

The Godhead

What does the term Godhead mean?

The word “Godhead” occurs in the King James Version only 3 times:

Acts 17:29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead **(theios)** is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

Romans 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; **(theiotes)** so that they are without excuse:

Colossians 2:9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead **(theotes)** bodily.

The term Godhead is rendered
“divine nature” or “deity”.

It means the very “*essence*” of God.

GOD

The word “GOD” in the New
Testament is the Greek word
“Theos”

“Deity”

“Supreme Being”

Scriptures declares there is only ONE God

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament confirm the fact that there is but ONE GOD.

Isaiah 43:10 Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

Isaiah 44:6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD **our God is one** LORD:

Mark 12:32 And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is **one God**; and there is none other but he:

Romans 3:30 Seeing it is **one God**, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

1Timothy 2:5 For there is **one God**, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is **one God**; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

The belief in **ONE God** is called...

MONOTHEISM

Mono- One
Theism – God

ONE GOD

The three major religions of the world are Monotheistic.

1. Judaism

2. Islam

3. Christianity

The question in each of these lies with...

1. WHO is God?
2. What is His nature?
3. What relationship is Jesus Christ with God?

The Godhead

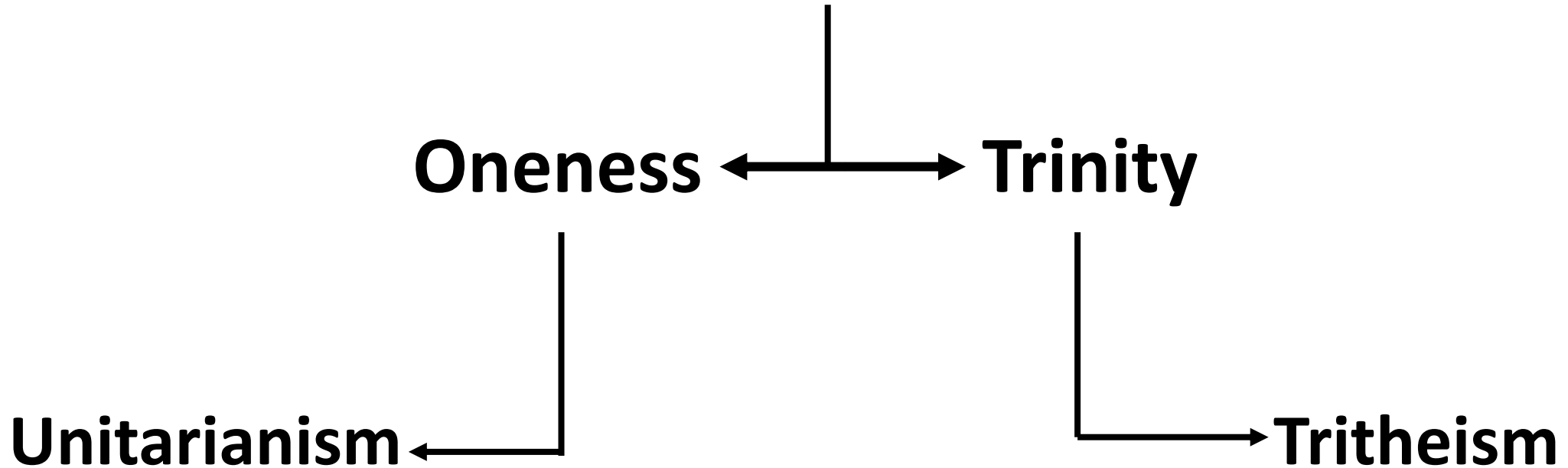
(Father- Son- Holy Ghost)

One or Three?

Oneness ← **Trinity**

Unitarianism

Tritheism



Unitarianism

Unitarianism as a theology is the belief in the single personality of God, in contrast to the doctrine of the Trinity (three persons in one God)

Adhering to strict monotheism, they maintain that Jesus was a great man and a prophet of God, perhaps even a supernatural being, but not God himself.

Unitarians sum up their faith as "the religion of Jesus, not a religion about Jesus."

Unitarian Christians generally do not believe that Jesus was conceived in the womb of a virgin, or that he performed miracles to the extent reported in the Gospels.

Tritheism

Tri- three
Theism – God
Three Gods

The Father-Son- Holy Spirit are. . .
three separate persons / Hence – Three Gods

The Godhead



(Father-Son- Holy Ghost)

One or Three?

Oneness  Trinity

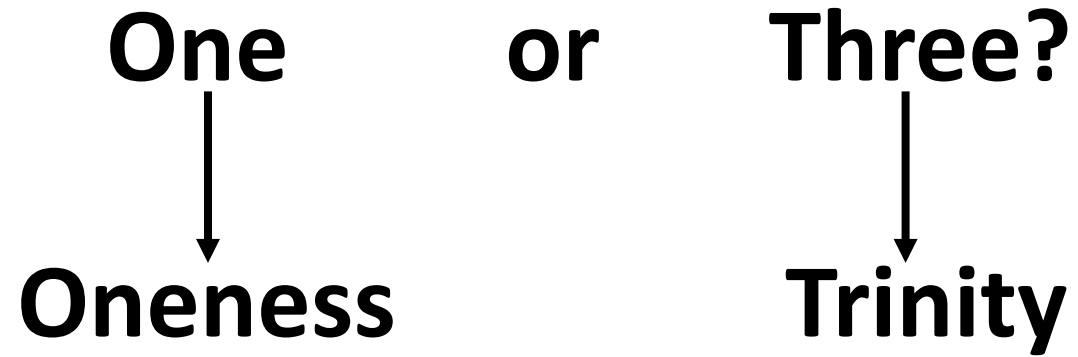
(Over Emphasis)

 Unitarianism

  Tritheism

The Godhead

(Father-Son- Holy Ghost)



Both the Oneness and the Trinitarian positions on the Godhead are MONOTHEISTIC.

- Both positions state that there is only **ONE** God.
- Both positions teach the **Father, Son** and **Holy Spirit**.
- The trinity positions teaches that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are **three separate distinct persons** in the Godhead.
- The Oneness position **does not**.

This has been the most hotly debated theological issue since the death of John around c. A.D. 98

What was the relationship between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit?

Are they three or one?

How did God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit relate to one another?

There were various early heresies resulted from individuals overemphasizing or underemphasizing various aspects of the Godhead.

All, of these views resulted from attempts by finite human beings attempting to define an infinite God.

Romans 11:33-36

33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

34 For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?

35 Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again?

36 For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.

The definition of the Trinity

Trinitarianism is the belief that there are three persons in one God or one God in three persons.

They call these three persons the trinity or the triune God.

Many trinitarians interpret their doctrine to mean...

- Three personalities
- Three beings,
- Three minds,
- Three wills,

Three separate distinct bodies in the Godhead.

