extremely important for Christians. The following are but a sampling of verses in the Tanach, showing this fact:

Isaiah 49:26 ...and all flesh shall know that I **YHVH** am your **savior** and your **redeemer**, the mighty One of Jacob.

Hoshea 13:4 And I am **YHVH** your God from the land of Egypt; and you know no god except Me, and no **savior** besides Me.

Isaiah 43:10-13 ...That you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He; before Me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after Me. I am, I am **YHVH**, and besides Me there is no **savior**. I have declared; and **I have saved**; and I have announced (it). And there was no strange god among you; and you are my witnesses, says **YHVH**, and I am God. Moreover, from the first I am He; and there is none that can deliver out of My hand; I will act, and who can reverse it?

Isaiah 44:6 Thus says **YHVH, King of Israel**, and His **redeemer, YHVH of hosts**, “I am the first, and I am the last; and besides Me there is no God.”

The above verses are just a few of many in the Tanach; so a non-Jewish reader of the Hebrew Tanach might guess that observant Jewish people believe that The Messiah will be YHVH—God Himself as savior and redeemer. However, that is not the case for any of the streams of Judaism. Ultra Orthodox and Orthodox Jews generally all agree that The Messiah is a human man, who is descended from King David through King Solomon. Therefore, The Messiah will be from the tribe of Judah (Jewish) with a specific lineage.

Rabbi Moshe ben Maimon (Maimonides, also known as Rambam) wrote in his *Mishneh Torah* (section: *Hilkhot Melakhim Umilchamoteihem*; chapter 11) that the moshiach (the messiah) will do the following (summarized):

1. He will restore the Davidic kingdom, as king (a descendant of King David).
2. He will build the Temple in Jerusalem and gather the strayed ones of Israel together.

3. All laws will be restored including sacrificial offerings and Jubilee years according to the Torah.
4. Whoever does not believe in him or wait for his coming, defies all the prophets as well as the Torah and Moses.
5. He will save Israel in the end of days.
6. He will widen Israel's territory.
7. He need not perform miracles or resurrect the dead.
8. He will succeed in Hashem's (YHVH's) wars and conquer all, leading to peace on earth for all.

Not all Orthodox Jews agree on point 7 above, although they readily agree with Maimonides' assertions about the Messiah from his *13 Principles of Faith*, where Principle 12 is on the messiah. For example, Hasidic Jews believe that the messiah is human, but must perform supernatural miracles. Additionally, there are two Jewish Orthodox groups who believe that the arrival of the messiah is imminent: 1. Lubavitchers, followers of Chabad Hasidism; and 2. followers of the late Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook.

Another stream within Judaism, Reform or Reconstructionist, rejects the idea of a literal, individual messiah who will carry out the task of perfecting the world. Joseph Telushkin in *Jewish Literacy* writes:

Instead, the Reform/Reconstructionist movement speaks of a future world in which human efforts, not a divinely sent messenger, will bring about a **utopian age**. The Reform idea has influenced many non-Orthodox Jews: The oft-noted attraction of Jews to liberal and leftwing political causes probably represents a secular attempt to usher in a messianic age.

Conservative Judaism is a stream of Judaism midway between Orthodox and Reform. As one might expect, their views on the messiah falls midway between Orthodox and Reform, with some Conservatives holding the Reform view of the messiah as metaphor/symbolic of a future utopian age, and others holding the Orthodox view of a literal human messiah as Maimonides enunciated. The *Emet Ve-Emunah* (Truth and Faith), the Conservative movement's statement of principles, states:

Since no one can say for certain what will happen in the Messianic era, each of us is free to fashion personal speculation. Some of us accept these speculations are literally true, while others understand them as elaborate metaphors...For the world community we dream of an age when warfare will be abolished, when justice and compassion will be axioms of all, as it is said in Isaiah 11: "...the land shall be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the seas." For our people, we dream of the ingathering of all Jews to Zion where we can again be masters of our own destiny and express our distinctive genius in every area of our national life. We affirm Isaiah's prophecy (2:3) that: "...Torah shall come forth from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

We do not know when the Messiah will come, nor whether he will be a charismatic human figure or is a symbol of the redemption of mankind from the evils of the world...

To summarize, all Ultra Orthodox and Orthodox Jewish people accept that the future messiah (anointed one) is fully a human being descended from kings David and Solomon. The Hasidic Jews

believe that the future messiah will perform miracles, while all other Orthodox Jews follow the teaching of Maimonides and the Sages that the messiah need not perform miracles or resurrect the dead (but could do so). Reform Jews reject the literalness of prophecy and instead view them symbolically; where the whole idea of a messiah and messianic age will occur as they themselves work hard to establish a utopian age. It seems that Reform Judaism has their counterpart in liberal Christian streams—who too reject the plainly stated Bible precepts and instead substitute for their purpose an aim to establish an utopian age by their own efforts. Meanwhile, Conservative Judaism is in-between Orthodox and Reform, and throws up their hands and says, “since we don't know for sure, you're free to believe in a literal human messiah or a future utopian age using the Bible as metaphor.”

Although the Hebrew Tanach has at least 28 plainly stated verses that YHVH (God) is the only savior and redeemer, there are no streams of Judaism that take those verses literally. You can understand their position, since there are clear prophecies that the messiah IS a descendant of King David. All Judaism rejects the mainstream Christian view that The Messiah is both God (YHVH) and man (as Yeshua or Jesus). They view a God-man messiah as idolatry. Rather, they see YHVH (God) as ultimately Israel's savior and redeemer as stated in the scriptures, who uses a human man, the messiah, to accomplish fulfillment of the prophecies.

Jewish View of the Nature of God

Maimonides elaborated on the nature of God (Hashem, YHVH) in his *13 Principles of Faith*, where the first 5 of the 13 principles are on the nature of God. Each of the *13 Principles of Faith* starts off with **Ani Ma'amin... (I believe...)** and are as follows (summarized from the *Mishneh Torah*):

A. The Nature of Belief in God

- 1. God's Existence (sole Creator);**
- 2. God is a complete and total Unity (One God);**
- 3. God's spirituality and incorporeality (Spirit, infinite);**
- 4. God is eternal and the First Source (He transcends time and space);**
- 5. God alone should be the object of worship and prayer;**

B. Authenticity of the Torah

6. God communicates with man (through prophets);
7. The preeminence of Moses among the prophets (Torah is unique);
8. God's law given on Mount Sinai (Torah dictated to Moses);
9. The Torah is unchangeable;

C. Man's Responsibility and Ultimate Reward

10. God's foreknowledge of human actions (everything he thinks and does);
11. Reward and punishment (for human deeds);
12. The Messiah will come (human descendant of kings David and Solomon);
13. Resurrection of the dead in the Messianic era.

