

It was shown in Part 1 (Connections Feb. 29, 2008, page 10) that God the Father is the Creator, the God of Eden, the God of Abraham, of Isaac and of Jacob, “I AM” of Exodus, the LORD God of the OT and Husband of Israel. It was also shown that Jesus, having surrendered for all time his former *Self-existent Godship* to become mankind’s atoning Passover Lamb, can not be the Eternal or “I AM” of Exodus as taught in the former WCG. Part 2 examines other Godhead errors of the former WCG, and of mainstream Christendom and of today’s Unitarians.

Trinitarians appeal to “*And God said, ‘Let us make man in our image...’*” (Gen 1:26) to infer from the plural pronoun “us” that “God” (Hebrew “Elohim”, Strong #430) is a plural noun in support of their pseudo monotheist triune Trinity of *God the Father* and *God the Son* and an alleged third God *The Holy Spirit*.

Similarly Mr Armstrong taught that “God” of Genesis 1:26 is a “uni-plural” noun that denotes a 2-Person Godhead which he called a Family (“*God is a Family*”) and which currently comprises God the Father and His Son Jesus.

Although it may seem at first a persuasive argument that “God” (Heb. Elohim) is a plural noun denoting more than one God Person, this is contrary to both English and Hebrew grammar.

To see this let us place side by side:- “And God said, ‘Let us make man...’” “And Bob said, ‘Let us make lunch...’” From this it is clear that the pronoun “us” does not infer plurality to Bob. Likewise “us” does not infer plurality to God

(Elohim) in Genesis 1:26.

The form, “Let us make ...” is the English 1st person imperative and its Hebrew counterpart is known as the Cohortative mood (see *Davidson’s Introductory Hebrew Grammar* by James D Martin pages 76-77). The name Cohortative marks that the plurality of “us” refers to (1) the singular speaker, “God” (Elohim) and (2) the one He urges to act with Him as “cohorts”.

The speaker, God, is singular as is Bob in the other example. This can be seen also in the Hebrew for the phrase, “*And God said*” (Gen 1:26) because there the Hebrew verb “said” is singular, a fact that is not apparent in English. This singular Hebrew verb “said” emphasizes that its Hebrew subject “Elohim” (God) is indeed singular.

The same Hebrew phrase, “*And God said*” also occurs in verse Genesis 1:29, “*And God said, ‘Behold I have given you every herb bearing ...’*”. Here too the Hebrew verb for “said” is singular and the 1st person singular pronoun “I” further attests to God (Elohim) being singular.

Indeed leading Hebrew grammars state that throughout the Hebrew OT, when Elohim (God) refers to the God of Israel, this is always used in the singular and governs only singular Hebrew verbs and singular Hebrew pronouns.

Let us reject the untenable claim that God (Elohim) denotes a plural Godhead, as is claimed by both Trinitarians and the former WCG.

Likewise let us not continue with the false notion that “*God is a Family*” but as was shown in Part 1, that we should

rather say that “*God the Father has a Family*” comprising at present God the Father, his still estranged Wife Israel and their Son Jesus. This is a proper family as will be explained further below.

Mr Armstrong’s interpretation “*God is a Family*” and which currently comprises God the Father and his Son Jesus, is not a proper family (see below) but also comes perilously close to being a biune Binity parallel of mainstream’s Trinity!

To replace “*God is a Family*” with “*God the Father has a Family*” must not be seen as nit-picking but as a serious challenge to both Unitarian and Trinitarian monotheism which both appeal to such scriptures as, “*Hear O Israel, the LORD our God is one LORD*” (Deut 6:4) and “*...besides me there is no God*” (Isa 44:6). These scriptures can not be understood in terms of Jesus being the OT LORD God. For example, if it was indeed Jesus who said, “*besides me there is no God*”, then who is God the Father?

When it is understood that God the Father is the Husband of Israel (see Part 1), then such seemingly monotheistic verses no longer need trouble us. Of course God the Father’s Wife, Israel, may only relate to or follow her Husband and no other god.

Unitarians consistently overlook this point and their error can not be corrected on Mr Armstrong’s Godhead teaching. One need only recall the floundering at *One God Seminars* of supporters of the traditional WCG position that “*God is a Family*”, to see how inadequate that position is.

It always escaped Mr Armstrong’s notice that his interpretation that “*God is a Family*” with Jesus being the OT Creator God and Husband of Israel, portrays this as a dysfunctional Family. Why? Because God the Father would be an unmarried Father who would have begotten his Son through his Son’s Wife by incest and adultery!

When it is understood (see Part 1) that God the Father is the Creator and LORD God of the OT, who married his Wife Israel at Mt Sinai and begot his Son Jesus through his own Wife Israel by Mary, then no such problem arises.

Then it is obvious that “*God the Father has a Family*” of which man’s family is an image! Then there is no danger that God is seen as a pseudo monotheist Binity and for this reason I stressed earlier that the Hebrew “Elohim” (God) throughout the OT always refers to just one LORD God who is the Father.

It also needs to be emphasized that only God the Father remains as a Self-existent God (I AM, Eternal, Jehovah or Yahweh) because Jesus surrendered his former *Self-existent Godship* to become our atoning Passover Lamb. *This point too has been missed by Unitarians!*

Readers wondering why God allowed these errors in the former WCG should read paper P1, *Laodicea’s Lamp!* and Q7, *Quick Guide to God the Father’s O.T. Identity* at www.rightly-dividing.net or request these from: Henk Jens, PO Box 121, Belmore, 2192, NSW, Australia.