(Statement by Jimmy Swaggart)

Trinity says that. . .

$$1 + 1 + 1 = 1$$

Father
Person

Son
Person

Holy
Spirit
Person

GOD IS HOLY

Psalms 99:9 Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.

Joshua 24:19 “...for he is an **holy** God;”

Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God,

1 Peter 1:16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for **I am holy.**

The Bible declares that “God” is a SPIRIT.

John 4:24 "**God is Spirit**, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (NKJV)

2 Corinthians 3:17 Now the Lord is **the Spirit**; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. (NKJV)

God is the Holy Spirit

Ephesians 4:30

And grieve not the **Holy Spirit of God,**

FATHER

1Corinthians 8:6 But to us there is but one **God, the Father,**

Galatians 1:3 Grace be to you and peace from **God the Father,**

1Peter 1:2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of **God the Father,**

From this we see that there is **ONE GOD**. . .

- Who is Spirit
- Who is Holy
- Who is the Holy Spirit
- Who is the Father

The Question now is:

Who is Jesus Christ and what is his relationship to God?

- Was he just a human man?
- Was he a divine being created by God?
- Was he a just, wise and enlightened man?
- Was he the Archangel Michael?
- Was he the incarnation of God's love?
- Was he the Son of God?
- Was he God in the flesh?

Matthew 4:3 And when the tempter came to him, he said, If thou be the **Son of God**, command that these stones be made bread.

Matthew 8:29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou **Son of God**? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

Mark 1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the **Son of God**;

John 1:34 And I saw, and bare record that this is the **Son of God**.

What is meant by the term “ Son of God”?

Was Jesus a second person in a trinity of God?

The Origin and History of the Trinity

Nimrod

The Tower of Babel

Who was Nimrod:

- Nimrod was born from Cush who came from the cursed line of Ham.
- Nimrod whose name means “Rebel”, was the founder of Sun worship.
- The Targum says, *“Nimrod became a mighty man of sin, a murderer of innocent men, and a rebel before the Lord.”*
- These people wanted one government to rule the world and one religion to sway the hearts of man.

- Nimrod married his own mother -Semiramis to be his wife.
- She was the first defied Queen of Babylon and Nimrod was the first defied king.
- Their followers plunged so deeply into the occult that they even sacrificed their babies to satan in their worship of him.

- Semiramis proclaimed herself to be the Queen of Heaven.
- After Nimrod died, Semiramis proclaimed him to be God.
- They had a son who was named Tamuz.
- Tamuz was considered to be the reincarnation of the God-man Nimrod.

So we have. . .

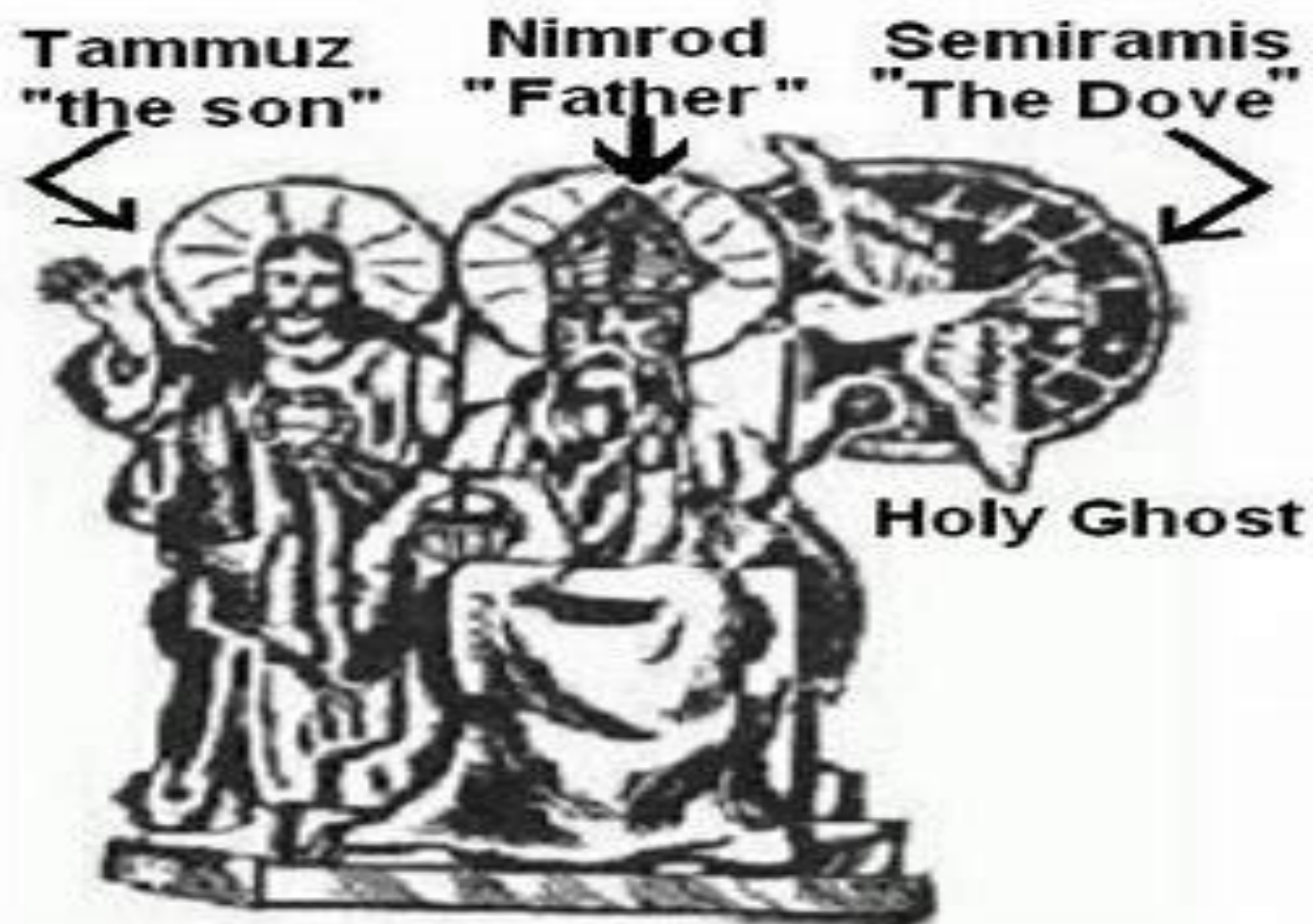
1. Nimrod who is God the Father.
2. Semiramis, The Queen of heaven who is considered to be the mother.
3. The Son who is considered to be the incarnation of the father.

Historical Background of the Trinity

The trinity originated with Babylon, and was passed on to most of the world's religions.

