

## Letter to the Editor

The true meaning of 'Let us make man...' Genesis 1:26

Moses told us clearly, and emphatically that Yahweh is a Singular One. "Hear, O Israel: Yahweh is our Elohim, Yahweh is one." Deuteronomy 6:4

Believers, here is why we should believe Moses.

The scriptures show us that Moses had a very close and personal relationship with The Almighty Father for forty years. Moses was actually chosen by Yahweh from his birth!

The Bible tells us Moses met personally, and regularly with Yahweh many, many times over a period of forty years! Twice for periods of 40 days each! Moses climbed Mt. Sinai eight times to meet with Yahweh!

Yahweh Himself says of Moses in Numbers 12:8, "I speak to him face to face, clearly, and not in riddles! He sees the LORD as he is."

Exodus 33:11 tells us Yahweh "would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend."

Deuteronomy 34:10 tells us, "There has never been another prophet in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face."

Moses, who was called by Yahweh at his birth; who spoke with Yahweh "face to face, as one speaks to a friend", who knew Yahweh intimately for 40 years and who "sees the LORD as he is", told us Yahweh is a Singular One. Moses never told us Yahweh is a being comprised of 'three distinct persons'.

What Moses wrote agrees with both the Old and the New testament which tell us there is but One God, the Father. (Malachi 2:10; 1 Corinthians 8:6; Ephesians 4:6)

The Almighty and His prophets have told us The Almighty is One, but never that He is three. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Mark 12:28-32; Malachi 2:10; Isaiah 45:21)

Let us make man... Genesis 1:26

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth."

Believer, it is important for us to read the very next verse, "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them

(Genesis 1:27) Do you see that in the very next verse, Moses uses the singular pronouns, “He” and “His” when speaking of The Almighty. Moses continues to use the singular pronoun “He” when speaking of The Almighty in the following verses: Genesis 1:16; Genesis 2:22; Genesis 5:1 and Numbers 12:8.

Who then was The Almighty talking to when He said, “let us make man in our likeness and in our image?”

The use of ‘us’, as in “let ‘us’ make man” has always been interpreted by the Jewish people to be The Almighty Father speaking to His angels.

The Bible tells us The Almighty Father is surrounded by His angels and that He created them to serve Him. It is therefore not surprising that The Almighty Father would speak and interact with His angels routinely. For example, when The Almighty, with two of His angels met with Abraham, The Almighty spoke to the angels: “Should I hide my plan from Abraham?” the LORD asked. (Genesis 18:17)

Here is a quote from the ‘The NIV Bible Commentary’ regarding Genesis 1:26.

“us”... “our”. “God speaks as the Creator-King, announcing his crowning work to the members of his heavenly court.”

The NIV commentators then provide a number of Scriptures to support this position. (see Genesis 3:22; 11:7; Isaiah 6:8; see also I Kings 22:19-23; Job 15:8; Jeremiah 23:18) NIV Study Bible, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985, p. 7).

The NIV Bible Commentary supports and gives scriptural evidence that the use of “us”, as in “let ‘us’ make man”, is correctly interpreted by the Jewish peoples to be Yahweh speaking to His angels.

Trinitarian scholars no longer hold that “us” and “our” in Genesis 1:26 is speaking of the Trinity. Please look at the following quote.

“Christians have traditionally seen Genesis 1:26 as adumbrating (foreshadowing) the Trinity. It is now universally admitted that this was not what the plural meant to the original author.”

(Gordon J. Wenham, Word Biblical Commentary on Genesis, 1987, p. 27)

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