The Jewish view of the nature of God is included in this article to provide a background, and to consider what the Jewish people believe; since they have 1000's of years of teaching on the matter. In

fact, at first glance I entirely agree with Maimonides first 5 principles that touch on the nature of God; but then there is a problem... Maimonides further elaborated on principle 2—The Unity of God—where Marc Mermelstein translated from the *Mishneh Torah*:

Principle II. The Unity of God

Meaning to say to accept that this is quintessential idea of Oneness. It is not like the oneness of a pair (i.e. pair of shoes—one group) or and not one like a species. And not like man that has many individuals nor like a body that divides into many different parts until no end (everything keeps on being divisible). Rather God is one and there is no other oneness like His. This is the second principle and is taught in what it says “Hear Israel, Hashem your God, Hashem is one.”

I have a problem with Maimonides' idea of the Oneness of YHVH (God); because YHVH has clearly stated to us in the scriptures a somewhat different **Oneness** than Maimonides concluded. Even with this difference of opinion with Maimonides' conclusions about the Oneness of God, I still respect Rambam's scholarship in this area. The remainder of this article will elaborate on the fuller picture of the nature of God, while avoiding anthropomorphizing His nature (applying human shape or characteristics to God). We will see that YHVH (God) can manifest in this space-time universe in any way He wishes; and yet we can know more by trusting in what He has revealed to us about Himself.

Delving Deeper Into The Oneness of YHVH (God)

Some might not believe that there are modern prophets today, through whom God speaks to mankind; however, there are many prophets today who openly publish their words of prophecy. Yet we all agree on the principle that a modern word of prophecy can in no way supersede or nullify any of the Bible canon. Modern prophecy should be considered supplemental to the revealed Bible. Lastly, not everyone who says they are a prophet or who publishes words of prophecy is necessarily speaking from God. Yeshua (Jesus) told us clearly in the Olivet Discourse in the gospels:

Matthew 24:4-5 Yeshua (Jesus) answered and said to them, “Be careful that no man deceives you. For **many will come in My name**, and say, I (Yeshua) am the Messiah, and they will deceive many.”

Matthew 24:11 And **many false prophets** will arise, and will mislead a great many.

We are forewarned that there will be many false prophets, mixed in with genuine prophets. It is up to us to judge between them; to separate them into true prophets and false prophets; and sometimes to put off the decision for a time by saying, “maybe this message is from God or maybe not.” With that background, I would like to share a prophetic vision by someone (paraphrased). This person asked God to show him what His nature is like:

The vision starts off with seeing a room with a large leather covered armchair. Next to the armchair is something like the expensive globe that people have that sits on the floor within a nice wooden frame—the kind of globe that people can spin and see all the countries of the world and the oceans. Only within the wooden frame is a spherical bubble like a globe; but this bubble is the entire universe. This bubble contains all the galaxies, stars, planets and people; and it is alive. Sitting in the armchair is God. The point is that God is outside the universe as its Creator, and can choose to show Himself within the created

universe however He wants to. This bubble also contains the higher dimensions including heaven, the angels, etc. Even there—where people have had visions of heaven and been shown God sitting on a throne in the Holy City of Zion in heaven—that too is only how God decided to show Himself to those in the higher dimension of heaven.

The above prophetic vision relates something that is hard for people to grasp, that YHVH (God) is entirely outside of the universe, since He created it. He did not separate a part of Himself to create the universe, just as a writer doesn't separate a physical part of himself to create an article or book. There was no God “family” in the room (the concept that some have that the plural “Elohim” means multiple Gods). There was no separate Father, Son and Holy Spirit; there was One God sitting in the armchair in the room watching the entire universe within the spherical bubble.

Yet, I believe and will show you that the One God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit—a tri-unity or tripartite being. We know this because God has clearly told us; and God cannot lie. Pastors and whole denominations usually close down any conversation on the matter when it gets to this point, by saying, “it's all a mystery beyond our comprehension.” Let's look at the evidence.

I wrote the [Nature of Man article](#) to not only explain fully the nature of humans, but to also lay the groundwork for this article on the Nature of God. We know something about God's nature from knowing our nature as humans. After all, it was written at the beginning:

Genesis 1:26-27 And Elohim (God) said, “Let us make man **in the image/likeness of us, as our form/image**: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth. And Elohim (God) created the man (mankind) in his **image/likeness**, in the **image/likeness** of **Elohim** (God) **He** created him, male and female **He** created them.

Some unlearned people jump on the above, and notice that the plural for God is used (Elohim) rather than the singular “El”; and it is used with the plural verb in verse 26. They think this means plural Gods. However, throughout the Bible in literally thousands of places the word “Elohim” is used for the One God; and the verb in the sentence IS ALWAYS 3rd person male singular (He made, He created, etc.) when Elohim is used. As far as I know, the 1st/3rd person plural verb is used in relation to Elohim only once in the Bible in Genesis 1:26; and even in verse 27 it uses the 3rd person male singular verb (Elohim, He created him; and not they created him). What's the answer?

A direct explanation—for the use of the plural verb in Genesis 1:26 (but not in verse 27)—is likely that the verse refers to the fact that the “**bney Elohim**” (sons of God, the higher level angels) **were present at the time of the creation of the physical earth**. Verse 26 may be inclusive language to show that the angels were present at the creation. See Job 38:7 and surrounding verses for proof that the sons of God were present at the creation of the physical earth, where the sons of God shouted for joy when the foundations of the earth were laid and the stars created. Therefore, since the bney Elohim (sons of God) were there at the creation, then it is appropriate to use the plural verb in Genesis 1:26.

Genesis 5:1-2 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when Elohim (God)

created Adam (man), **in the form/image of Elohim** He made him. He created them male and female, and He blessed them and called their name Adam (man), in the day when they were created.

Genesis 9:6 Whoever sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed; for **in the image/likeness of God (Elohim)** He made the man.

There is a principle in the Torah, “let everything be confirmed by 2-3 witnesses” which if followed would prevent many false teachings from arising:

Deuteronomy 19:15 ...at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.

We have 3 witnesses in Genesis that God created mankind in His own image and form and likeness. This is not a trivial point; but one that leads to a fuller understanding of the nature of God. What is the nature of man? As fully covered in the *Nature of Man* article, humans are a tri-unity of spirit, soul and body—a tripartite being. **We humans are individually one; and our spirit, soul and bodies do not have separate personalities.** The spirit, soul and body are merely different manifestations of our oneness. The spirit is the eternal part of us, which survives death of the body; and the spirit includes the heart of man as mentioned numerous times in the Bible. The soul is the energy interface between the eternal spirit of man and the fleshly body with its 5 senses; and the soul is made up of mind, will and emotions. The fleshly body is a temporary living arrangement for our eternal spirit and enables us to partake of the 3-dimensional universe.

New Testament:

1 Thessalonians 5:23 May the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your **spirit and soul and body** be preserved without blame/blemish at the coming of our Lord Yeshua The Messiah (Jesus Christ).

