

YHWH: THE ONE TRUE GOD

A Scriptural and Historical Examination

Rick Matthews

Section 1: Core Scriptures on YHWH as the One True God

The Bible consistently affirms the exclusive divinity of YHWH. Both the Hebrew Scriptures and the Apostolic Writings declare that He alone is God, eternal and without rival.

- **Deuteronomy 4:35, 39** – “YHWH is God; there is no other beside Him.”
- **Deuteronomy 6:4** – “Hear, O Israel: YHWH our God, YHWH is one.”
- **Isaiah 42:8** – “I am YHWH; that is my name; my glory I give to no other.”
- **Isaiah 43:10–11** – “Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. I, I am YHWH, and besides me there is no savior.”
- **Isaiah 45:5** – “I am YHWH, and there is no other, besides me there is no God.”
- **Jeremiah 10:10** – “YHWH is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King.”
- **Psalms 86:10** – “You alone are God.”
- **Nehemiah 9:6** – “You are YHWH, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host.”
- **John 17:3** – “This is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”
- **1 Corinthians 8:4–6** – “There is no God but one... for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things.”
- **1 Timothy 2:5** – “There is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”
- **James 2:19** – “You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder.”
- **Revelation 4:11** – “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things.”

So here are 13 scriptures that show that YHWH is the one and only True GOD, in the New and Old Testaments, and it is not an exhaustive list.

Section 2: Linguistic and Exegetical Notes

The language of Scripture reinforces YHWH's exclusive identity:

- 'al-panay (Exod 20:3) – “before My face,” prohibiting rivals.
- 'echad (Deut 6:4) – “one,” signaling singular uniqueness.
- 'ein 'od (Isa 45:5) – “there is none else,” absolute exclusivity.
- monon alēthinon theon (John 17:3) – “the only true God.”
- 1 Cor 8:6 – one God, the Father (source); one Lord, Jesus Messiah (agent).

Section 3: Historical and Archaeological Alignment

Archaeological finds affirm YHWH's exclusive worship:

- Mesha Stele (c. 840 BCE) – mentions YHWH explicitly.
- Kuntillet 'Ajrūd & Khirbet el-Qôm (8th c. BCE) – inscriptions invoking YHWH.
- Ketef Hinnom Amulets (7th–6th c. BCE) – earliest biblical text, priestly blessing of YHWH.
- Tel Arad Temple & Ostraca – references to “House of YHWH.”
- Sennacherib's Prism (691 BCE) – corroborates Hezekiah's YHWH-only reforms.

Section 4: Messiah as Son — Brought Forth, Not God

Scripture reveals Messiah as the Son of YHWH, exalted as firstborn and heir, but not God Himself:

- **Proverbs 8:22–25** – Wisdom “brought forth.”
- **Colossians 1:15–16** – “Firstborn of all creation... image of the invisible God.”
- **John 5:26** – the Father grants life to the Son.
- **John 14:28** – “The Father is greater than I.”
- **1 Corinthians 15:27–28** – the Son is subject to the Father.

Section 5: Clarifying 'God in the Flesh' Texts

Certain verses are often misinterpreted to equate Messiah with YHWH:

- **John 1:14** – The Word became flesh = YHWH's message embodied in Messiah.
- **Colossians** 1:15; 2:9 – Messiah as image and dwelling of God's fullness.
- **1 Timothy 3:16** – better manuscripts: "He who was manifested," not "God."
- **John 14:9** – Seeing Messiah = seeing the Father's character, not identity.

Section 6: Unified Conclusion

1. YHWH alone is eternal Creator and the only true God.
2. Messiah is the Son, brought forth and exalted, image of YHWH.
3. Language and archaeology confirm YHWH's exclusive divinity.
4. Proof-texts affirm Messiah's image/agency role, not divinity equivalence.

Appendix A: Full Canonical Scripture List

List of all OT + NT verses quoted, arranged canonically.

Appendix B: Key Hebrew/Greek Terms

'al-panay, 'echad, 'ein 'od, eikōn, theotēs.

Appendix C: Archaeology Timeline

Mesha Stele → Kuntillet 'Ajrūd → Ketef Hinnom → Arad Ostraca → Sennacherib's Prism.

