

WHY NOT CHRISTIANITY?

CONTENTS

<i>The Christian Bible.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>The Gospels.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>The Epistles</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>The Christian God.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Biblical proof of Unity</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Biblical association of the Trinity</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Neoplatonic origins of the Trinity.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Ariusian Trinity.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Athanasian Trinity and Nicaen Creed.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Irrationality of the Trinity.....</i>	<i>7</i>

WHY NOT CHRISTIANITY?

Christianity was founded by Prophet Jesus on whose teachings the beliefs of Christians are based.

Christianity is now made up of three main denominations:

- Roman Catholicism
- Eastern Orthodoxy
- Protestantism

THE CHRISTIAN BIBLE

The purported teachings of Prophet Jesus are codified in the New Testament. However, the Christian Bible, which is the foundation of their belief, also includes the Old Testament or Hebrew Bible.

The New Testament is made up of four books, all originally written in Greek, not the language of Aramaic which is believed to be the language of Prophet Jesus:

- The Gospels
- Acts of the Apostles, which is the history of the early Christian Church and work of the Apostles, the twelve followers of Prophet Jesus
- Epistles, which are letters that contained Gospel interpretations, solutions to local problems and advice on how to live Christian lives
- Revelation, which has to do with the end of the world and the events that take place before the end comes

THE GOSPELS

The Gospels are testimonies of belief about Prophet Jesus and each Gospel is believed to have been authored by one of the Apostles, the twelve followers of Prophet Jesus, or by one of their disciples.

There are four Gospels:

1. Mark
2. Matthew
3. Luke
4. John

The first three are collectively called the Synoptic Gospels, because they are very similar in form and content. The Gospel of John differs materially from the Synoptic Gospels because it contains information not found in the latter and presents a different history of the ministry of Prophet Jesus.

THE EPISTLES

Epistles are letters that contained Gospel interpretations, solutions to local problems and advice on how to live Christian lives. They were mainly written by Paul and given such names as I and II Timothy.

WHY NOT CHRISTIANITY?

THE CHRISTIAN GOD

Since the Hebrew Bible or Old Testament forms part of the Christian Bible, the Christian God:

- is one
- is transcendent
- is not omniscient
- is not all-powerful
- is confused as to His immanence
- is confused as to His eternality

However, all the major denominations believe in the Trinity which creed states that God is three Persons of the same essence:

- God the Father
- God the Son, in the form Prophet Jesus
- God the Holy Spirit, which Muslims believe to be the Angel Gabriel

Clearly, there is a conflict between the oneness of God from the Old Testament and the Trinity.

*"You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe Me and understand that I am He. Before Me no god was formed, nor will there be one after Me. I, even I, am the Lord, and apart from Me there is no Saviour."*¹

*"This is what the Lord says - Israel's King and Redeemer, the Lord Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from Me there is no god."*²

*"Declare what is to be, present it - let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the Lord? And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Saviour; there is none but Me."*³

So how can there be two other gods?

Moreover, the New Testament has no statements or speculations concerning the doctrine of the Trinity.

BIBLICAL PROOF OF UNITY

Instead, the New Testament offers proof for Unity, rather than Trinity:

PROPHET JESUS BELIEVED IN ONE GOD

*Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father to my God and your God.'"*⁴

*One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer he asked him, "Of all the commandments which is most important?" "The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear O Israel the Lord our God the Lord is One. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."*⁵

¹ Isaiah Chapter 43 Verses 10-11

² Isaiah Chapter 44 Verse 6

³ Isaiah Chapter 45 Verses 21

⁴ John Chapter 20 Verse 17

⁵ Mark Chapter 12 Verses 28-31

WHY NOT CHRISTIANITY?

