

LET US
A Trinitarian Understanding
of God

New Baptist Church - Sunday Evening

January 6, 2013



Archaeology



The Dead Sea Scrolls



Caves of Qumran

("Dead Sea Scrolls" discovered in 1947)



Buried before 68 A.D.







Found in 11 caves
900 Documents
Complete OLD Testament
(except Esther)

Complete book of Isaiah



New Learnings

1. The Penmanship and detail
of the writers of the scrolls.

למנוח נזכר כמנוח תוכחה כל
בקרע ועבד חסד בעל פיה
חזי חזי לכל חסדיו לפי אשר
אלהי יל פזויה

בבריותו הלוהו טוב גדול הלוהו
בעל זכר - הלוהו טוב גדול
הלוהו בעל עליו טוב
תהלה הלוהו
הלוהו וקדוהו גדול
לקדוהו חסדו לפי רבו
זכר וחסדו וחסדו
לפי אשר טוב
בענין חסדו

יבין ויבין ויבין לו כבוד יבין כעס כעס יבין
ו עבדו ילנה ג' ג' ג' זכרתי אתה כחסי
חזיון הקדוהו ילנה כו ילנה כו ילנה
יבין ט יבין כעס חזיון כעס יבין לחזיון
יבין חו יבין כו יבין עליו

טוב ילנה ג' ג' ג' טוב ובלו
חזיון כעס יבין כעס יבין ויל
יבין עבדו כו יבין יבין לפי כו חזיון
יבין חזיון חזיון חזיון כעס
חזיון חזיון חזיון חזיון חזיון
חזיון חזיון חזיון חזיון חזיון
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2. How containers were stamped identifying ownership and their size.





ROYAL SEAL







3. The size and detail of seals





ARCHER SEAL

Discovered: Jerusalem, at the Western Wall plaza excavations
Date: Iron Age II (7th century BCE)

This rare archer seal was found just west of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem and dates to the end of the First Temple period. The standing archer is depicted here for the first time on a seal with a Hebrew inscription. The image of the archer appears in profile; he is standing in a firing position. His gear includes a bow and its arrow, a quiver, and a sword.





3



4



5

Two really cool things



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Genesis 1:26-28 “Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

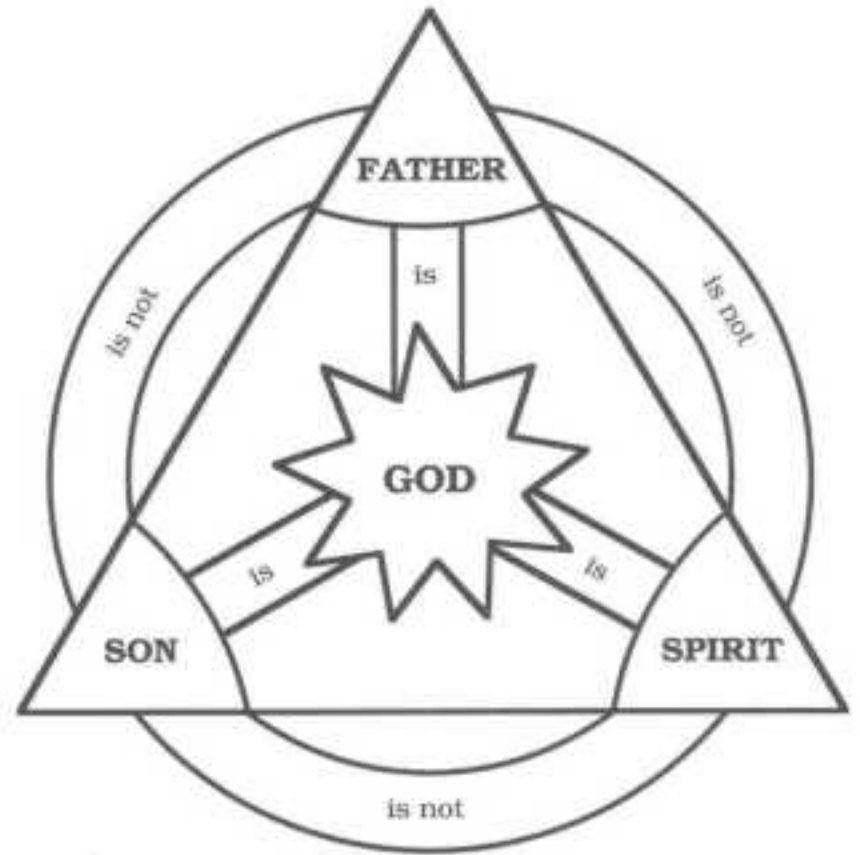
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- *Genesis 5:1, 2* “1 This is the written account of Adam’s line. When God created man, he made him in the likeness of God. 2 He created them male and female and blessed them. And when they were created, he called them “man.””

*Have you ever wondered what it means
when the Bible says
“LET US make man in OUR
IMAGE”?*

What is the image of God?