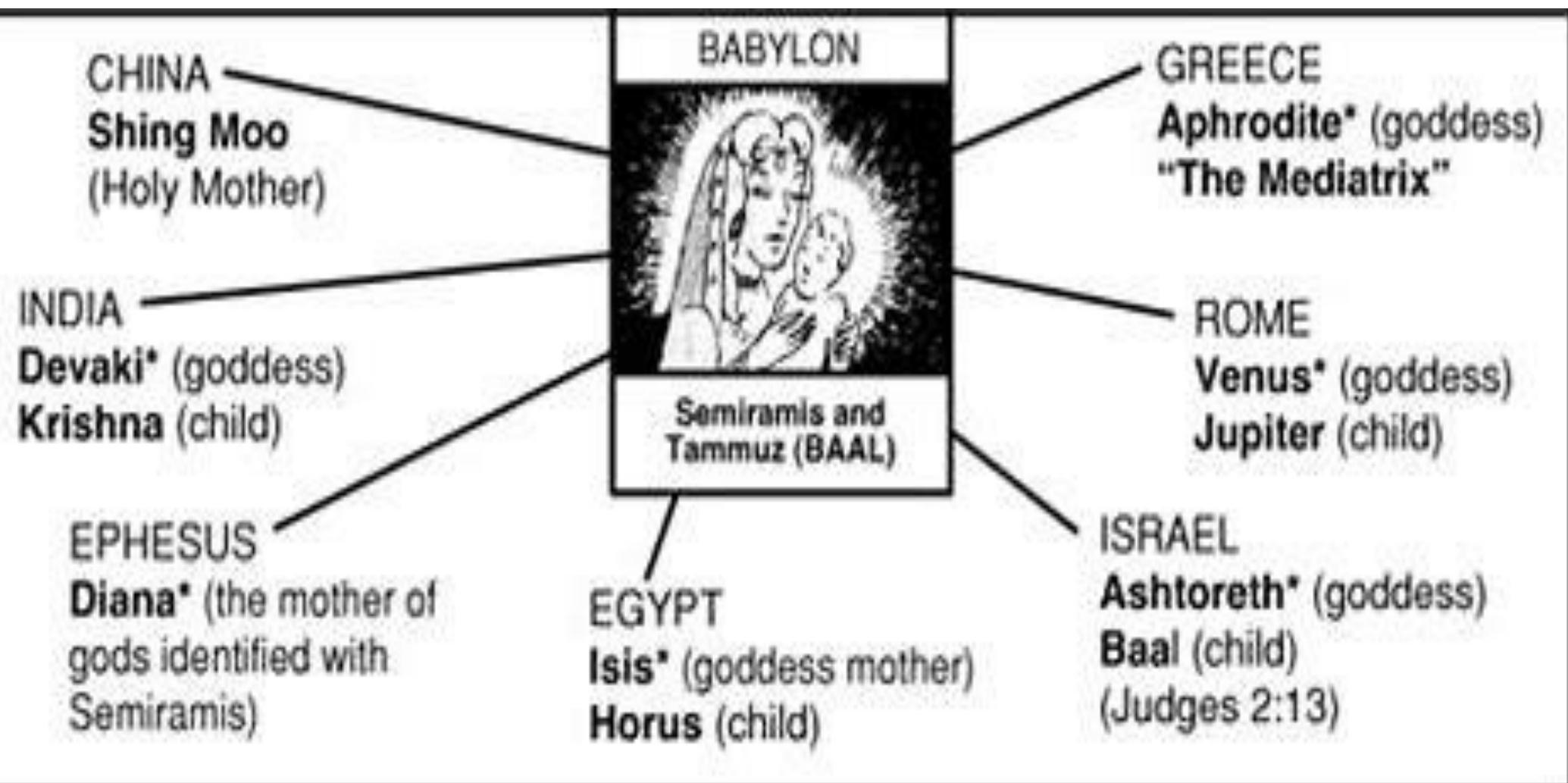
This polytheistic (believing in more than one god) trinitarianism was intertwined with Greek religion and philosophy and slowly worked its way into Christian thought and creeds some 300 years after Christ.

The idea of "God the Son" is Babylonian paganism and mythology that was grafted into Christianity.



Semiramis was initially included in the pagan Babylonian trinity as the holy spirit (the dove)





*"Even in Tibet, China, and Japan, the Jesuit missionaries were astonished to find the counterpart of Madonna and her child as devoutly worshipped as in papal Rome itself."
(page 20, THE TWO BABYLONS , by Hislop, published by Chick Publications, Inc.)

We see how the Christian teaching of the Trinity has its roots in paganism.

It has deep Pagan roots, dating back to at least two centuries BC, and has been prominent in many Eastern religions ever since.

Our next question we need to address is....

When and with whom did the Christian doctrine of the Trinity have its origin?

Many people assume that God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit form what is commonly known as the trinity. The doctrine of the trinity is usually summed up as a belief in one God existing in three distinct but equal persons. But did you realize that even though it is a common assumption among many sincere Christian people, the word *trinity* does not appear anywhere in the Bible?

In fact, the word *trinity* did not come into common use as a religious term until *centuries after* the last books of the Bible were completed and long after the apostles of Christ were gone from the scene! Could the trinity doctrine have pagan origins?

“The term trinity is not itself found in the Bible. It was first used by Tertullian at the close of the 2nd century, but received wide currency [common use in intellectual discussion] and formal elucidation [clarification] only in the 4th and 5th centuries.”
— (1996, “Trinity”)

The word trinity was introduced by Tertullian (160-225 AD) who was a pagan turned Catholic theologian.

He was one of the **(so called)** early Church fathers who wrote in the early third century to define the teaching concerning the Godhead.

[Church Fathers - Wikipedia](#)

The Church Fathers, Early Church Fathers, Christian Fathers, or Fathers of the Church were ancient and influential Christian theologians and writers who established the intellectual and doctrinal foundations of Christianity.

The historical period in which they worked became known as the **Patristic Era** and spans approximately from the late 1st to mid 8th centuries.