Appendix A: Full Canonical Scripture List

Old Testament (Tanakh)

Deuteronomy 4:35 – “To you it was shown, that you might know that YHWH is God; there is no other besides him.”

Deuteronomy 4:39 – “Know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that YHWH is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other.”

Deuteronomy 6:4 – “Hear, O Israel: YHWH our God, YHWH is one.”

Isaiah 42:8 – “I am YHWH; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to carved idols.”

Isaiah 43:10–11 – “You are my witnesses,” declares YHWH, “and my servant whom I have chosen, that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. I, I am YHWH, and besides me there is no savior.”

Isaiah 45:5 – “I am YHWH, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me.”

Jeremiah 10:10 – “But YHWH is the true God; he is the living God and the everlasting King. At his wrath the earth quakes, and the nations cannot endure his indignation.”

Psalms 86:10 – “For you are great and do wondrous things; you alone are God.”

Nehemiah 9:6 – “You are YHWH, you alone. You have made heaven, the heaven of heavens, with all their host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them; and you preserve all of them; and the host of heaven worships you.”

Proverbs 8:22–25 – “YHWH possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth.”

New Testament (Apostolic Writings)

John 17:3 – “And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”

1 Corinthians 8:4–6 – “Therefore, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that ‘an idol has no real existence,’ and that ‘there is no God but one.’ For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many ‘gods’ and many ‘lords’—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”

1 Timothy 2:5 – “For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”

James 2:19 – “You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!”

Revelation 4:11 – “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

Colossians 1:15–16 – “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.”

John 5:26 – “For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.”

John 14:28 – “You heard me say to you, ‘I am going away, and I will come to you.’ If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.”

1 Corinthians 15:27–28 – “For ‘God has put all things in subjection under his feet.’ But when it says, ‘all things are put in subjection,’ it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.”

John 1:14 – “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Colossians 2:9 – “For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily.”

1 Timothy 3:16 – “He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.”

John 14:9 – “Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

Appendix B: Textual Clarifications

1. **John 1:14** – “The Word became flesh.”

- Clarification: This verse does not mean that YHWH Himself became flesh. Instead, it indicates that the Word (the Son, brought forth by YHWH before creation) took on human form. He is the perfect representation of YHWH’s character, not YHWH incarnate.

2. **Colossians 1:15** – “He is the image of the invisible God.”

- Clarification: The Greek word for "image" (eikon) denotes representation or likeness, not equivalence. Christ is the perfect reflection of YHWH's nature but remains distinct from Him.

3. **John 14:9** – "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."

- Clarification: This emphasizes that Christ's actions, teachings, and character perfectly reveal the Father. It does not mean He is the Father Himself.

4. **Colossians 2:9** – "In him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily."

- Clarification: The Greek word "theotēs" (Godhead, divinity) refers to divine qualities or nature. Christ embodies YHWH's Spirit and authority but is not YHWH Himself.

5. **1 Timothy 3:16** – "He was manifested in the flesh..."

- Clarification: The manifestation refers to the Son being revealed in human form, sent by YHWH. This aligns with the plan of salvation, not with YHWH becoming flesh.

In summary, the New Testament verses that some interpret as "God in the flesh" consistently point instead to Christ as YHWH's Son and perfect representative, distinct from YHWH, yet fully aligned with Him.

Appendix C: Historical Context

1. Ancient Israelite Monotheism

- The Shema (Deuteronomy 6:4) became the daily declaration of Israel's faith: "Hear, O Israel, YHWH our God, YHWH is one."

- This strict monotheism distinguished Israel from surrounding polytheistic nations (Egypt, Babylon, Canaan).

2. Second Temple Judaism

- Jewish writings between 500 BCE and 70 CE consistently affirm that YHWH alone is God, with angels, messengers, and even the Messiah seen as subordinate agents.

- The Dead Sea Scrolls (Qumran) reflect this belief, emphasizing obedience to YHWH as the sole Creator.

3. Early Christian Writings

- The first-century believers, including Paul and John, maintained continuity with Israelite monotheism. They affirmed that the Father (YHWH) is the one true God, and that Christ is His Son, brought forth before creation and sent into the world.

