

Just Thinking Apologetics

The doctrine of the Trinity appears early and often in the Old Testament. The Old Testament was written in Hebrew, and one of the words for God is *elohiym*. This Hebrew word for God is most often used in a plural sense. In fact, in Genesis 1:26, *elohiym* is used in the plural, and that is why the verse is translated, "Then God said, "Let **us** make man in our image..." When man fell into sin, God said, ""The man has now become like one of **us**..." Notice again the use of the plural "us" in reference to God. Here we have two early Hebrew verses that indicate a plurality of persons that make up the one essence of God.

Two other verses need to be mentioned that seem to indicate Trinitarian or at least a plurality of persons that make up God. The First, is again in Genesis. In Genesis 11:7 we find this interesting statement after the tower of Babel had been constructed, "Come, let **us** go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other." Do you see the plural "us" again. In Isaiah 6:8 after Isaiah had an encounter with God, we find this statement from the Lord Himself, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for **us**?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

The plural passages only make sense if God is more than one person. If God were a singular person, then these Hebrew passages would have been translated differently. The point is, all Hebrew scholars that have translated the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) are in agreement that each of these passages are translated correctly. Besides, as I said earlier, *elohiym*, one of the names for God, is often viewed/translated in a plural sense. The next weeks, the New Testament will clarify the essential doctrine of the Holy Trinity.