Tanach or Old Testament:

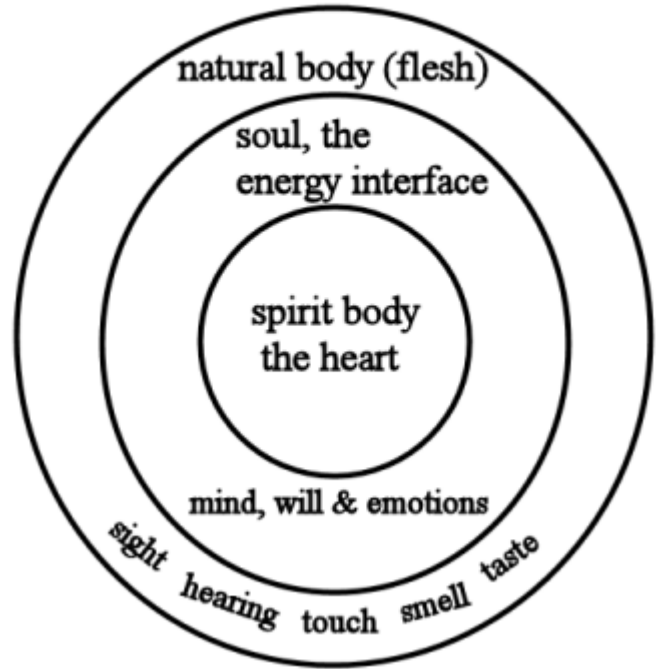
Deuteronomy 6:4-5 Hear O Israel! YHVH is our God, YHVH is One. And you shall love YHVH your God with all your **heart (spirit) and with all your soul and with all your might (body).**

Yes, the evidence is clear that man is a tri-unity or tripartite being; but is not a “trinity” in the sense that the Athanasian Creed proclaimed and that was adopted by the Roman Catholic church in the Middle Ages. Man is not a trinity of 3 personalities; but a human being is one, with different manifestations (of the spirit, soul and body).

The importance of understanding the true nature of man—as revealed in the scriptures—is necessary to dispel the dualistic model passed down from Greek philosophy. The dualistic model of seen and unseen, or material and immaterial, is simply insufficient since it collapses the unseen spirit and unseen soul into a single characteristic—the unseen or immaterial part of man.

Further, there is a designed hierarchy to this tri-unity or tripartite nature of man. Man was designed for spirit to be over soul to be over body. When the body predominates unnaturally, then there are physical addictions like drug abuse, alcohol abuse, etc. Yes, these physical addictions also have a counterpart addiction within the soul as habitual desires for “a rush of feelings,” or changes in will and mind as when a drug-crazed individual may be difficult for the police to “take down.” Most people who are not spiritually aware, have their addictions in the soul realm as addictions to watching sports, listening to music, watching TV, excessive reading, etc. God created us to have spirit over soul over body; which is to say that He created us to have a relationship with Him. If that relationship is not present, and a person is not spiritually aware, then they are easy prey to become addicted in the body realm or soul realm.

Tripartite nature of man spirit and soul and body



One important message in the Bible, related to the nature of man, is that we are the Temple of God:

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 Do you not know that **you are a temple (sanctuary) of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?** And whoever destroys/defiles the temple of God, God will destroy. For the temple of God is holy; and that temple is you.

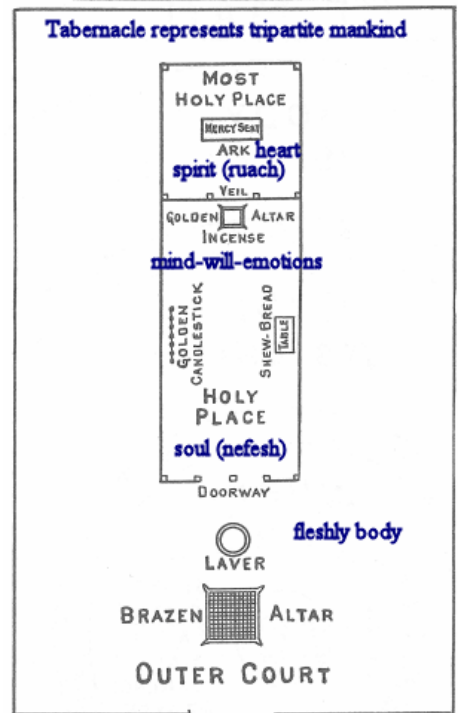
2 Corinthians 6:16 Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? **For you are the temple of the living God;** as it is said, **“I will dwell in them and walk in them;** and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

Leviticus 26:12 And **I will cause myself to walk in the midst of you (or, inside you);** and I will be your God; and you will be My people. (verb is hitpa'el, which is reflexive: meaning that the person does the action to themselves. God chooses to indwell those who turn to Him).

The graphic on the next page ties together the concept of man designed as a temple of God, and as a tri-unity or tripartite being.

The purpose of the specific design of the Tabernacle and later Temple, is to show the nature of man to mankind. Some have wondered why—in the future Millennial Reign of the Messiah on the earth—a Temple with animal sacrifices is necessary? The reason is that it will continue to be a specific portrayal of the nature of man. The courtyard with the altar and sacrifices shows the actions of man, and these actions can be seen by others, just as all the people could see the sacrifices taking place in the courtyard. Meanwhile, the two rooms in the Tabernacle tent or Temple building are hidden from the view of others, just as what we do in soul and spirit is unseen by others. The Holy Place—with the menorah, altar of incense and table of showbread—represents our soul made up of mind, will and emotions. The Most Holy Place represents our spirit; and the ark of the covenant our heart. Just as the Spirit of God resided in the Most Holy Place of the Tabernacle as a fiery cloud and the Temple as the shekinah cloud, so the Spirit of God resides in us in our spirit. The ancient prophets and modern people today hear God speaking to them by the “still small voice within”—Spirit to spirit.

THE EARTHLY TABERNAACLE



The earthly Tabernacle shows the nature of man(kind).

Yet, Moses was shown the Tabernacle/Temple in heaven from which the earthly Tabernacle or Temple was a pale imitation. Moses saw the heavenly archetype of the Tabernacle/Temple:

Exodus 25:8-9 And let them make for Me a sanctuary (mikdash); and I will dwell in the midst of them. According to all which I showed you, **a pattern of the tabernacle** (mishkan) and **a pattern** of all its vessels, and so you shall make it.

Exodus 25:40 (concerning the menorah and ark and vessels) And see that you **make them after the pattern** for them, which was shown you on the mountain.

Hebrews 8:5 Who serve **the semblance(copy) and shadow of heavenly things**, just as it was commanded to Moses **when he was about to make the tabernacle**: “See that you make all things **according to the pattern** shown to you on the mountain.”

Hebrews 8:1-2 Now above all, we have a high priest who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven. And He has become **the minister of the sanctuary (sacred tent), and of the true tabernacle, which God pitched and not man.**

In heaven is the Temple/Tabernacle of God; from which the earthly Tabernacle was a form/image/likeness. In fact, the heavenly Temple/Tabernacle is built into the base of the throne of God in the Holy City of Zion in heaven. Why is that? What do the earthly Tabernacle and heavenly Tabernacle show us? Just as God made man in His own image/form/likeness; so the earthly Tabernacle was made in the image/form/likeness of the heavenly Tabernacle. The earthly Tabernacle shows mankind the nature of man, and the heavenly Tabernacle shows the nature of God.