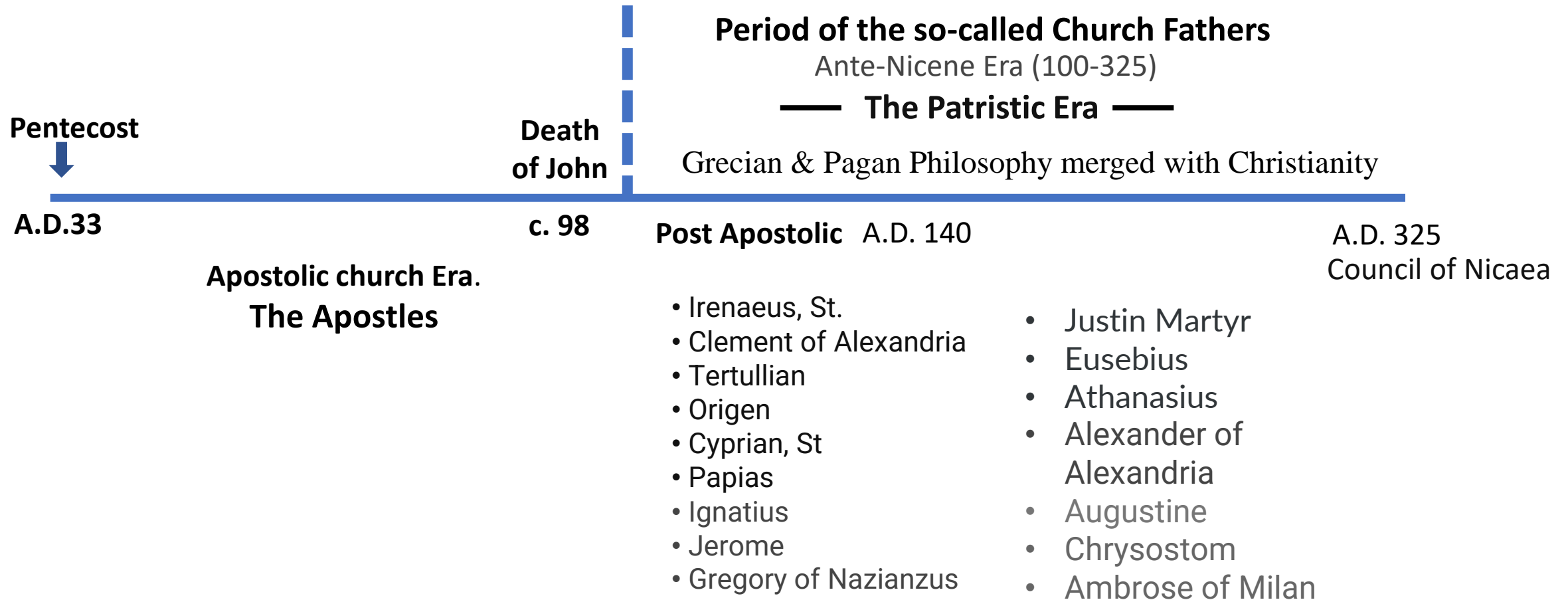
Quote

“The Fathers of the Church are so called because of their leadership in the early Church, especially in defending, expounding, and developing Catholic doctrines.”

The early church fathers fall into three basic categories:

- Post apostolic fathers,
- ante-Nicene church fathers,
- and post-Nicene church fathers.

Theologians / Christians trace the history of the church back to this era for the foundation of the church, not to the Apostolic Era of the true Apostles.



The doctrine of the trinity wasn't formalized until long after the Bible was completed and the apostles were long dead in their graves.

And long after the man who introduced the word trinity was dead.

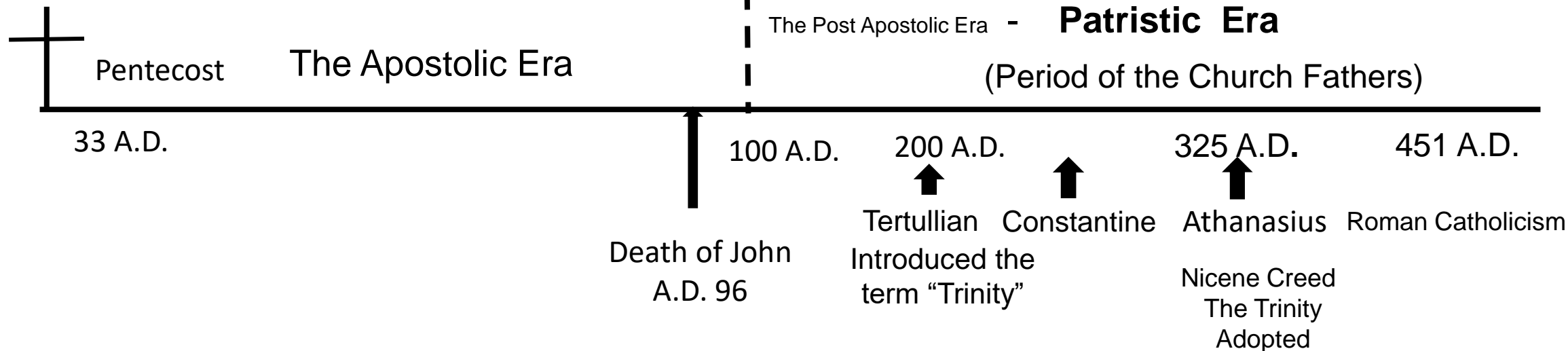
The Rise of the Trinity Within Christianity

Orthodox Christianity traces its theology back to the Patristic Era and not to the Apostolic Era.

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine ...Acts 2:42

Grecian Philosophy merges with Christianity.
Neo-Christianity

The Post Apostolic Era - **Patristic Era**
(Period of the Church Fathers)



The teaching of the trinity did not exist in church history before the third century.

Chart: The Origin of the Trinity

Williston Walker, the historian, quotes a wise church historian named Heussi. He says that in 50 A.D. in the early church, one was a member of the church, one was a Christian, who had these three marks:
1) He was baptized in the Name of Jesus for the remission of his sins in water; 2) He was Baptized in the Holy Spirit:
3) He called Jesus Lord.

Bernard Lonergan

"the trinity is a matter of five notions or properties, four relations, three persons, two processions, one substance or nature, and **no understanding**".
(The Holy Trinity; Robert Letham; Introduction P 1)

Gregory Nazianzen

Stresses at the end of his fifth theological oration there are no analogies in the world around us that adequately convey the Christian doctrine of the Trinity.
(Gregory Nazianzen, *Orations* 28; 38.8 (PG 36:29-72, 320)

The post Apostolic era – Patristic Period Rise of the "Catholic" church.

Grecian philosophy merged with Christianity.

The Apostolic church

325 A.D
Nicean
Creed

Pentecost

Death of the Apostle
John
c. A.D. 96

Tertullian
(Trinity)
150-225 A.D

Theophilus
Bishop of
Antioch
c168 A.D.
First to use
the term
"Trias"
(Triad) for
God

In his
Apologia, we
have the
first direct
reference to
the *Trinity*.
(Theophilus of
Antioch to
Autolycus -
Doctrine of
the Trinity.)