***The image of
God is
God the Father
God the Son
God the Holy Spirit
One God***



If God is Trinitarian - his image is thus



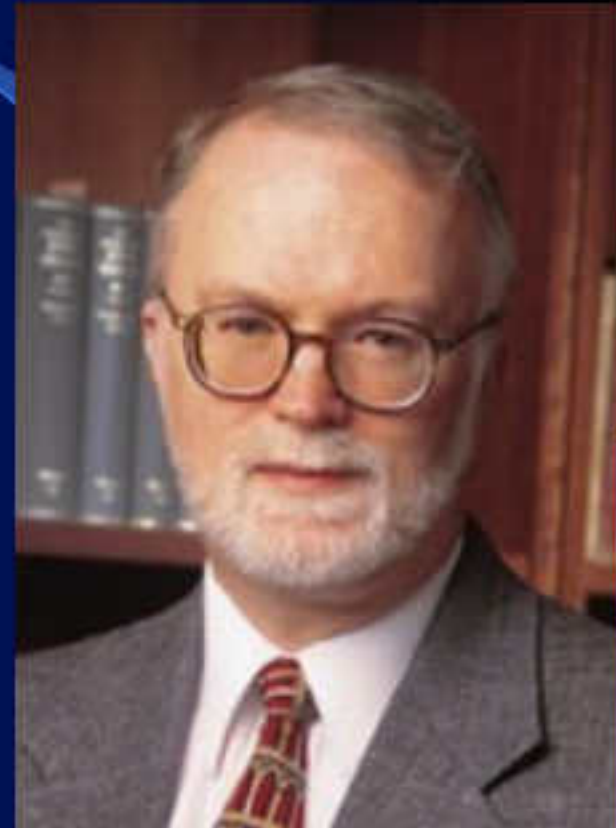
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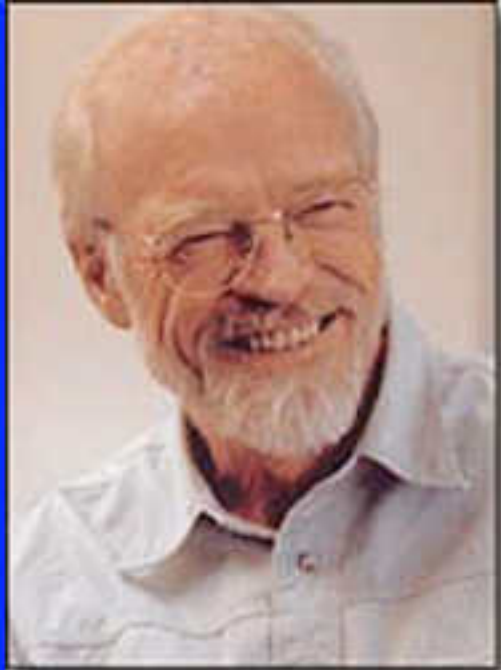
- Rationality



The Christian Understanding of God

- “When we peer into the heart of God, we find not solitary absoluteness—the Alone with the Alone—but the mystery of eternal love and relationship, a begetting without a beginning and an indwelling without an ending.”—Timothy George,





Our relational God

“God exists in personal relationship and therefore cannot be known in any other way except by relationship”

--Eugene Peterson

If God is Trinitarian - his image is thus

- Rationality
- Love



If God is Trinitarian - his image is thus

- Rationality
- Love
- Self Sacrifice



- From the highest to the lowest, self exists to be abdicated and, by that abdication, becomes more truly self, to be thereupon yet the more abdicated, and so forever....What is outside the system of self-giving is not earth, nor nature, nor 'ordinary life,' but simply and solely Hell."

—C.S. Lewis



At the very heart of God

- “So self-surrender is at the very heart of God and is at the very heart of all his attitudes and actions.

When he asks us to surrender ourselves He is asking us to fulfill the deepest thing in Himself and the deepest thing in us.”—E. Stanley Jones. *Victory*

