

# The Persons in the Godhead Part 1

## LECTURE 3

*The Father is the Creator and Sovereign Ruler -  
the Son proceeds from Him to be like us*

### Session Topics:

1. **The Father - Creator** ..... 20  
Out of nothing and understanding by faith
2. **The Father - Sovereign Ruler** ..... 21  
God's preservation, providence and government
3. **The Son - Incarnation** ..... 23  
Pre-incarnate state, Immanuel - God with us, reason for the incarnation and the nature of the incarnation

### Outcomes:

**After completing this session you should be able to -**

Summarise the role of the Father as Creator, sustainer and Ruler of the universe and to discuss the Incarnation of the Son when He took our nature.

### Objectives:

- **Reinforce your creation view**  
that God the Father made everything from nothing and then shaped the world through the power of His word according to His eternal wisdom and purpose.
- **Build your faith**  
in the face of the scientific world who want to explain away the need for an almighty God.
- **Accept God's sovereignty**  
as you explore, interpret, debate and conclude arguments for God's preservation, providence and wise government.
- **Celebrate the Incarnation**  
when you recognise what Jesus' advent means to you.

In the first lecture, where we dealt with the names, being, character, will and work of God, we touched on some of the aspects of God the Father that we will expand on here. We will also go into more detail about these aspects regarding the Son and Holy Spirit than when we discussed the Trinity in Lecture 2. Let us highlight and summarise the character and work of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit of God.

## 1. The Father – Creator

Where the name Father is used in the Old or New Testament, it often serves to describe God as the Originator, Creator of man or Producer and Sustainer of all things. All may be called God's offspring, but He becomes our Father only through faith in the redemptive work of Christ, being quickened into new life by the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 17:28** ... for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

**John 1:12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

The term **create** is used in two ways in Scripture: "out of nothing" or "from something". The universe (visible and invisible) was **instantaneously created** in the first sense and the other meaning implies that God would shape, adapt, combine or transform **existing materials**. This could also happen gradually and with cooperation.

The statement in Genesis 1:1 certainly refers to creation "ex nihilo" (Lat: from nothing), instantaneously and without cooperation. God formed man from dust and man would return to dust, but the soul of man was created by God as He breathed the breath of life into him.

**Genesis 1:1** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The topic of creation is a point of much deliberation and dispute. Whatever our viewpoint is, or becomes through such studies, it should lead us to be overawed by the marvellous handiwork of the only great **omnipotent** God. The solution to the issues of creation can only come from Scripture and **should be accepted by faith**.

**Hebrews 11:3** By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.



### Genesis 1 and 2

We are the creation of God. That is what really matters.

**Isaiah 40:26** Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, who brings out their host by number; he calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing.

**Isaiah 45:18** For thus says the LORD, who created the heavens, who is God, who formed the earth and made it, who has established it, who did not create it in vain, who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD, and there is no other."

**Isaiah 43:1** But now, thus says the LORD, who created you, O Jacob, and He who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; you are Mine."

**Acts 17:24** God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

By faith  
we accept  
the Biblical  
record as final  
authority

## 2. The Father – Sovereign Ruler

God as Creator and Owner of all things visible and invisible, has the right to exercise absolute rule over all. The One Who is **sovereign** is The One who exercises supreme rule.

**Matthew 20:15** *'Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with my own things? Or is your eye evil because I am good?'*

**Romans 9:20** *But indeed, O man, who are you to reply against God? Will the thing formed say to him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?"*

**Ephesians 1:11** *In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will.*

**1 Chronicles 29:11** *Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and You are exalted as head over all.*

**Psalms 115:3** *But our God is in heaven; he does whatever He pleases.*

*The Scriptures clearly teach that God is sovereign in the execution of His will. This involves PRESERVATION and PROVIDENCE.*

### 2.1 God's Preservation

That which is already in existence is maintained by God on a continuous basis. Although God rested after creating all things, He still continues His activity of upholding the universe in its properties and powers.

**Nehemiah 9:6** *You alone are the LORD; you have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and everything on it, the seas and all that is in them, and You preserve them all. The host of heaven worships You.*

**Hebrews 1:3** *... who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power ...*

We see that there is cooperation within the Godhead. Christ the Son is indicated here as the Mediator in creation and preservation. God goes further than just preserving the universe and all that is within it.

**Psalms 37:28** *For the LORD loves justice, and does not forsake His saints; they are preserved forever, but the descendants of the wicked shall be cut off.*

**John 10:28** *"And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."*

**Proverbs 2:8** *He guards the paths of justice, and preserves the way of His saints.*

The thoughts and theories of man state that the laws of nature keep everything in existence and it recreates itself continuously. The Bible teaches that God concurs (cooperates) in all operations of both mind and matter.

**Acts 17:28** *For in Him we live and move and have our being.*

This does not destroy or absorb man's powers. God also does not participate in or cause man's evil acts, because He hates them.

**Jeremiah 44:4** *'However I have sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising early and sending them, saying, "Oh, do not do this abominable thing that I hate!"'*

**James 1:13,14** *Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.*

### 2.2 God's Providence

God not only created and still keeps the universe going – He also exercises sovereign control over it. This is called **providence**. Providence means "to foresee or see into the future". (We use it also as 'providing for the future'.) It is that continuous



activity of God that makes all that takes place in the physical, mental and moral realms, to work out God's benevolent, wise and holy purpose of His original design in creation.

Although evil entered into the universe, God will still complete His plan.

### ■ The Nature of God

We see the proof of this statement in what we know of God. He is a personal Being, infinite in wisdom, goodness and power and the **creator** and **owner** of the **universe**. We expect Him to act rationally, to have the interests of His creatures at heart and since He is omnipotent, we know that He has **the ability to accomplish and fulfil His purposes**.