The heavenly Tabernacle shows the nature of God (YHVH).



“Ah,” you say, “but I cannot view the heavenly Tabernacle, or at least I have never seen it, nor do I know anyone else who has seen it!” Perhaps, but you have seen the graphic of the earthly Tabernacle which was made according to the pattern of the heavenly. Therefore, having seen the image-form-likeness of the heavenly on the earth in its Tabernacle, you can know with confidence the design of the heavenly.

The Tri-unity of YHVH (God), Who is One

Do we have ample evidence in the scriptures to say that YHVH is the Father, that YHVH is the Son, and that YHVH is the Holy Spirit? Of course, or why would this article be written? We've already shown scriptures from the Peshitta Aramaic New Testament that Yeshua The Messiah is MarYah; and that MarYah is the Aramaic equivalent for YHVH.

Luke 2:11 For there is born to you this day a deliverer, who is **MarYah (Lord Yah or Lord YHVH) The Messiah**, in the city of David.

Acts 2:36 Therefore, let all the house of Israel know, assuredly, that God has made that **Yeshua (Jesus)** whom you crucified, to be **MarYah (Lord Yah or Lord YHVH)** and **The Messiah**.

Acts 2:38 Simon said to them: Repent, and be baptized every one of you, in the name of **MarYah (Lord Yah or Lord YHVH) Yeshua (Jesus)**, for the remission of sins; so that you may receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:3 I therefore inform you, that there is no man, that speaks by the Spirit of God, who says that Yeshua (Jesus) is accursed: neither can a man say that **Yeshua (Jesus)** is **MarYah (Lord Yah or Lord YHVH)**, except by the Holy Spirit.

Philippians 2:11 and that every tongue should confess that **Yeshua (Jesus) The Messiah** is **MarYah (Lord Yah or Lord YHVH)**, to the glory of God His Father.

Additionally, there are scriptures in the Tanach (Old Testament) which likewise show that The Messiah is YHVH.

Isaiah 44:6 Thus says **YHVH, King of Israel**, and **His redeemer, YHVH of hosts**, “**I am the first, and I am the last**; and besides Me there is no God.” [**Messiah as YHVH of hosts**].

Joshua 5:13-15 And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man stood against him with his sword drawn in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us or for our adversaries?” And he said, “No, for **I am prince of the hosts of YHVH**, now I have come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to Him, “What has my Lord to say to his servant?” And the **prince of the hosts of YHVH** said to Joshua, “Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so. [**Messiah as the prince of the hosts of YHVH**].

Isaiah 44:6 is remarkable in that there are two manifestations of YHVH (God) mentioned; and yet, YHVH speaks in the singular there saying, “I am...” The redeemer of YHVH is YHVH of hosts. This was what Joshua witnessed when the prince of the hosts of YHVH came to meet him before the battle of Jericho. If you think that I am making too much of the connection above, the command—for Joshua to remove his sandals because he was standing on holy ground—reveals that it was YHVH Himself standing before Joshua as prince of the host of YHVH. Whenever the powerful archangels—Gabriel and Michael—appeared to prophets throughout the Tanach, the people were not told to remove their sandals/shoes. This command to remove sandals/shoes only happened when the prophet was in the presence of YHVH Himself, as at the burning bush.

Exodus 3:4-5 And **YHVH** saw that he (Moses) turned aside to see; and God called out to him from the midst of the (burning) bush, and said, “Moses, Moses.” And he said, “Here I am.” And He said, “Do not come near; put off your sandals from off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.”

Acts 7:32-33 I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and of Isaac and of Jacob. And Moses trembled and dared not look at the sight. Then **MarYah (Lord YHVH)** said to him, “Take off your sandals from your feet, for the ground on which you stand is holy.”

The command “take off your sandals for this is holy ground” clues us in that Joshua was not standing before a mighty and powerful archangel; but rather before YHVH, when he stood before the prince of hosts of YHVH. Is that possible that YHVH could appear as a man of war to Joshua? The song of Moses prophesied this exactly in Exodus 15.

Exodus 15:2-3 **Yah** (God) is my strength and song; and He will be **my salvation**. This is my God and I will prepare Him a habitation (some translate: and I will praise Him); God of my father and I will exalt Him. **YHVH is a man of war**, YHVH is His name.

The prince of the hosts of YHVH, who appeared to Joshua, is what Moses prophesied in song that, “YHVH is a man of war.” Further, we know that the prince of the hosts of YHVH is YHVH; because Joshua was told to remove his sandals for it was holy ground. This is the same manifestation of YHVH as mentioned in Isaiah 44:6, “**His redeemer, YHVH of hosts.**” However, since some might not believe the above verses that the Messiah Yeshua is YHVH of hosts, the following additional verses will clearly make the case:

Isaiah 9:6-7 (Hebrew, 9:5-6) For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called **Wonderful, Counselor of the Mighty God**—the eternal Father, the **Prince of Peace**. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, **on the throne of David and over his kingdom**, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore. The **zeal of YHVH of hosts will accomplish this.** [Messianic reign]

Isaiah 24:23 Then the moon will be abashed and the sun ashamed; for **YHVH of hosts will**

reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem; and His glory will be before His elders.
[**Messianic reign**]

Isaiah 31:4 ...So will **YHVH of hosts come down to wage war on Mount Zion** and on its hill. [**End of days deliverance leading to Messianic reign**]

Zechariah 12:5 & 9-10 Then the rulers of Judah will say in their hearts, “A strong support for us are the inhabitants of Jerusalem **through YHVH of hosts** their God...And it will come about in that day that I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that **they will look on Me whom they have pierced;** and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son; and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born. [**End of days deliverance, and revealing of Yeshua as their Messiah, YHVH of hosts, leading to Messianic reign**]

Zechariah 8:2-3 Thus says **YHVH of hosts**, “I am exceedingly jealous for Zion, yes with great wrath I am jealous for her...**I will return to Zion and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem.** Then Jerusalem will be called the City of Truth, and the mountain of **YHVH of hosts** will be called the Holy Mountain. [**YHVH of hosts will dwell in Jerusalem in the Messianic reign**]

Zechariah 14:16 Then it will come about that any who are left of all the nations that went up against Jerusalem will go up from year to year **to worship the King, YHVH of hosts, and to celebrate the Feast of Booths** (Succoth). [**The nations will worship YHVH of hosts in Jerusalem in the Messianic reign**]

Isaiah 18:7 At that time a gift of homage will be brought to **YHVH of hosts** from a people tall and smooth, even from a people terrible from their beginning onward (USA), a nation mighty and conquering, whose land the rivers divided—to the **place of the name of YHVH of hosts, even Mount Zion.** [**The USA as a nation will bring a gift of homage to YHVH of hosts in Jerusalem at the beginning of the Messianic reign**]

Isaiah 25:6-9 And **YHVH of hosts will prepare a lavish banquet for all peoples** on this mountain (**Mount Zion in Jerusalem**); a banquet of aged wine, choice pieces with marrow, and refined aged wine. And on this mountain He will swallow up the covering which is over all peoples, even the veil which is over all nations. He will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord YHVH will wipe away all tears from all faces, and He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; for YHVH has spoken. And it shall be said on that day, “**Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He should save us; this is YHVH, we have waited for Him; we will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.** [**The nations will worship YHVH of hosts their Messiah, at a banquet in Jerusalem in the Messianic reign**]

Messiah is called “YHVH of hosts” in the millennial reign.