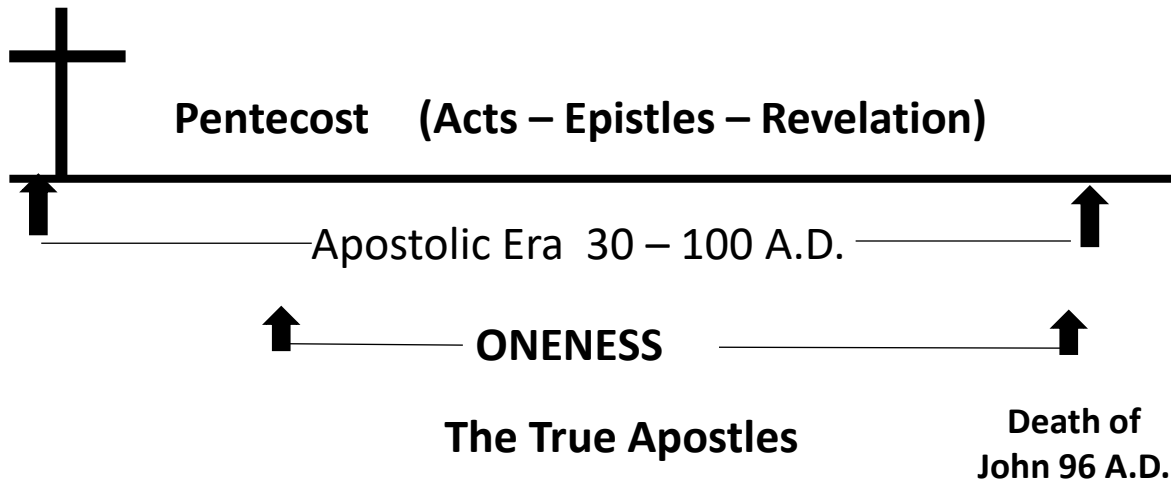
He did originate and advance new theology to the early Church. most famous for being the oldest Latin writer to use the term **Trinity** and giving the oldest extant formal exposition of a Trinitarian theology. He wrote his trinitarian formula after becoming a Montanist, His ideas were at first rejected as heresy by the church at large, but later accepted as Christian orthodoxy. (From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia)

Other Latin formulations that first appear in his work are "three Persons, one Substance"

Although Tertullian introduced the term "Trinity" in his writings Tertullian seems to suggest that the majority of believers at that time favoured the view of the oneness of God. (Tertullian against Praxeas, III, c.213)

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Orthodox Christianity traces its theology roots back to this Patristic period, NOT to the early church and Apostles teaching.

Post Apostolic Era – Patristic Period

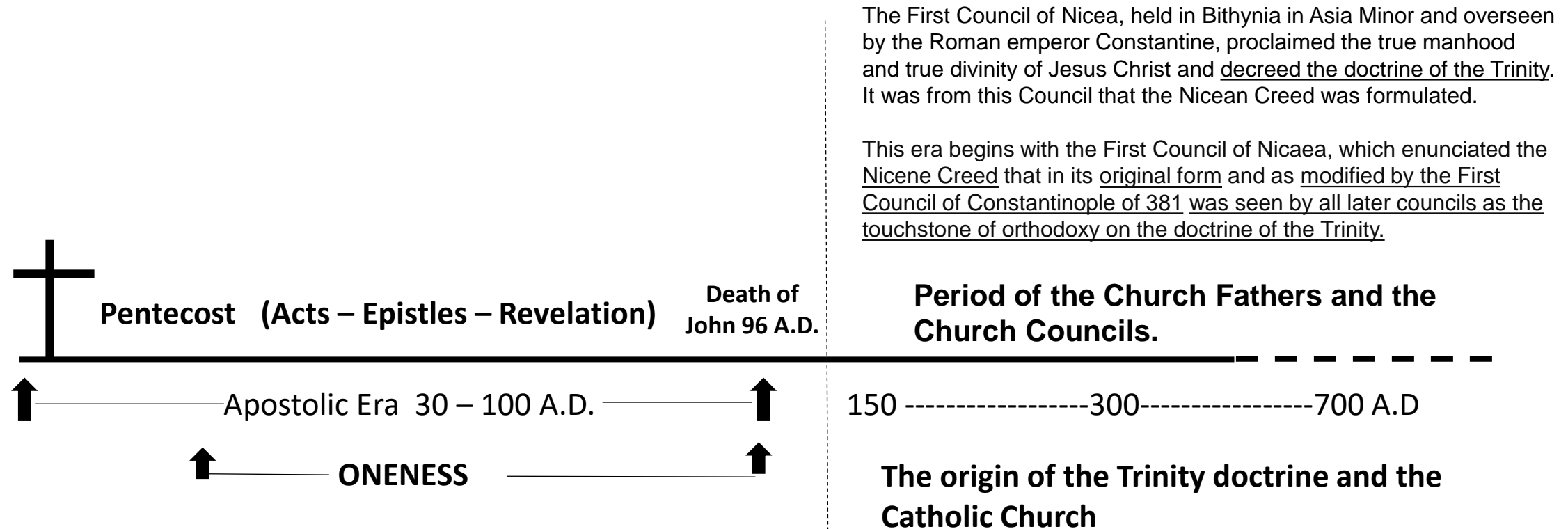
150 ----- 300 ----- 700 A.D

The so - called early Church Fathers

Were Grecians theologians who wrote and defined the theology for the church. It was through their writings that the doctrine of the trinity was birthed and developed.

Quote: "The Fathers of the Church are so called because of their leadership in the early Church, especially in defending, expounding, and developing Catholic doctrines."

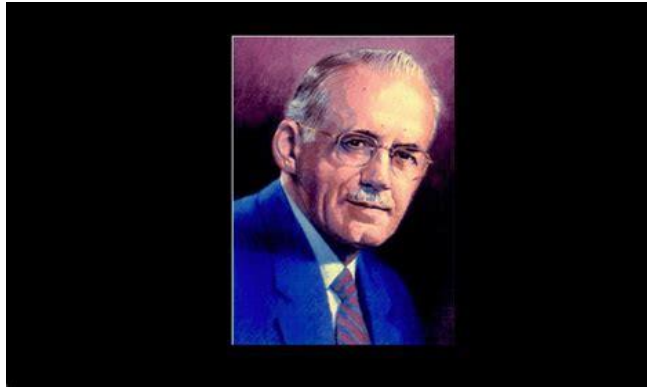
Early Christian Church Councils. The origin of the Trinity and the rise of the Catholic Church



Dictionary of The Bible 1995 John L. Mckenzie

"The trinity of God is defined by the church as the belief that in God are three persons who subsist in one nature.

The belief as so defined was reached only in the 4th and 5th centuries AD and hence is not explicitly and formally a biblical belief."



A.W. Tozer in his book *The knowledge of the holy* states that the trinity is an “Incomprehensible mystery” and that attempts to understand it “*must remain forever futile.*”

He admits that churches “*without pretending to understand it,*” have nevertheless continued to teach this doctrine. (1961, pp. 17,18)

He then concludes, “*The fact that it cannot be satisfactorily explained, instead of being against it is in still favor.*”(p. 23)

Think about it this way. . .

If the doctrine of the Trinity is true, then it must have always been true. It could not have become true in the fourth and fifth century.

If this doctrine is true and essential, how can it be that it took centuries to formulate it?

The Rise of Christianity W.H.C. Frend 1985

"For him [Clement] the trinity consisted of a hierarchy of three graded beings, and from that concept - derived from Platonism - depended much of the remainder of his theological teaching."

