



The Numbers Of God: One & Three

The numbers one and three are used by God in the scriptures in such a way that they point to the judgment and work of God. In the beginning we read that God created the heavens and the earth (**Gen 1.1-2**). The word for “God” here is translated singularly in English but as we study the scriptures we find that the original language indicates a plurality of the divine presence. We find that God the father willed for the universe to be created, the word of God, Christ, spoke it into existence, and the spirit of God was present over the creation (**Gen 1.2**). Paul tells us in his letter to the Colossians about Christ’s role in creation. Paul states that Christ “...*is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.*” (**Col 1.15-17**). The writer of Hebrews also bears this out when he states, “*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds...*” (**Heb 1.1-2**). It was also God’s plan from the foundation of world to save mankind through his son as well (**Eph 1.3-4, Titus 1.2**). God demonstrated his judgment against the oppression of Egyptian bondage by bringing on the Egyptians three days of darkness (**Ex 1.22-23**). In this instance, God created a separation between his people who had light and their oppressors. The prophet Jonah, attempting to flee from the command of God to preach to Nineveh, was swallowed by a great fish and remained in it’s belly in the deep for three days (**Jonah 1.17**). When pressed for a sign by the scribes and Pharisees, Christ stated that no sign would be given them except for that of Jonah, referring to his own death and resurrection (**Matt 12.38-40**). Christ was later raised from the dead by the power of God on the third day revealing his power and eventually,

on the day of Pentecost, the plan to save man from sin through the sacrifice of his son. As one believes and repents of sin, one is to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit (**Matt 28.19**). This plurality is the same as we read in the beginning. Through the appearance of Christ and his sacrifice the plan of God reaches it’s fulfillment and we find that there is agreement in the purpose and work of the godhead. John speaks of this in his writings. “*For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.*” (**1 John 5.7**). This agreement is seen as the church is established and the word revealed. Paul told the Ephesians, “*There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*” (**Eph 4.4-6**). This singularity of purpose, will and revelation is brought together in the sacrifice of Christ and the doctrine of the New Testament. Paul states, “*Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him.*” (**Eph 1.9-10**). The singular doctrine and practice of the church is the divine design and will of God. When we read the scriptures and practice those things that are written, we will become what God intended, a single family, united in Christ. The significance is that we are acceptable to God when we obey the will of his Son by doing those things revealed and recorded under the direction of his Holy Spirit. The element of judgment comes into play when we depart from that will and teach or practice things that are not contained in his word. The use of these numbers points to the divine will and authority in all things.