



What Does, “THE LORD OUR GOD, THE LORD IS ONE,” Really Mean?

By George Lujack

The proclamation of Deuteronomy 6:4 is arguably one of the most misunderstood declarations in all of Scripture. The seemingly simple to understand statement, “YHWH (the Lord) our God, YHWH (the Lord) is one!” has been misread and misconstrued by theologians representing Judaism, Catholicism, and Trinitarian Christianity for millennia.

DEUTERONOMY 6:4 (NKJV):

“Hear, O Israel: YHWH (The Lord) our God, YHWH (the Lord) is one!”

JUDAISM

Mainstream Judaism teaches that there is one God, *one being*, who is God. Judaism understands Deuteronomy 6:4 as, “Hear O Israel, YHWH (The Lord) our God, YHWH (the Lord) is one [BEING].”

JOSHUA 24:14-15 (NKJV):

“Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve YHWH (the Lord)! And if it seems evil to you to serve YHWH (the Lord), choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve YHWH (the Lord).”

The Hebrew people, after having departed from Egypt in the Exodus, were commanded to serve YHWH (the Lord) God and not the many pagan gods. Through this mindset of being against polytheism, the Hebrews, through their teachings and tradition, believed in YHWH (the Lord) God, as one being.

MATTHEW 8:20 (NKJV):

And Yeshua (Jesus) said to him, “Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head.”

Yeshua (Jesus) often referred to Himself as the Son of Man and this was not solely for the purpose of declaring His kinship with mankind. Yeshua (Jesus) was concealing His identity as the Son of God.

MATTHEW 16:15-17; MARK 8:29 (NKJV):

He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Messiah (Christ), the Son of the living God.”

Yeshua (Jesus) answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

Yeshua (Jesus) did not initially declare, even to His own apostles, that He was the Son of God. It was Peter who first acknowledged that He was.

MATTHEW 26:63-66 (NKJV):

And the high priest answered and said to Him, “I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Messiah (Christ), the Son of God!”

Yeshua (Jesus) said to him, “It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Then the high priest tore his clothes, saying, “He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! What do you think?”

They answered and said, “He is deserving of death.”

When it became apparent to the Jews that Yeshua (Jesus) was declaring Himself the Son of God, and therefore declaring God to be more than one being, the Jews thought of this as blasphemy deserving of death.

Even before His trial, Yeshua (Jesus) explained that He and His Father are one. The Jews wanted to kill Him for declaring that He is God, just as His Father is God. The Jews believed God to be one being, not two.

JOHN 10:30-33 (NKJV):

“I and My Father are one.”

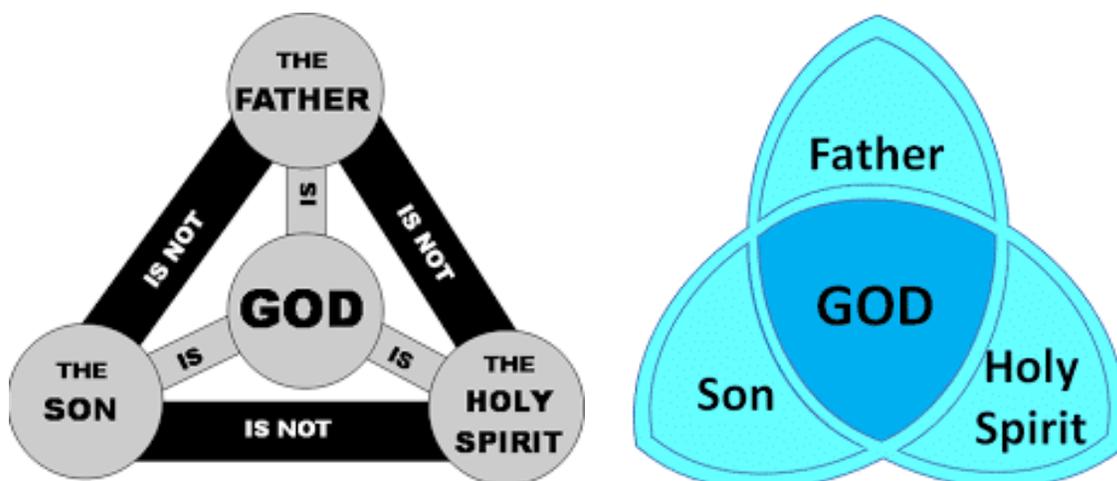
Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. Yeshua (Jesus) answered them, “Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?”