PROPHET JESUS IS SUBSERVIENT TO GOD

*For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus who gave himself as a ransom for all men – the testimony given in its proper time.*⁶

“Now this is eternal life: that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”⁷

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”⁸

Now a man came up to Jesus and asked, “Teacher what good thing must I do to get eternal life?” “Why do you ask me about what is good?” Jesus replied. “There is only One Who is good. If you want to enter life obey the commandments.”⁹

“You heard me say, ‘I am going away and I am coming back to you.’ If you loved me you would be glad that I am going to the Father for the Father is greater than I.”¹⁰

PROPHET JESUS PRAYED TO GOD

And he [Prophet Jesus] had dismissed them he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. When evening came he was there alone but the boat was already a considerable distance from land buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.¹¹

Jesus said to him, “Away from me Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.’”¹²

Going a little farther, he [Prophet Jesus] fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will but as you will.”¹³

PROPHET JESUS WAS ONLY A PROPHET

The crowds answered, “This is Jesus, the Prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.”¹⁴

Jesus said to them, “Only in his home town among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honour.”¹⁵

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’s parables, they knew he was talking about them. They looked for a way to arrest him but they were afraid of the crowd because the people held that he was a prophet.¹⁶

“No one knows about that day or hour not even the angels in heaven nor the Son but only the Father.”¹⁷

⁶ 1 Timothy Chapter 2 Verse 5

⁷ John Chapter 17 Verse 3

⁸ Matthew Chapter 7 Verse 21

⁹ Matthew Chapter 19 Verses 16-17

¹⁰ John Chapter 14 Verse 28

¹¹ Matthew Chapter 14 Verse 23

¹² Matthew Chapter 4 Verse 10

¹³ Matthew Chapter 26 Verse 39

¹⁴ Matthew Chapter 21 Verse 11

¹⁵ Mark Chapter 6 Verse 4

¹⁶ Matthew Chapter 21 Verses 45-46

¹⁷ Matthew Chapter 24 Verse 36; Mark Chapter 13 Verse 32

WHY NOT CHRISTIANITY?

PROPHET JESUS IS NOT THE ONLY "SON OF GOD"

*Blessed are the peace-makers, for they will be called sons of God.*¹⁸

*But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you that ye may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.*¹⁹

BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE TRINITY

Since the New Testament neither mentions the word "trinity" nor states the doctrine, there is no Biblical basis for belief in the Trinity.

So instead, a tenuous proof for the doctrine of the Trinity is offered with the association of the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit:

- in the Great Commission:

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.*²⁰

- in the apostolic benediction:

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*²¹

However, the association of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit only proves an association of purpose, not an association of divinity, because the Christian Bible unambiguously confirms Unity, rather than Trinity.

It would, therefore, be non-Christian, pagan Neoplatonism that would provide the theological basis for the Trinity.

NEOPLATONIC ORIGINS OF THE TRINITY

The doctrine of the Trinity developed gradually over the centuries from the need to accommodate a Greco-Roman pagan perspective in biblical teaching, in particular Neoplatonism. Therefore, the doctrine of the Trinity is a deviation in the Christian, and Jewish, belief in the Oneness of God.

Any reconciliation with monotheism is by default contrived, to which the following brief summary of the evolution of the doctrine attests.

Neoplatonism is a form of Platonism developed by Plotinus, an ancient Roman philosopher of the third century CE. Platonism was a pagan Ancient Greek philosophy derived from the teachings of Plato, an ancient Greek philosopher of the fourth century BCE. Neoplatonism is, therefore, the final form of pagan Ancient Greco-Roman philosophy.

Under Neoplatonism, there are multiple levels of being which are arranged in hierarchical descending order of increasing multiplicity, separateness and limitation, until the spatiotemporal universe is reached. Each level of being is derived from its superior by a process independent of time or space.

¹⁸ Matthew Chapter 5 Verse 9

¹⁹ Matthew Chapter 5 Verses 44-45

²⁰ Matthew Chapter 28 Verse 19

²¹ II Corinthians Chapter 13 Verse 14

WHY NOT CHRISTIANITY?

At the top of the hierarchy, there is the supreme principle, which

- has no limitations, divisions, attributes or qualifications
- transcends any conceivable reality, so that it may be said to be “beyond being”
- is called “the One” to designate its complete simplicity
- is called “the Good” as the source of all perfection and the ultimate goal of return
- can only be known if it raises the mind to an immediate union with itself, as it cannot be imagined or described otherwise

The lowest level of being is the physical universe, which exists in time and space.

The Neoplatonic Trinity is a fusion of the New Testament association of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit with the Neoplatonic concept of being.

The transcendent God, the Father, is the supreme principle, which is beyond all being, all rationality and all conceptuality. It “fathers” the Logos or the “word,” which Plotinus called the “Son” who goes forth from the Father.

