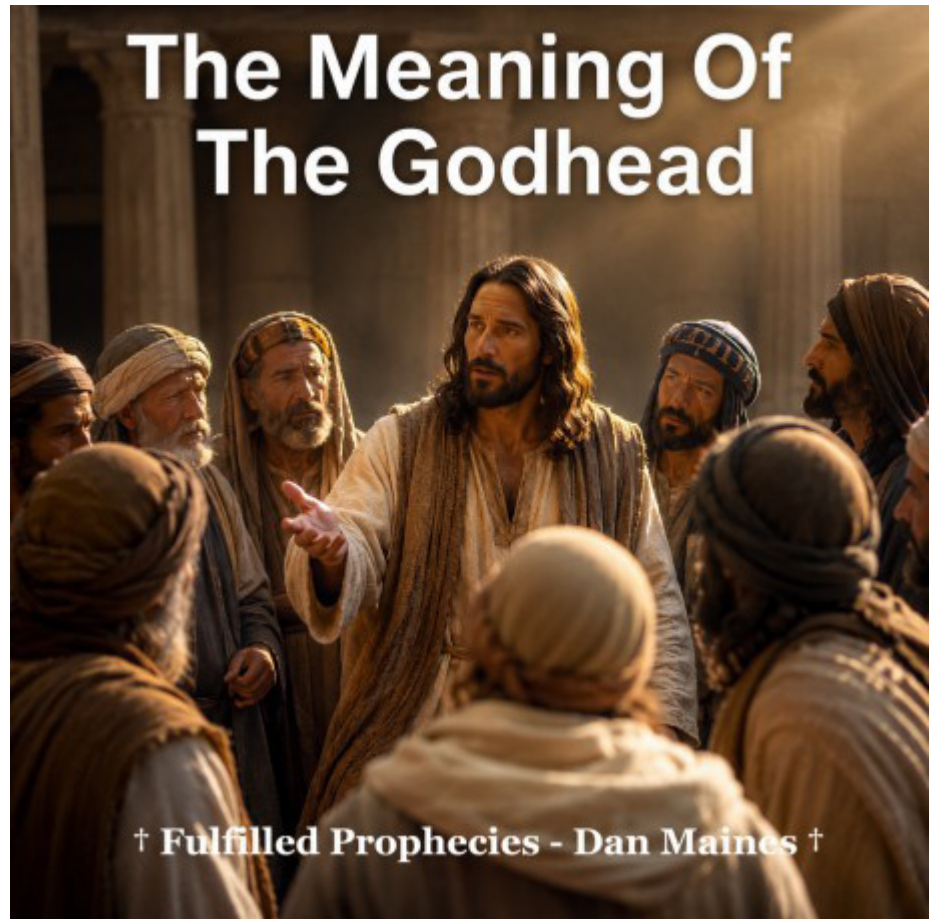


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The Meaning Of The Godhead



By Dan Maines

The Meaning Of The Godhead

Introduction

† The word "Godhead" appears only three times in the King James Version, yet each occurrence is rich with meaning. Interestingly, the three verses do not all use the same Greek word. The translators of the KJV chose the English word "Godhead" to express three closely related ideas about God's divine nature. When we examine these passages in their context, we discover that Scripture reveals the one true God, His divine nature, and the fullness of His presence in Jesus

Christ.

† This study isn't based upon later theological systems, but upon the words the Holy Spirit inspired. Our goal is to let Scripture define Scripture and allow God's Word to explain what the "Godhead" truly means.

Acts 17:29 NASB

Therefore, since we are the descendants of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by human skill and thought.

† Paul was speaking to the philosophers in Athens who worshiped many idols. He reminded them that since mankind was created by God, God cannot be represented by an image made with human hands. (Genesis 1:26-27; Isaiah 40:18-20)

† The Greek word translated "Godhead" here is theion, referring to the Divine Nature or Divine Being. Paul's point is not about multiple divine persons, but about the true nature of God compared to lifeless idols. (Isaiah 44:9-20)

† Every idol is the work of man's imagination, but the living God is eternal, invisible, and the Creator of all things. (Psalm 115:4-8; Isaiah 45:5-7)

† Paul's argument is that because God is the Creator, He is infinitely greater than His creation. Any attempt to reduce Him to an idol is a denial of His divine nature. (Acts 17:24-25)

Romans 1:20 NASB

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, being understood by what has been made, so that they are without excuse.

† The King James translates the Greek word θεϊότης (theiotes) as "Godhead." Most modern translations render it "divine nature" or "divinity." Paul teaches that creation itself testifies that God exists.