Does it surprise you that The Messiah will be called YHVH of hosts in the millennial reign, instead of Yeshua (Jesus)? Actually, there is direct evidence for His being called by another name too.

Jeremiah 23:5-6 Behold, days are coming says YHVH, when I shall raise up for David a **righteous Branch**; and He will reign as king and prosper, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land(earth). In His days Judah will be saved; and Israel will dwell securely. And this is His name by which He will be called: “**YHVH our righteousness.**” [YHVH tzidkenu is the name of The Messiah, the righteous Branch, in the millennium]

Jeremiah 33:15-16 In those days and at that time, I will cause the **righteous Branch of David** to spring forth; and He shall execute justice and righteousness in the land(earth). In those days Judah shall be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell in safety; and this is the name by which He shall be called of her: “**YHVH our righteousness.**” [YHVH tzidkenu is the name of The Messiah, the righteous Branch, in the millennium]

The point is clear that The Messiah is going to be called YHVH in the millennial reign/age—either YHVH of hosts or YHVH our righteousness. It doesn't say anywhere in the Bible that He will be called Yeshua/Jesus, although Revelation 19:13 & 16 does give two other names for The Messiah at His coming to reign on the earth—“The Word of God,” and “King of Kings and Lord of Lords.” Elsewhere, in Matthew 25:31-46, when The Messiah judges the nations He will be called: “The King.”

Messiah is called “YHVH our righteousness” in the millennial reign.

Going on further, the following are a sample of verses showing The Messiah as the “arm of YHVH.”

Isaiah 59:15-16 And **YHVH** (God) saw it, and it was evil in His eyes (it displeased Him) for there was no judgment. And He saw that there was no man, and was astonished that there was no intercessor. Then **His own arm brought salvation to Him**; and His righteousness, it sustained Him. [Messiah as arm of YHVH].

Isaiah 63:4-5 For the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed is come. And I looked and there was no one to help; and I gazed astonished, and there was no one to uphold. Therefore **My own arm brought salvation to Me**; and My fury upheld Me. [Messiah as arm of YHVH].

Deuteronomy 11:2-3 And know this day: for I speak not with your children who have not known and have not seen the reprimand of **YHVH your God**—His greatness, His mighty hand, and **His outstretched arm**, and His signs(miracles), and His works which He did in

the midst of Egypt to Pharaoh king of Egypt, and to all his land. [**Messiah as arm of YHVH at the Exodus**].

Isaiah 63:8-9 And He said, “Surely they are My people, sons who will not deal falsely.” So **He will be for them a savior**. In all their affliction He was afflicted, and the **messenger (angel) of His presence saved them**. In His love and in His mercy **He redeemed them**; and He lifted them and carried them all the days of old. [**Messiah as messenger/angel of His presence who is YHVH Himself**].

Isaiah 63:12 Who caused **His glorious arm** to go at the right hand of Moses; who divided the waters before them to make for Himself an everlasting name,... [**Messiah as the glorious arm of YHVH**].

The evidence above is direct and to the point that Yeshua is The Messiah and is YHVH (God). Yeshua is also manifested, for our understanding, as the Son of God—the only begotten Son of the Father. The following is included mainly because many people write and ask whether Yeshua (Jesus) was really The Messiah (they usually emphasize the term Son of Man used often by Yeshua too).

Proverbs 30:3-4 And I have not learned wisdom, but **I have knowledge of the Holy One**. Who has ascended up into heaven and descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has wrapped the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? **What is His name; and what is His Son's name?** Surely you know!

John 1:34 (John the baptist speaking of Yeshua) And I saw and testified (have borne witness) that this is the **Son of God**.

John 1:49 (Natan'el the apostle speaking of Yeshua) Natan'el answered and said to Him, “Rabbi, You are the **Son of God**; You are the **King of Israel**.”

John 11:27 (Martha, sister of Mary and Lazarus speaking of Yeshua) She said to Him, “Yes, my Lord; I do believe that You are **The Messiah, the Son of God**, who is to come to the world.

John 20:28-29 (Thomas [T'oma] the apostle speaking) Thomas answered and said to Him, “**my Lord and my God**.” **Yeshua (Jesus)** said to him, “Now you believe, because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen Me, and have believed.”

Matthew 16:16 (Simon Peter [Shimon Kefa] speaking of Yeshua) Simon Peter answered and said, “You are **The Messiah, the Son of the living God**.”

And in Yeshua's (Jesus') own words when on trial before the Sanhedrin...

Mark 14:61-64 Again the High Priest asked Him (Yeshua) and said, “Are you **The Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One**?” Yeshua said to him, “**I AM**; and you will see the

Son of man sitting at the right hand of power, and **coming upon the clouds of the sky.**”

Zechariah 14:5 ...And **YHVH my God will come—all the holy ones** with You!

1 Thessalonians 3:13 And may He strengthen your hearts to be without blemish in holiness before God our Father, at **the coming of our Lord Yeshua The Messiah with all His holy ones.**

Yeshua is The Messiah; He is YHVH; He is YHVH of hosts; He is YHVH our righteousness; and He is YHVH who is coming with all His holy ones. Yeshua (Jesus) directly answered the High Priest when He was standing before the Sanhedrin by saying, “I AM” (The Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One). By answering, “I AM,” He was also saying that He was the I AM at the burning bush, the I AM who led Israel from Egypt, and the I AM who is the God of Israel. That's why the High Priest tore his clothes, because Yeshua had directly said He was The Messiah and YHVH God.

YHVH (God) manifests Himself as Yeshua The Messiah.

Is God the Father?

Yes, and here are a sampling of many verses that say so:

Deuteronomy 32:6 Do you thus repay **YHVH** (the Lord), O foolish and unwise people? Is He not **your Father** that bought you? Has He not made you and established you?

Isaiah 63:16 For **You are our Father**, though Abraham does not know us, and Israel does not recognize us. **You YHVH are our Father; our redeemer from of old is Your name.**

Jeremiah 3:19 ...and I said, “**you shall call Me, My Father**; and you shall not turn away from Me...house of Israel,” says **YHVH**.

Matthew 6:9 Therefore, pray in this manner: “Our **Father in heaven**, hallowed be Your name...”

John 8:41-42 “...We are not born of fornication; **we have one Father, God.**” Yeshua (Jesus) said to them, “If **God were your Father**, you would love Me, for I proceeded and came from God. I did not come of My own accord; but He sent Me.”