Microsoft Encarta Funk & Wagnalls 1994

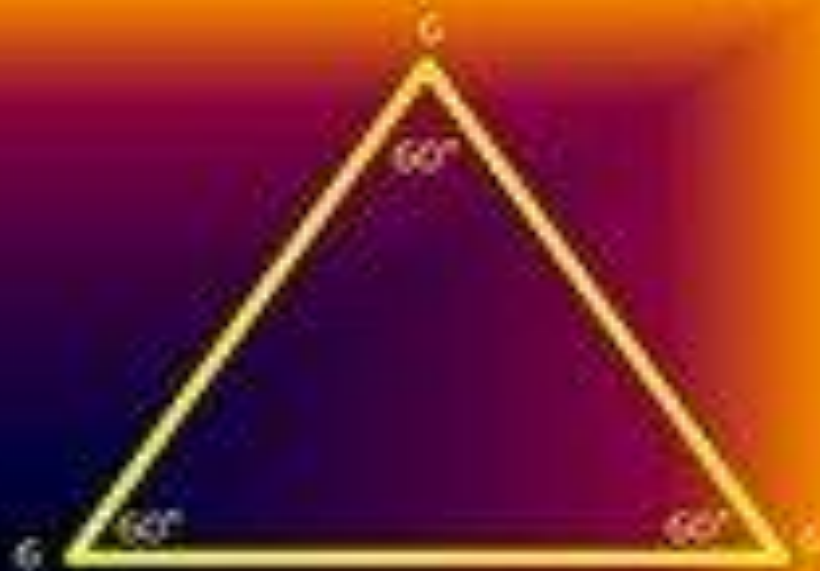
"The theologians Clement of Alexandria, Origen, and St. Augustine were early Christian exponents of a Platonic perspective.

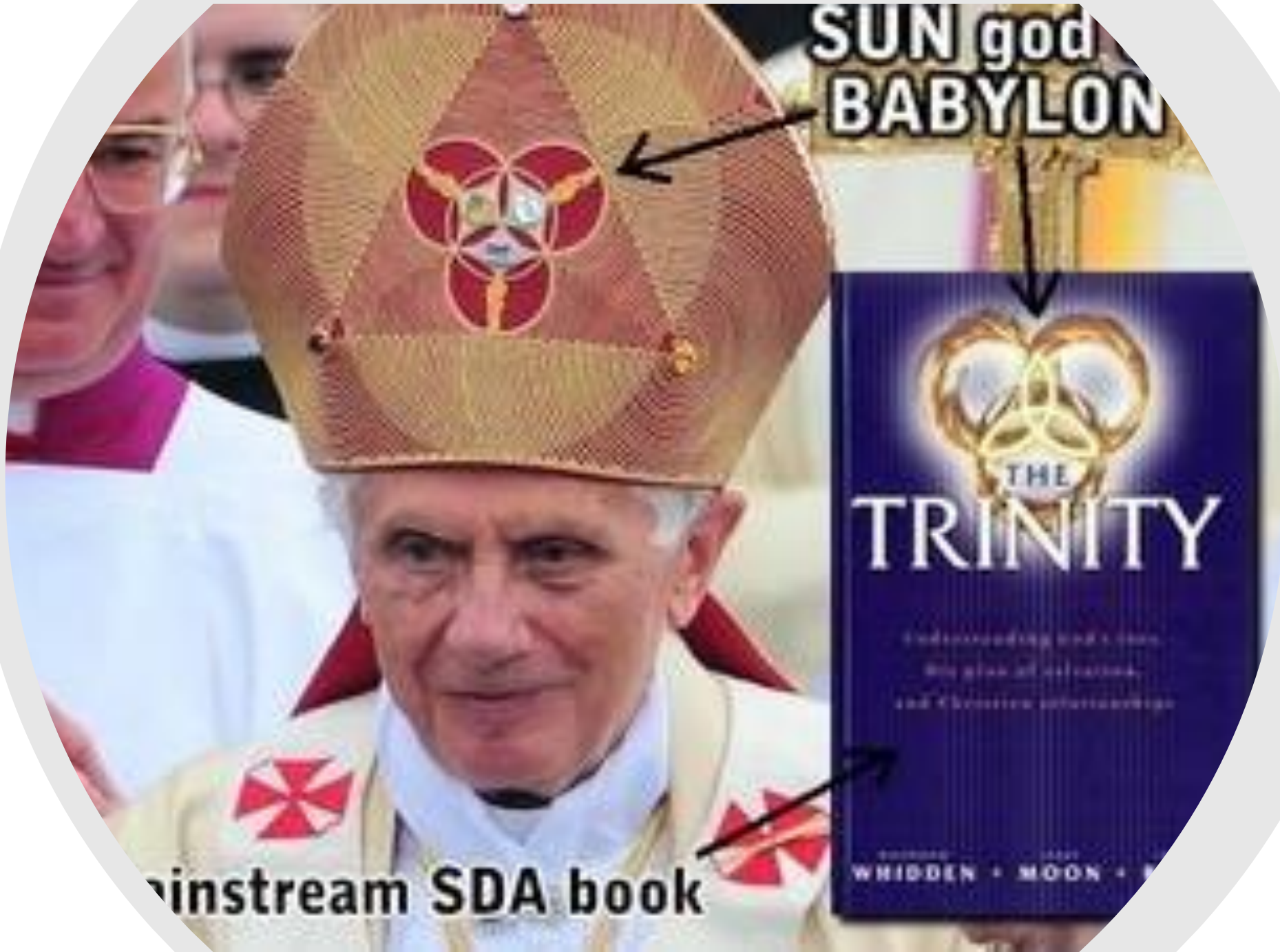
Platonic ideas have had a crucial role in the development of Christian theology"

Nouveau Dictionnaire Universel 1870

"The Platonic trinity, itself merely a rearrangement of older trinities dating back to earlier peoples, appears to be the rational philosophic trinity of attributes that gave birth to the three hypostases or divine persons taught by the Christian churches . . .