The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, MAKE YOURSELF GOD.”

There are some believers who have taken Yeshua’s (Jesus’) words, “I and My Father are one,” John 10:30, to mean that Yeshua (Jesus) is the Father and that the Father and Son are one being. This is completely ignoring the fact that a reference to a Father and a Son indicate two separate individuals who are united as one.

CATHOLICISM AND TRINITARIAN CHRISTIANITY

The Catholic Church imposed the idea of God being a co-equal Trinity sometime around the fourth century. What Catholicism declares in their Trinity doctrine is that there is one God in three persons, that the three persons of the Trinity make up one God.



God the Father has only one begotten Son, not two (John 1:18, 3:16,18; 1 John 4:9). Since the Holy Spirit is not a begotten Son of the Father, it is not a person or a being, but is a component of God. The Holy Spirit is mentioned throughout Scripture as the Spirit ‘of’ God, the Holy Spirit, and God’s Spirit, but never as the Spirit God. Yeshua (Jesus) declared that the Father is greater than Himself (John 14:28), so God is not a co-equal Trinity. The Father and Son share a different glory and status as God.

YHWH GOD IS FATHER AND SON, UNITED AS ONE!

Much of the confusion over YHWH (the Lord) God stems from two different definitions of the word ‘one.’

one:

1. a single person or thing.¹
2. combined, united.²

INCORRECT JUDAISM:

DEUTERONOMY 6:4 (NKJV) [WITH INTERPRETATION]:

“Hear, O Israel: YHWH (The Lord) our God, YHWH (the Lord) is one [BEING]!”

INCORRECT CATHOLICISM / TRINITARIAN CHRISTIANITY:

DEUTERONOMY 6:4 (NKJV):

“Hear, O Israel: YHWH (The Lord) our God, YHWH (the Lord) is [A TRINITY OF THREE CO-EQUAL BEINGS WHO COMPRISE] one [GOD]!”

The correct way to understand the proclamation of Deuteronomy 6:4 is to know YHWH God is Father and Son, united as one.

CORRECT:

DEUTERONOMY 6:4 (NKJV):

“Hear, O Israel: YHWH (The Lord) our God, YHWH (the Lord) is one [UNITED]!”

THE TRANSLATION ISSUE: YHWH = THE LORD

The Hebrew to Greek to English translation of ‘YHWH’ to ‘the Lord’ confuses the issue over YHWH, as being a plural united as one God, or a singular being God. A phrase such as “the Lord,” “the King,” or “the Ruler” indicates a singular being, whereas the term ‘YHWH’ can point to a plural God, God the Father united with the Son of God. YHWH God is sometimes referred to as a singular being in Scripture, the Father or Son, and sometimes as a plural, Father and Son united as one God.

The following Scripture verses confirm that YHWH (the Lord) God consists of two beings - Father and Son, not one being or three co-equal beings, who are united as one.

GENESIS 1:26 (NKJV):

Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...”

JOHN 1:1-3 (NKJV) [WITH INTERPRETATION]:

In the beginning was the Word [YESHUA (JESUS)], and the Word [YESHUA (JESUS)] was with God [THE FATHER], and the Word [YESHUA (JESUS)] was God [ALSO]. He [YESHUA (JESUS)] was in the beginning with God [THE FATHER]. All things were made through Him [YESHUA (JESUS)], and without Him [YESHUA (JESUS)] nothing was made that was made.

JOHN 10:30 (NKJV) [WITH INTERPRETATION]:

“I [YESHUA (JESUS)] and My Father [GOD] are one [UNITED].”

COLOSSIANS 2:2-3 (NKJV):

The knowledge of the mystery of God, BOTH of the Father and of Messiah (Christ), in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

There are two beings who are called God: God the Father and Yeshua (Jesus) the Son of God. Hear O Israel: YHWH our God, YHWH Father and Son, are one UNITED!

¹ “One,” Dictionary.com, <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/one?s=t>

² “One,” The Free Dictionary, <https://www.thefreedictionary.com/one>