Therefore, the Son is of the same essence or same *ousia* as the Father, but is a separate entity or hypostasis from the transcendent God.

So, Christian theology took the Neoplatonic metaphysical concept of *ousios* and its doctrine of hypostases to contrive a divine relationship between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

However, to avoid the Neoplatonic hierarchy of gods, Neoplatonic Trinity stated the sameness of essence, or *homoousia*, of the two Persons, or hypostases, of God.

The Gospel of John provided the first traces of the Neoplatonic concept of Prophet Jesus as the Logos:

*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.*²²

But then, this would mean three equally ranked gods, which would displace the idea of the oneness of God.

Therefore, Neoplatonic Trinity could not be reconciled with monotheism. It was polytheism or more accurately tritheism.

However, there is also a problem with translation. The Greek word used for “God” in the phrase “and the Word was with God” is *hotheos* which means “the God.” However, in the phrase “And the Word was God,” it is *tontheos* which means “a god.”

Therefore the literal translation should read:

*In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with the God and the Word was **a god**.*

So, the literal translation would contradict the *homoousia* of the Son and the Holy Spirit with the Father, but confirm the Neoplatonic hierarchy of gods. However the Neoplatonic hierarchy of gods displaces the idea of the oneness of God even more emphatically, because each god then has a distinctly divine but different essence than the others.

²² John Chapter 1 Verse 1

WHY NOT CHRISTIANITY?

ARIUSIAN TRINITY

Arius, who was a Christian priest in Alexandria, Egypt, wanted to preserve the oneness of God by disputing the *homoousia* of the Son and the Holy Spirit with the Father.

So, the Son became a “second God, under God the Father” and, therefore, was not himself God, but created by God, made like God by divine grace and sent to mediate between God and mankind.

This opinion could then be reconciled with the literal translation:

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with the God and the Word was a god

because, Prophet Jesus was then made human to mediate between God and mankind:

*The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*²³

However how could Prophet Jesus, as a mortal human being and no longer divine, now redeem mankind from its sins?

So, the Christian Church rejected Arian Trinity insisting on the divine, uncreated nature of Prophet Jesus.

ATHANASIAN TRINITY AND NICAEN CREED

Athanasius, who was a theologian, ecclesiastical statesman, and Egyptian national leader, considered that the redemption of humanity from sin and death could only be possible if Prophet Jesus was total God and total human being. In other words, the Son had the same ***and*** different *ousia* as the Father.

In this way, Prophet Jesus could redeem mankind of its sins owing to his divine *ousia*, by dying which is made possible by his human mortal *ousia*.

The Athanasian Trinity was accepted at the Council of Nicaea 325 CE and became orthodox Christian doctrine.

IRRATIONALITY OF THE TRINITY

As we have seen, the doctrine of the Trinity is based on pagan polytheistic Greco-Roman theology. By definition, it is, therefore, not monotheistic and is not compatible with our rational understanding of God.

For the sake of completeness only, I set out the conflicts with our rational understanding of God:

- God is eternal because He created time, yet the Son only lived in the period c6-4 BCE to c30 CE
- God is immaterial because He created matter, yet the Son was a material human being
- God is non-spatial because He created space, yet the Son existed in space
- God is self-sufficient because He created all material things, yet the Son had material needs of food and drink
- God is not immanent because He would then cease to be immaterial, yet the Son was immanent on Earth

²³ John Chapter 1 Verse 14

WHY NOT CHRISTIANITY?

- God is all-powerful because the universe was created without a material cause, yet the Son was a mortal human being who suffered pain and could not prevent his own death
- God is one person, but the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are three distinct persons
- God is transcendent, but neither the Son nor the Holy Spirit are transcendent
- God is all-knowing, but the Son is not, because, for example, he does not know the Last Day
- God has an independent will, but the Son does not, because for example he prays to the Father
- God is unchanging because He is the only immaterial cause outside the material universe and is free from all material and immaterial dependencies, yet the Son and Holy Spirit are of the same essence as God, but the Son changed to a material essence in c6-4 BCE

The doctrine of the Trinity is also inherently illogical, because it requires God to be immaterial and divine and material and mortal at the same time, and this violates the law of non-contradiction.

What is a logical impossibility is a nothing.

Therefore, the Christian God is nothing!

The Christian belief in the Trinity, therefore, fails the nature of God test.