Matthew 23:9 And call no one on earth, father; for **One is your Father in heaven.**

Philippians 4:20 Now unto **God our Father** be glory and honor, forever and ever. Amen.

Everyone who reads the Tanach (Old Testament) or Brit Chadashah (New Covenant) knows that God (YHVH) is Father to all. It's not a point of contention.

YHVH (God) manifests Himself as Father.

Is God the Holy Spirit?

Yes, as the scriptural evidence clearly shows:

John 4:24 For **God is Spirit**; and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

John 14:26 But the **Comforter**, the **Holy Spirit, whom My Father will send** in My name, **He will teach you everything**, and remind you of everything which I tell you.

John 15:26 But when the **Comforter** comes, whom I will send to you from My Father, **the Spirit of truth, which proceeds from My Father, He will testify** concerning Me.

2 Samuel 23:2 (King David) The **Spirit of YHVH (God) spoke through me**, and His word was upon my tongue.

1 Samuel 10:6 (Samuel to King Saul) And the **Spirit of YHVH will come upon you; and you shall prophesy** with them; and you shall be turned into another man...10:10 ...and the **Spirit of God came upon him** (King Saul), and he prophesied among them.

Ezekiel 37:1-4 (prophet Ezekiel) The hand of YHVH was upon me, and carried me out in the **Spirit of YHVH** and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones...And I answered "**My Lord YHVH, You know.**" Again **He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones..."**

YHVH (God) manifests Himself as the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit and the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of Yeshua are One?

Matthew 10:19-20 But when they deliver you up, do not worry as to how or what you will speak; for it will be given to you in that very hour what you are to speak. For it is not you who speak, but **the Spirit of your Father, which speaks through you. [Father speaks]**

Mark 13:11 When they bring you up to deliver you, do not worry beforehand what you will speak; and do not think of anything except what is given you in that very hour; **speak that; for it is not you that speak, but the Holy Spirit. [Holy Spirit speaks]**

Luke 21:14-15 So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand to defend yourselves; for **I (Yeshua) will give you utterance and wisdom** which none of your opponents will be able to resist or refute. **[Yeshua The Messiah speaks]**

Spirit of the Father, the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit of Yeshua are One; they all do the same things in us (give us words to speak).

God (YHVH) will indwell believers; Father, Yeshua and Holy Spirit who are One?

We've seen scriptures telling us that the Holy Spirit—the Helper, the Comforter—will abide in us as believers; but the greater truth is that God who is One abides in us and that is Father, The Messiah, and the Holy Spirit. Why? Because God is One and not 3 personalities.

Ephesians 4:5-6 There is **one MarYah (Lord YHVH)**, one faith, and one baptism; **one God and Father** of all, who is above all, and through all, **and in all of us.**[**Father in us**]

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God, and that the **Spirit of God dwells in you?** [**Holy Spirit is Spirit of God in us**]

John 14:16-17 And I will ask of My Father, and He will give you another **Comforter**, to be with you forever; even the **Spirit of the truth**; whom the world cannot receive, because it has not seen Him, and does not know Him; but you know Him because **He abides with you, and is in you.**[**Holy Spirit is the Comforter, the Spirit of the truth in us**]

Romans 8:9-10 But you are not in the flesh, but in the spirit if the **Spirit of God truly dwells within you.** Now **if any man does not have the Spirit of The Messiah**, he does not belong to Him. And if **The Messiah is within you**, the body is dead because of sin: but the spirit is alive because of righteousness.[**Spirit of The Messiah in us**]

1 Peter 1:11 (speaking of prophets of old) They searched to find out at what time it would be revealed; and the **Spirit of The Messiah, which dwelt in them**, testified beforehand the sufferings of **The Messiah**, and the glory that should follow.[**Spirit of Messiah in prophets of old**]

Spirit of the Father, the Holy Spirit, and the Spirit of Yeshua are in us, because they are One and the same Spirit.

Speaking of prophecy,—both through the prophets of old as recorded in the Bible, and through prophets recorded in the New Testament—who specifically spoke through the prophets?

Numbers 11:25 And **YHVH (God)** came down in the cloud, and spoke to him (Moses); and He (YHVH) took from the Spirit that was upon him (Moses); and He gave Him/it to the seventy men elders. And it came to pass that **when the Spirit rested upon them, they prophesied**; but they did not do it again. [**prophesied by Spirit of YHVH**]

Jeremiah 26:12 Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and to all the people, saying, “**YHVH (God) sent me to prophesy** against this house and against this city all the words that you have heard.” [YHVH(God) sent the prophecy]

2 Peter 1:21 For the **prophecy** did not come by the will of man; but the holy **men of God spoke when they were inspired by the Holy Spirit.** [prophecy by the Holy Spirit]

1 Peter 1:10-11 For which very salvation the **prophets searched diligently when they prophesied** concerning the grace which was to be given to you. They searched to find out at what time it would be revealed; and the **Spirit of The Messiah which dwelt in them testified** beforehand the sufferings of The Messiah, and the glory that shall follow. [Spirit of The Messiah was prophecy]

Revelation 19:10 ...For the testimony of **Yeshua (Jesus) is the Spirit of prophecy.** [Yeshua The Messiah is the Spirit of prophecy]

Prophecy is from the One God YHVH.

Spirit of the Father (YHVH), the Holy Spirit (YHVH), and the Spirit of Yeshua The Messiah (YHVH) are all spoken of as the source of prophecy.

Does the Holy Spirit speak of His own initiative, as if He were a different person or personality than YHVH?

John 16:13 But when the **Spirit of truth** is come, He will guide you into all the truth. For **He will not speak on His own initiative;** but whatever He hears, that He will speak; and He will make known to you things which are to come in the future.

The Holy Spirit does not speak on His own initiative. Conclusion: He is not a person or personality, but a manifestation of YHVH (God).

Does the Yeshua The Messiah speak of His own initiative, as if He were a different person or personality than YHVH?

John 8:26-27 (**Yeshua speaking**) “I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you; but He who sent Me is true; and **I speak in the world only those things which I have heard from Him.**” They did not understand that He spoke to them concerning the **Father.**

John 12:49 (**Yeshua speaking**) For **I did not speak on My own initiative;** but the **Father** who sent Me, He commanded Me **what to say and what to speak.**

John 14:10 (**Yeshua speaking**) Do you not believe that **I am in the Father, and My Father is in Me**? The **words that I speak, I do not speak on My own initiative**; but **My Father abiding in Me , He does these works**.

John 8:38 (**Yeshua speaking**) **I speak what I have seen** with My **Father**;...

John 17:8 (**Yeshua praying to the Father**) For **the words which You gave to Me, I gave to them**; and they accepted them, and have truly known that I came forth from You; and they have believed that You sent Me.

John 5:30 (**Yeshua speaking**) **I can do nothing of My own initiative; but as I hear, I judge**; and My judgment is just. For I do not seek My own will, but the **will of Him who sent Me**.

John 10:30 (**Yeshua speaking**) **I and My Father are One** in accord (or essence).