† The heavens, the earth, and every living creature reveal God's eternal power and divine nature. No one can honestly claim that God has left Himself without witness. (Psalm 19:1-4;

Acts 14:15-17)

† Paul isn't teaching that nature saves anyone. Rather, creation leaves mankind without excuse because God's invisible attributes are plainly evident throughout His creation.

† God's existence is not discovered through human philosophy but revealed through His creation. Every person is accountable because God has made Himself evident to all mankind. (Psalm 8:3-4; Romans 2:14-15)

Colossians 2:9 NASB

For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

† This is the strongest statement in Scripture concerning Christ's divine nature. The Greek word here is theotes, referring to the complete fullness of deity.

† Paul declares that everything that belongs to God dwells fully in Christ. Nothing of God's divine nature is lacking in Him. Jesus isn't a lesser revelation of God, nor merely God's representative. He is the complete manifestation of God dwelling bodily. (John 1:1-3, 14; John 14:9-11; Hebrews 1:1-3)

† This doesn't divide God into parts. Rather, it declares that the fullness of God's divine being was present in Christ. Jesus perfectly revealed the Father because He was the visible image of the invisible God. (Colossians 1:15)

† Paul immediately continues by saying believers are made full in Christ because He is the head over every ruler and authority. Everything God provides for salvation is found in Christ alone. (Colossians 2:10)

Historical References

† Early Christian writers consistently understood these passages as affirming Christ's complete deity while rejecting pagan idolatry.

† Athanasius repeatedly appealed to Colossians 2:9 to defend the full deity of Christ against Arianism, arguing that the fullness of deity permanently dwells in Christ.

† John Chrysostom taught that Paul intentionally used the strongest possible language in Colossians 2:9 to show that

Christ possesses the entire divine nature.

† Greek lexicons distinguish the three words translated "Godhead." Theion refers to the Divine Being, theiotes refers to divine nature or divinity, and theotes refers to absolute deity. Although the King James uses one English word, the context explains each meaning.

† The Nicene Creed (AD 325) cited passages such as Colossians 2:9 when affirming Christ's full deity against those who denied it.

How It Applies To Us Today

† We don't worship a God created by human imagination. We worship the living Creator who made heaven and earth.

† Jesus perfectly revealed the Father. When we study Christ, we learn the very character and nature of God. (John 14:9)

† Every believer can have complete confidence that Christ fully accomplished God's work of redemption because the fullness of deity dwelt in Him. (Hebrews 1:3)

† The Godhead isn't a mystery hidden from believers. Scripture clearly reveals God's divine nature through creation, through His Word, and ultimately through Jesus Christ.

† Because all the fullness of deity dwells in Christ, believers don't need another mediator, prophet, or additional revelation beyond Him. Christ is fully sufficient. (1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 1:1-3)

Q & A

Q: Does the word "Trinity" appear in the Bible?

A: No. The word "Trinity" does not appear anywhere in Scripture. The Bible teaches about God using its own inspired words. (Deuteronomy 6:4)

Q: Does the word "Godhead" appear in the Bible?

A: Yes. The King James Version uses the word three times: Acts 17:29, Romans 1:20, and Colossians 2:9.

Q: Are all three Greek words the same?

A: No. Each verse uses a different Greek word, but all describe God's divine nature from a different perspective.

Q: What are the three Greek words translated "Godhead"?

A: Acts 17:29 uses theion, meaning the Divine Being or Divine Nature. Romans 1:20 uses theiotes, meaning divinity or divine nature as revealed through creation. Colossians 2:9 uses theotes, meaning the fullness of absolute deity dwelling in Christ. Each word has its own emphasis, but together they testify to the one true God's divine nature.

Q: Why did the King James translate all three as "Godhead"?

A: The translators used one English word to express closely related ideas about God's divine nature. The surrounding context explains the specific emphasis of each passage.

Q: Does "Godhead" teach there are three Gods?

A: No. Scripture consistently teaches there is one God. The word "Godhead" describes God's divine nature, not multiple gods. (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5)

Q: Is Jesus fully God according to Scripture?

A: Yes. Colossians 2:9 declares that all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily in Him. (Colossians 2:9; Hebrews 1:3)

Q: What is the greatest statement about Christ's deity?

A: Colossians 2:9 declares that all the fullness of the Godhead dwells bodily in Christ.

Q: Does creation prove that God exists?

A: Yes. Paul teaches that God's eternal power and divine nature are clearly seen through what He has made, leaving mankind without excuse. (Romans 1:20; Psalm 19:1-4)

Q: Why is idolatry always condemned?

A: Because the true God cannot be represented by objects made by human hands. (Acts 17:29; Isaiah 44:9-20)

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Acts 17:29, Romans 1:20, Colossians 2:9

† Athanasius, John Chrysostom, BDAG Greek Lexicon,

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