### ■ Proof from Nature

A study of the universe and nature around us does not fail to amaze us time and again about the evidence of intelligence, design, interdependence, accommodation and control of the visible and invisible world.

### ■ Proof in Man

Our sense of **dependence** speaks of our **origination** from Him and of our continued existence through Him who holds our life in His hands. Our sense of **responsibility** implies that God has the right to lay down laws of **moral conduct**, that He knows our every step, and that He will judge the righteous and the unrighteous justly.

### ■ Teaching from Scripture

God's exercise of sovereign rule over the universe is abundantly evident in Scripture:

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| ◆ The Physical Universe       |   |
| • The elements                | 1Samuel 7:10, Psalm 147:18 and Job 38:35      |
| • The heavenly bodies         | Job 38:31 and Matthew 5:45                    |
| • The crop increase           | Acts 14:17                                    |
| ◆ The Plant & Animal Creation | Matthew 6:28-30 and Psalm 104:24-27           |
| ◆ The Nations of the Earth    | Psalm 22:28, Job 12:23 and Daniel 2:37-39     |
| ◆ The Individual's Life       | Jeremiah 1:5, Matthew 5:45 and Galatians 1:15 |

### ■ How does God govern?

God uses laws of nature (e.g. seasons), man's given instincts (self-preservation, sense of moral responsibility) and miracles (overriding these). He also uses His Word (Joshua 1:7), appeals to reason (Acts 6:2), uses persuasion (Jeremiah 7:13), applies inner checks and restraints (Acts 16:6), arranges outward circumstances (1Corinthians 16:9) and inclines the hearts of men.

God governs  
the world  
with the  
happiness of  
the creature  
in mind

God also employs angels, or works directly through His Holy Spirit. (We will deal with the subject of angels later this semester.)

## 3. The Son - Incarnation

God's method of redemption was through the seed of the woman. To be Mediator between God and man, the Saviour had to be both God and man. He was to be born from a woman and under the law.

**Genesis 3:15** *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."*

**Galatians 4:4** *But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law ...*

### 3.1 Pre-incarnate State

John calls Jesus the "Word" Who was in the beginning and Who was God. A word is a medium of **manifestation**, a means of **communication** and a method of **revelation**.

**John 1:1**

**Hebrews 1:2** *[God] has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.*

**Colossians 1:15** *He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born over all creation.*

Through Jesus, we are able to hear from God and see His "image". Jesus was from the beginning and as "first-born of the creation" was before all else. He is represented as Creator, Preserver and the goal of creation. (Col 1:16)

In the O.T., the Son often appears as the angel of Jehovah or the angel of God. (See the histories of Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Gideon, Manoah and Elijah.) Paul says that the rock that followed the Israelites was Christ.

**1Corinthians 10:4**

### 3.2 Immanuel - God with us

These Scriptures prove that it is the pre-existing Christ that became man. The Son of God humbled Himself by also becoming the Son of Man.

**John 1:1,14**

**Romans 8:3**

**Philippians 2** *... who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God but MADE Himself of no reputation, TAKING THE FORM of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.*

**John 1:14** *And the Word BECAME flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**Galatians 4:4**

**Matthew 1,2**

**Luke 1,2**

### 3.3 The Reasons for the Incarnation

- ◆ Fulfilment of God's Promises . . . . . Isaiah 9:6; 7:14
- ◆ A Once for All Sacrifice for Sin . . . . . Hebrews 9:26-28
- ◆ Destroying the Works of the devil . . . . . 1John 3:5-8 and Hebrews 2:14
- ◆ Becoming our High Priest . . . . . Hebrews 2:10,17,18
- ◆ Our Example for Life in the Spirit . . . . . Matthew 11:29 and 1Peter 2:21
- ◆ Revealing the Father to us . . . . . John 1:18; 14:9
- ◆ Preparing for the Second Coming . . . . . Titus 2:11-14 and

### 3.4 The Nature of Incarnation

#### ■ He emptied Himself

**Philippians 2:7** ... but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

**2Corinthians 8:9** For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

**John 17:5** "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."



In order to identify with man, He voluntarily chose not to use His Divine privileges or exercise His divine attributes. In some way, His Divine glory was veiled, but not surrendered. Jesus Christ was completely God while being completely Man.

#### ■ He was made in the likeness of men

**Hebrews 10:5** Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but A BODY You have prepared for Me."

**Romans 8:3** For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son IN THE LIKENESS OF SINFUL FLESH, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh.

Jesus Christ was sent to us in the likeness of sinful flesh – but sinless regarding His life amongst men. He was tempted like we are. He took on the form of a servant while he retained the form of God. Because of this, He can truly represent us as our High Priest before the Father.

**We can see His humanity from the following facts:**

- ◆ His birth was human . . . . . Gal 4:4 and Romans 1:3
- ◆ He had a human development . . . . . Luke 2:40 and Luke 4:16
- ◆ He had a human nature . . . . . Hebrews 2:14 and Luke 24:39
- ◆ He had human names . . . . . Matt 1:21 and Matthew 1:1
- ◆ He suffered humanly . . . . . John 4:6 and John 19:28
- ◆ He was often called a man . . . . . John 1:30

### 3.5 The Character of Christ

By reading the fourfold gospel, we get an idea of the character of Christ. We strive to be like Jesus. His image is birthed in us as the Holy Spirit moulds the fruit of the Spirit in us.

What was Jesus like?

He lived an absolutely **holy life**, He was motivated by **genuine love**, His conduct was **truly humble**, He was **gentle** and **meek**, He lived a **life of prayer** and He was a **hard worker**.