MarYah Yeshua The Messiah (Jesus) does not speak on His own initiative. Conclusion: He is not a person or personality, but a manifestation of YHVH, the One God.

The Council of Nicea in 325 AD got it right concerning the nature of God in that they did NOT refer to God as 3 persons/personalities or a Trinity, but correctly noted One God consisting of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. [Note: I am not Catholic, and do not subscribe to many Catholic beliefs; however, the concept of the Trinity came from the Roman Catholic church in the Middle Ages and all churches who teach it now got it from them]. What the Roman Catholic church got wrong is in later years concluding that God is 3 persons or 3 personalities; and that came from adopting the Athanasian Creed from Alexandria in the Middle Ages. The Athanasian Creed may or may not have been penned by St. Athanasius—as many scholars have written—since the consensus scholarship is that it originated in local synod meetings in Alexandria in the 5th century. The following is the original **Nicene Creed** from a Roman Catholic encyclopedia (note that a later amplified/modified version from 381 AD is often cited today):

We believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten of the Father, that is, of the substance [*ek tes ousias*] of the Father, God of God, light of light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of the same substance with the Father [*homoousion to patri*], through whom all things were made both in heaven and on earth; who for us men and our salvation descended, was incarnate, and was made man, suffered and rose again the third day, ascended into heaven and cometh to judge the living and the dead. And in the Holy Ghost. Those who say: There was a time when He was not, and He was not before He was begotten; and that He was made out of nothing (*ex ouk onton*); or who maintain that He is of another hypostasis or another substance [than the Father], or that the Son of God is created, or mutable, or subject to change, [them] the Catholic Church anathematizes.

As you can see, the Council of Nicea did not state the concept of the Trinity (3 persons or personalities), but merely sought to state the nature of the One God with different manifestations of Father, Son/Yeshua, and Holy Spirit. They were correct. Yes, there were some ante-Nicene church fathers that were confused about the nature of God; but as a whole, the Nicene Creed formulated a view of the nature of God in keeping with the scriptures. Theophilus of Antioch was the first to use the word *trias* of which *trinity* is a translation, in about 180 AD; although it was not a common belief. Tertullian later used the word *trinitas* just before 200 AD. Origen appears to be the one who popularized the word trinity, and the first creed containing it was by Origen's pupil, Gregory Thaumaturgus in his *Ekthesis tes pisteos* composed in 260 to 270 AD. However, the point is that the early church was NOT Trinitarian (3 persons or personalities in the nature of God). **That erroneous change was adopted later in the Middle Ages.**

Below is the Athanasian Creed (which originated the “subtle” error of Trinity), from the Catholic Encyclopedia:

“One of the symbols of the Faith approved by the Church and given a place in her liturgy, is a short, clear exposition of the doctrines of the Trinity and the Incarnation, with a passing reference to several other dogmas. Unlike most of the other creeds, or symbols, it deals almost exclusively with these two fundamental truths, which it states and restates in terse and varied forms so as to bring out unmistakably the [trinity of the Persons of God](#), and the twofold nature in the one Divine Person of [Jesus Christ](#). At various points the author calls attention to the penalty incurred by those who refuse to accept any of the articles therein set down. The following is the Marquess of Bute's English translation of the text of the Creed:”

Whosoever will be saved, before all things it is necessary that he hold the Catholic Faith. Which Faith except everyone do keep whole and undefiled, without doubt he shall perish everlastingly. And the Catholic Faith is this, that we worship one [God](#) in Trinity and Trinity in Unity. Neither confounding the Persons, nor dividing the Substance. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost. But the [Godhead](#) of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost is all One, the Glory Equal, the Majesty Co-Eternal. Such as the Father is, such is the Son, and such is the Holy Ghost. The Father Uncreate, the Son Uncreate, and the Holy Ghost Uncreate. The Father Incomprehensible, the Son Incomprehensible, and the Holy Ghost Incomprehensible. The Father Eternal, the Son Eternal, and the Holy Ghost Eternal and yet they are not Three Eternals but One Eternal. As also there are not Three Uncreated, nor Three Incomprehensibles, but One Uncreated, and One Uncomprehensible. So likewise the Father is Almighty, the Son Almighty, and the Holy Ghost Almighty. And yet they are not Three Almighties but One Almighty.

So the Father is [God](#), the Son is [God](#), and the Holy Ghost is [God](#). And yet they are not Three [Gods](#), but One [God](#). So likewise the Father is Lord, the Son Lord, and the Holy Ghost Lord. And yet not Three Lords but One Lord. For, like as we are compelled by the [Christian verity](#) to acknowledge every Person by Himself to be [God](#) and Lord, so are we forbidden by the Catholic Religion to say, there be Three [Gods](#) or Three Lords. The Father is made of none, neither created, nor begotten. The Son is of the Father alone; not made, nor created, but begotten. The Holy Ghost is of the Father, and of the Son neither made, nor created, nor begotten, but proceeding.

So there is One Father, not Three Fathers; one Son, not Three Sons; One Holy Ghost, not Three Holy Ghosts. And in this Trinity none is afore or after Other, None is greater or less than Another, but the whole Three Persons are Co-eternal together, and Co-equal. So that in all things, as is aforesaid, the Unity is Trinity, and the Trinity is Unity is to be worshipped. He therefore that will be saved, must thus think of the

Trinity.

Furthermore, it is necessary to everlasting Salvation, that he also believe rightly the Incarnation of [our Lord Jesus Christ](#). For the right Faith is, that we believe and confess, that [our Lord Jesus Christ](#), the [Son of God](#), is [God](#) and Man.

[God](#), of the substance of the Father, begotten before the worlds; and Man, of the substance of His mother, born into the world. Perfect [God](#) and Perfect Man, of a reasonable Soul and human Flesh subsisting. Equal to the Father as touching His [Godhead](#), and inferior to the Father as touching His Manhood. Who, although He be [God](#) and Man, yet He is not two, but One Christ. One, not by conversion of the [Godhead](#) into Flesh, but by taking of the Manhood into [God](#). One altogether, not by confusion of substance, but by Unity of Person. For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one Man, so [God](#) and Man is one Christ. Who suffered for our salvation, descended into [Hell](#), rose again the third day from the dead. He [ascended into Heaven](#), He sitteth on the right hand of the Father, [God Almighty](#), from whence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. At whose coming all men shall rise again with their bodies, and shall give account for their own works. And they that have done good shall go into life everlasting, and they that have done evil into everlasting fire. This is the Catholic Faith, which except a man believe faithfully and firmly, he cannot be saved.