This Greek philosopher's (Plato, 4th century BC) conception of the divine trinity . . . can be found in all ancient (pagan) religions"





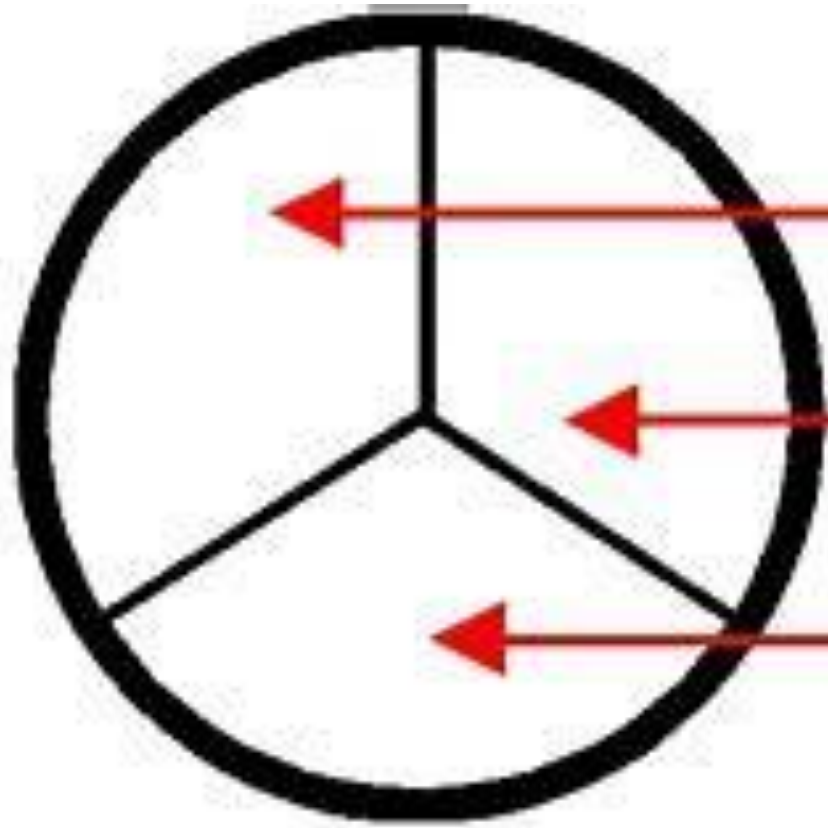
**SUN god
BABYLON**

**THE
TRINITY**

understanding and living
the plan of salvation
and Christ's intercession

EDITED BY
WHIDDEN • MOON •


mainstream SDA book




God The Father

God The Son

God The Holy Gho



In modern witchcraft, the initiate, if once a Christian, must take a ceramic cross, turn it upside down and break the cross-bar downwards to show he or she has rejected Jesus and His faith. Ignorant Christians wear this thinking it is a sign for peace. The origin of the word peace was stamped on this because, when a witch casts its spells, they get peace of mind after breaking the cross.



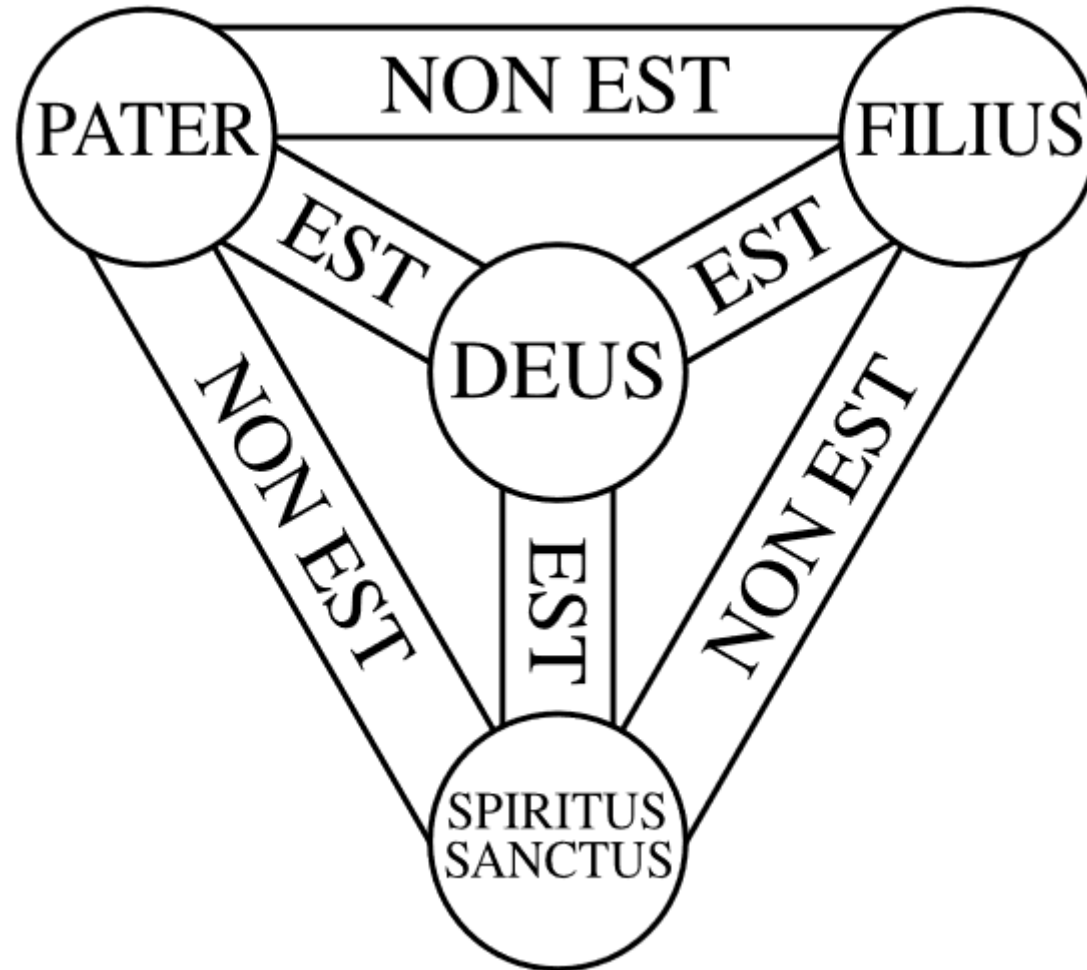






The Latin shield of the Trinity

On the font in **Crosthwaite Church**, near Keswick, Cumbria, England.



