

THE GODHEAD

(Gen.1:1) “In a beginning (bereshith) God (Elohim) created the heavens and the earth.”

The word Elohim [beginning] is used 32 times in 31 verses of chapter one of Genesis. Elohim is used 2500 times in the Old Testament for the Godhead. The Septuagint used the Greek word (ho Theos) in Gen.1:1.

The (im) at the end of the Elohim is the Hebrew plural masculine form. It is used to teach the doctrine of the Godhead.

This lesson will study FIVE points of the doctrine of the Godhead (Elohim).
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1. (Gen.1:1) teaches that the Godhead created the Universe.

It teaches that the creation of the universe was an act of the Godhead and not some mysterious unknown process of chance.

It teaches the pre-existence of God, the Father and God, the Son and God, the Holy Spirit.

(Heb.1:1-4) [One Greek sentence] “**God**, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in **His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much better than angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.”

2. The use of Elohim emphasizes the involvement of all members of the Godhead.

- God, the **Father**: Ps.104:5; 115:15-16; Acts 4:24; 14:15
- God, the **Son** 1 Cor.8:6-7; Col.1:16-17; Heb.1:2
- God, the **Holy Spirit** Gen.1:2; Job 33:4; Ps.104:30

3. The Godhead consists of three eternal and co-equal persons with the same substance (essence), but with different subsistence (function). (Matt.28:19; 1 Cor.12:4-6; 2 Cor.13:14; Eph.4:4-6).

The Essence (Character) of God

Omniscience	(Isa.46:9-10)	Sovereignty	(Dan.4:25)
Omnipotence	(Rom.4:17)	Righteousness	(Rom.1:17)
Omnipresence	(Ps.139:7-12)	Love	(1 John 4:8)
Immutability	(James 1:17)	Eternal life	(1 John 5:11-13)
Veracity	(Heb.6:18)	Holiness	(1 Pet.1:15)

Father

Son

Holy Spirit

4. Jesus Christ is the only visible member of the Godhead

(John 4:24) “God is Spirit”

(John 1:18) “No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.” (John 6:46; 14:9)

(John 10:30) “I and the Father are one.”

(Col.1:15) “And He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.” (2 Cor.4:4)

(Col.2:9) “For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.”

5. As the recorded Word of God, the Bible establishes the fact of God’s existence (Deut.29:29), it assumes the reader has matured enough in God-consciousness to accept His existence.

(Ps.14:1) “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’”

(James 2:19) “You believe that God is one. You do well; the demons believe, and shudder.”

(Rom.1:19-20) “Because that which is known about **God** is evident within them; for God made it evident within them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.”

(Matt.6:26) “Look at **the birds** of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. **Are you not much more valuable than they?**” (NIV)

The unbeliever who has matured in God-consciousness may have questions but does not question the existence of God anymore than the existence of his parents (Ps.19:1-6; Acts 14:15-17; Rom.2:15).

This obligates God to give gospel hearing to the person with positive volition at God-consciousness. God will bring:

The **gospel to this person:**

(Acts 8:26-39) [The Ethiopian official]

Or the **person to the gospel**

(John 4:9-42) [The Samaritan housewife] and (John 3:1-21) [The Jewish religious leader].

(Acts 4:26-27) “And He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us.” (NAS).