The error introduced in the Athanasian Creed is that there are 3 persons or personalities in the nature of God; whereas we've shown that Yeshua(Jesus) and the Holy Spirit do not originate anything on their own initiative as a person or personality would do. They are not a separate person or personality, but a different manifestation of the One God. We likewise have shown that the Spirit of the Father, Spirit of Yeshua The Messiah, and Holy Spirit are used interchangeably as to function and acts they do. In fact, there is One Spirit and not 3 separate and distinct Spirits to God. There is nothing in the Bible (in the Tanach or Old Testament or New Testament) that states that God has multiple personalities; YHVH is One—the entire Bible gives the message of a monotheistic God. He is One in the same way that we as humans are a tri-unity or tripartite being of spirit, soul and body; while it is obvious to everyone that we are one being. We don't have a separate personality of spirit, a separate personality of soul, and a separate personality of body/flesh—we as humans are one being. YHVH (God) revealed that about us as humans in the Bible, so that we humans can understand His nature. We are created in His (YHVH's) image/likeness/form.

The Athanasian Creed from Alexandria introduced the error of “Trinity” into the church, and was adopted in the Middle Ages.

YHVH (God) doesn't have multiple personality problems; because God is One. The word “trinity” is error; whereas Triune, tri-unity and tripartite are correct. No matter how many times you sing the song refrain, “God in three persons, blessed Trinity...,” it does not make your singing doctrinally correct. God is not in 3 persons; God is not a trinity; but God is One, a tri-unity with manifestations of Father, Yeshua The Messiah, and the Holy Spirit. All that said, the early church DID have it correct initially, before the Catholic church adopted the error of Trinity in the Middle Ages. Other churches today who also speak of God as a Trinity probably are perpetuating this error from the Roman Catholic church.

What scripture backs up the Roman Catholic church view of a Trinity? None. However, from the Catholic encyclopedia article on “The Blessed Trinity,” they cite the great commission in Matthew 28:19-20 as their proof.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

The error in using this as a supposed proof text for the Trinity, is that **they have to assume** it means separate persons or personalities inherent in the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Notice that it doesn't mention that they are different persons. That's very flimsy proof to have to assume something from what is not there. Meanwhile, as I have shown, the name YHVH in the Hebrew Tanach or MarYah (Lord YHVH) in the Aramaic New Testament is the eternal memorial name of the One God. The Bible shows us that the name of the Father is YHVH, the name of Yeshua The Messiah is YHVH (MarYah) and the name of the Holy Spirit is YHVH. Also, I have shown you direct evidence that Yeshua the Messiah does nothing or spoke nothing that didn't come from the Father; and the same was shown for the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the direct evidence as presented to you in this article dispels the notion of God as a Trinity of 3 persons or personalities; since a separate person does have freedom to separately speak and do.

YHVH (God) made man in His image/form/likeness as a tri-unity or tripartite being of spirit, soul and body. Further, YHVH (God) specifically designed the Tabernacle on earth in the image/form/likeness of the Tabernacle in heaven, solely to show man visually the nature of man. Also, YHVH (God) specifically showed man as a Tabernacle/Temple by design so that you would know what the Tabernacle in Heaven looks like, since it reveals the tri-unity or tripartite nature of God.

The heavenly Tabernacle is built into the base of the throne of God; and His seat is high and lifted up above the mercy seat of the ark of the covenant in heaven. Outward from there is the sea of glass before the throne, where those in heaven assemble before YHVH (God) in the center of the holy city of Zion in heaven. This heavenly Tabernacle shows the nature of YHVH (God) as a tri-unity of Father (most holy place), Yeshua the Messiah (outer court), and the Holy Spirit (holy place). Both man and the earthly Tabernacle are made in the image/form/likeness of the heavenly in order to show us the nature of man and the nature of God. Didn't MarYah (Lord YHVH) Yeshua The Messiah say that?

John 10:30 (Yeshua speaking) **I and My Father are One** in accord (or essence).

John 10:38 (Yeshua speaking) ...so that you may know and believe that My **Father is in Me, and I am in My Father.**

John 14:9-10 Yeshua (Jesus) said to him, “All this time I have been with you, and yet you do not know Me, Philip? **He who sees Me has seen the Father;** and how do you say, Show us the Father? Do you not believe that I am in My Father, and My Father is in Me? **The words that I speak, I do not speak of my own initiative; but My Father abiding in Me, He does these works.**

THE EARTHLY TABERNACLE

Tabernacle represents tri-unity of mankind



heart
spirit (ruach)

mind-will-emotions

soul (nefesh)

fleshy body



The Heavenly Tabernacle

Tabernacle represents tri-unity nature of God



Father (YHVH)

Holy Spirit
(YHVH)

Yeshua (Jesus)
(Mar Yah=YHVH)



Just as anyone can see our fleshly bodies, so Yeshua The Messiah was the express image of the invisible God (YHVH). Just as our spirit is the eternal part of us that is higher than the soul, which is higher than the fleshly body; so is YHVH (God) who in authority is Father over Holy Spirit over Yeshua The Messiah. All co-equally God, but in the divine order.

John 14:28 (Yeshua said) ...I am going to My Father; for **My Father is greater than I.**

John 15:26 (Yeshua said) But when the **Comforter comes**, whom I will send to you **from My Father**, the **Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from My Father**, He will testify concerning Me.

There is a divine order for YHVH (God) and a divine order for man whom He created in His own image/form/likeness. Our order often gets out of whack due to sin, where the body predominates in drug use, overeating, alcohol abuse, etc.; or these same addictions can be driven by soul desires; or these addictions can be in both body and soul. However, God is perfect and doesn't get out of whack like we do.

Of course, YHVH (God) has many attributes in His nature like omniscience (all knowing), omnipotent (all powerful), and omnipresence (present everywhere). A study of those and other attributes of God are beyond the scope of this article; but feel free to delve into them on your own. The purpose of this article was to show the nature of God; and in learning about His nature, it awakens you to the awesome wonders that He put in each of us as humans who are made in His image. We all have greater potential than is used during our time here on earth.

The PURPOSE of this schoolhouse on earth called life is to...

**Learn who YHVH (God) is, to love Him, and to
have a relationship with Him.**

**Learn of our own nature, to love others, and have
relationships with them.**

Postscript:

Some might wonder why I did not delve into the human side of Yeshua The Messiah? Yes, Yeshua is the Son of God (YHVH) and also the Son of Man. Yeshua's Spirit was YHVH; but His soul and flesh were human (born of a woman). He was like us except that He didn't sin. Perhaps I will do a part 2 sometime, that explores this topic in the depth that it deserves.

Send your comments to Roy A. Reinhold at prophecy04@comcast.net .

Reference Websites:

<http://aramaicnt.com/> by Pastor David Bauscher. He completed a fresh new translation of the Peshitta Aramaic New Testament in 2007. I highly recommend purchase of this new Aramaic-English Interlinear NT, or secondarily, the Plain English translation from the Peshitta Aramaic NT. On his website he also has articles on Peshitta Aramaic NT primacy and other interesting topics.

<http://aramaicnttruth.org/> and <http://www.ruachqadim.com/> by Andrew Gabriel Roth. Longtime scholar in the Peshitta Aramaic New Testament. Websites have articles and info on his books: *Ruach Qadim: Aramaic Origins of the New Testament*, *Signs of the Cross*, and soon, *Ruach Qadim: Path to Life*.