- 1 Corinthians 8:6 is a prime example: "Yet for us there is one God, the Father... and one Lord, Jesus Christ..." This echoes the Shema while clarifying roles.

4. Contrast with Later Theological Developments

- The Council of Nicaea (325 CE) introduced concepts of co-eternality and consubstantiality that were foreign to both the Hebrew Bible and earliest apostolic teaching.

- Earlier sources (e.g., Apostolic Fathers) stress subordination of the Son to the Father, consistent with scriptural witness.

Conclusion:

The historical record aligns with the biblical testimony: YHWH is the one true God, and Christ, His Son, was brought forth as His representative and mediator—not as a co-eternal or co-equal deity.

Appendix D: Opposing Views and Rebuttals

1. Opposing View: Christ is YHWH Himself (Trinitarian View)

- Claim: Passages like John 1:1, John 14:9, and Colossians 2:9 teach that Yeshua is fully God, equal to the Father.
- Rebuttal: A close reading shows that Yeshua is the Word of YHWH made flesh (John 1:14), the image of the invisible God (Colossians 1:15), and the Son sent by the Father (John 17:3, John 8:42). The Bible distinguishes YHWH as the one true God and Christ as His Son.

2. Opposing View: Yeshua only became the Son of God at His resurrection.

- Claim: Based on Romans 1:4, some argue that Christ became the Son only when He was raised from the dead.
- Rebuttal: Proverbs 8:22–25 and Colossians 1:15 show that Christ was “brought forth” before creation as the firstborn of all creation. His resurrection confirmed His Sonship (Acts 13:33) but did not initiate it.

3. Opposing View: The term “God in the flesh” means YHWH incarnated as Jesus.

- Claim: 1 Timothy 3:16 and John 1:14 are used to argue that God Himself became human.
- Rebuttal: The more accurate translation of 1 Timothy 3:16 is “He who was manifested in the flesh.” This points to the Son, sent by the Father, not YHWH Himself. John 1:14 clarifies that it was the Word (logos) that became flesh, not YHWH.

4. Opposing View: Since Yeshua receives worship, He must be God.

- Claim: Passages where people bow to or worship Christ (e.g., Matthew 28:9, Revelation 5:12) are cited as proof of His deity.
- Rebuttal: The Greek word “proskuneō” can mean reverence, homage, or worship depending on context. Christ is worthy of honor as the exalted Son (Philippians 2:9–11), but this does not make Him equal to the Father. Even after His resurrection, He calls the Father “my God” (John 20:17; Revelation 3:12).

5. Opposing View: The doctrine of the Trinity was always the belief of the early church.

- Claim: The Trinity is said to be the consistent teaching from the apostles forward.
- Rebuttal: Historical evidence shows that the earliest believers emphasized YHWH as the one God and Christ as His Son. The Trinity as a formal doctrine was developed centuries later, particularly at Nicaea (325 CE) and Constantinople (381 CE). This was a departure from the biblical and apostolic foundation.

Summary:

The opposing views often stem from misinterpretations of select verses or later theological developments. In most part because of the Trinitarian beliefs. And as shown below, The Council of Nicaea formalized the Co-Eternal Doctrine. I believe along with the heavy influence of Satan himself. Yet despite this deception, the consistent biblical testimony remains: YHWH is the one true God, and Yeshua is His Son, brought forth before creation, exalted as Messiah and Lord, but not YHWH Himself.

Footnotes

1. **Deuteronomy 6:4** – YHWH alone is God, the Shema.
2. **Isaiah 45:5** – No God besides YHWH.
3. **John 17:3** – Eternal life is knowing the Father as the only true God.
4. **1 Corinthians 8:6** – One God, the Father, and one Lord, Yeshua.
5. **Colossians 1:15** – Christ is the image of the invisible God.
6. **Proverbs 8:22-25** – The Son was brought forth before creation.
7. **Revelation 3:12** – Yeshua refers to the Father as 'My God.'
8. Council of Nicaea (325 CE) – Formalized co-eternality and consubstantiality into doctrine.