Through Surrender



If God is Trinitarian - his image is thus

- Rationality
- Love
- Self Sacrifice
- **Mystery**

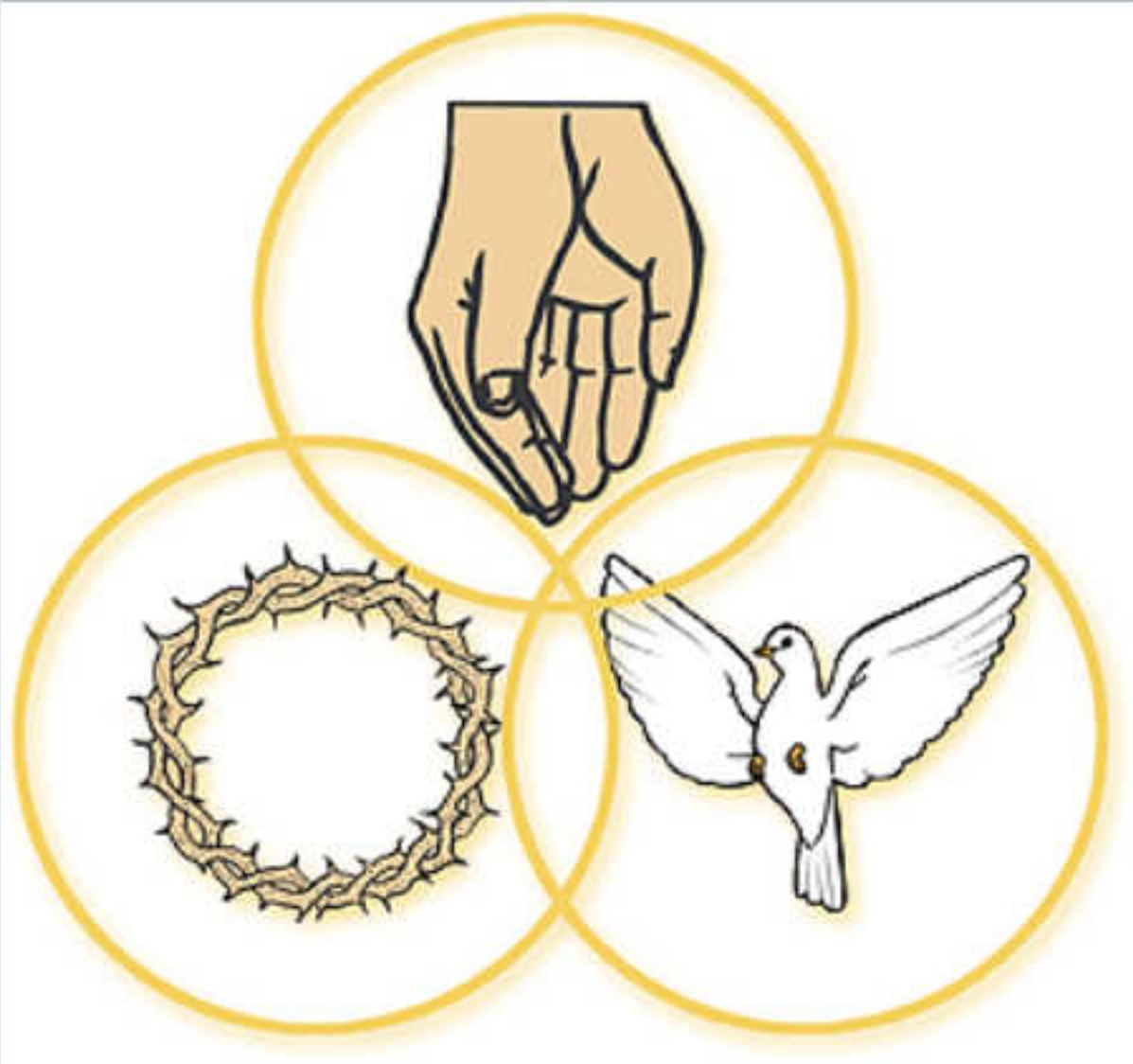




Do you ever WONDER?







If God is Trinitarian - his image is thus

- Rationality
- Love
- Self-Sacrifice
- Mystery
- Unity and Diversity



- In the Trinity, there is “a reality of communion in which each particular is affirmed as *unique* and irreplaceable by the others.”
—John Zizoulas.
- The three persons of the Trinity will *never* be merged into one. They delight in the “otherness” of each

- “We don’t lose ourselves in a great tapioca pudding of homogeneity” —Richard Neuhaus

If God is Trinitarian - his image is thus

- Rationality
- Love
- Self Sacrifice
- Mystery
- Unity and Diversity
- **Mutual Indwelling**



“The blacksmith places iron a red-hot coal fire. Soon the iron turns red and begins to glow like the coals so you can truly say that the iron is in the fire and the fire is in the iron. Yet we know that the iron is not the fire and the fire is not the iron. When the iron is glowing, the blacksmith can bend it into any shape he desires, but it still remains iron. Likewise, we still retain our personality when we allow ourselves to be penetrated by Christ .”

If God is Trinitarian - his image is thus

- Rationality
- Love
- Self Sacrifice
- Mystery
- Unity and Diversity
- Mutual Indwelling
- **Sending**



“Not only does the Father send the Son, and the Father and Son send the Spirit, but the Father, Son and Spirit send the church into the world. Mission is the sending of God from first to last...Mission is God’s own going forth – He is Sender, Sent, and Sending..

- “It is the nature of God to reach out. In the Trinity, God the Father sends the Son, and the Father and the Son send the Holy Spirit, and the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit send the church into the world.”

Mission is God’s own going forth – He is Sender, Sent, and Sending..

If God is Trinitarian - his image is thus

- Relational
- Love
- Self Sacrifice
- Mystery
- Unity and Diversity
- Mutual Indwelling
- Sending

*Thus what does it
mean to be **MADE** in
HIS image, male and
female?*



Made in the image of God

- Rationality
- Love
- Self Sacrifice
- Mystery
- Unity and Diversity
- Mutual Indwelling
- Sending



If the Church is “The Family of God” what does the look like?

- Rationality
- Love
- Self Sacrifice
- Mystery
- Unity and Diversity
- Mutual Indwelling
- Sending