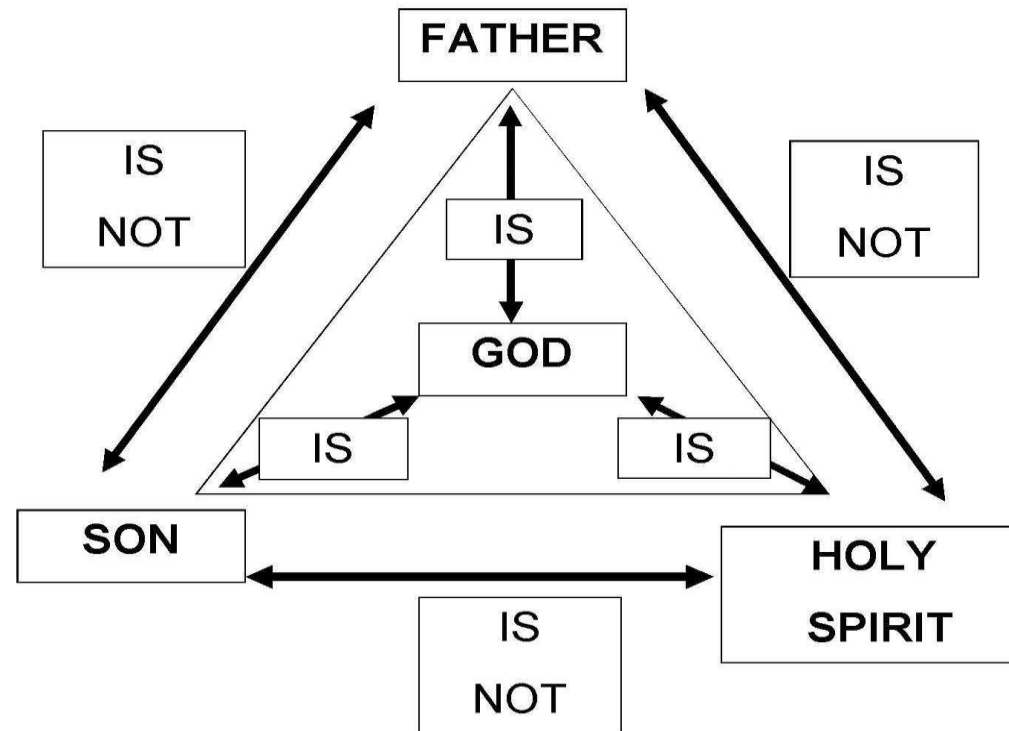


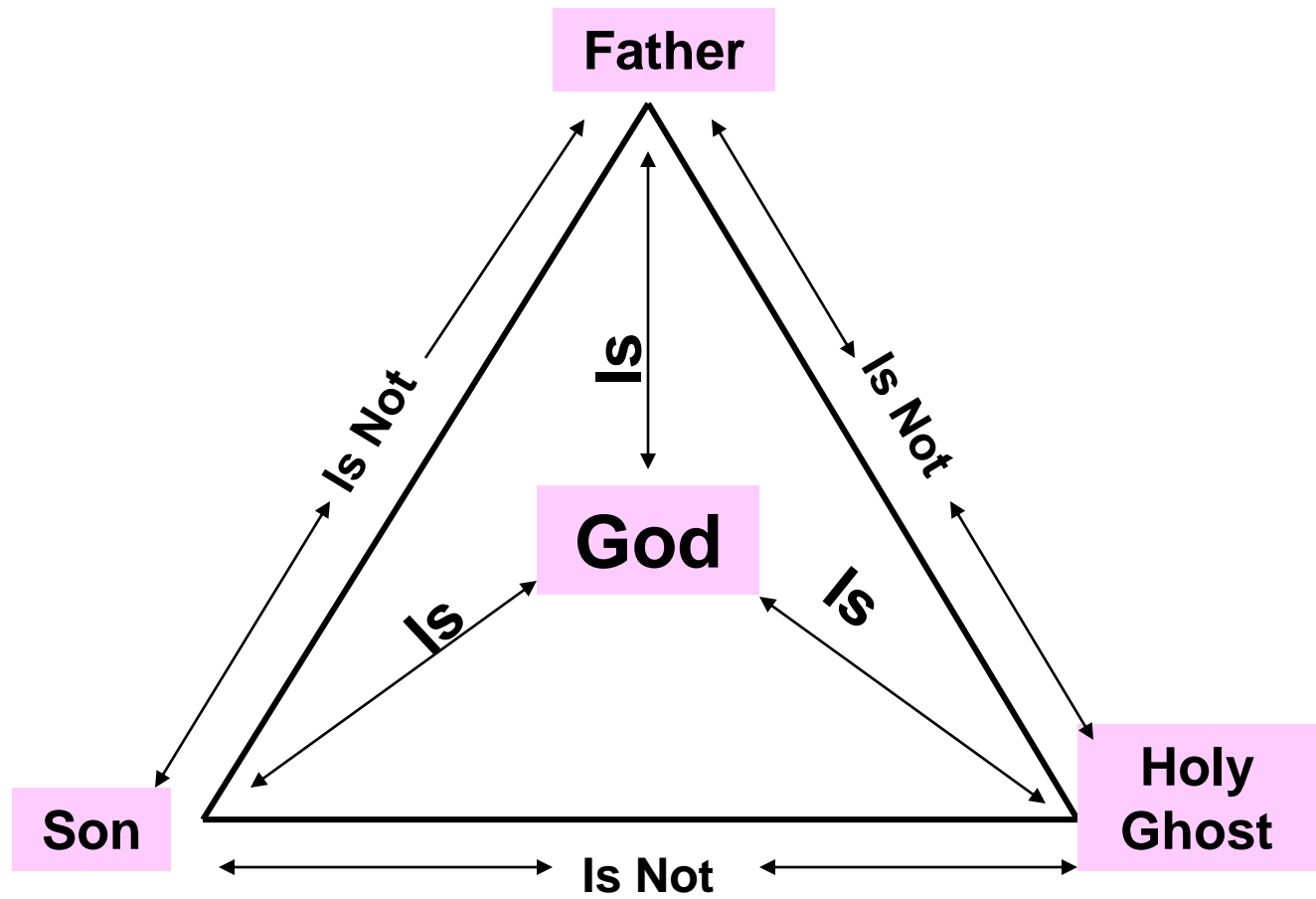
Alexander Hislop

Born: 1807 · [Duns, United Kingdom](#)

Died: Mar 13, 1865 · [Arbroath, United Kingdom](#)

TRINITARIAN TRIANGLE







Three-faced Trinity - Peru, c. 1750-70,
Oil on canvas - 17 1/2 x 29 in. (44.5 x 73.7 cm)
Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, Hartford, CT

The Two Babylons 1916 Rev. Alexander Hislop

"He was worshipped in Babylon under the name of El-Bar, or 'God the Son'."

It is clear that the trinity does not have a Biblical origin. It can be traced back to ancient Babylon, pagan Greeks and Romans. It was forced upon the Christian Church by the emperor Constantine. It was adhered to by bishops who were afraid to speak against it. Then when the Protestants broke away from the corrupt Roman Church most of them still carried the pagan doctrine of the trinity, because they had practiced error for so long that they accepted the trinitarian doctrine.

Encyclopedia Britannica 1968

"The Council of Nicaea met on May 20, 325. Constantine himself presiding, actively guiding the discussion, and personally proposed the crucial formula expressing the relation of Christ to God in the creed issued by the council 'of one substance with the father.' Over-awed by the emperor, the bishops, with two exceptions only, signed the creed, many of them against their inclination. Constantine regarded the decision of Nicaea as divinely inspired. As long as he lived no one dared openly to challenge the creed of Nicaea."

Three centuries after Christ the corrupt emperor Constantine forced the minority opinion of the trinity upon the council of Nicea.

The Rise of Christianity 1985 W.H.C. Frend

"The Emperor exerted all his influence toward winning unanimous acceptance and nearly succeeded. Only two bishops stood out against it; but two other senior bishops refused to sign the anathemas against Arius and were exiled."

Constantine was really only interested in unifying the empire and gaining more power. He broke truces, started wars, and even had relatives killed to further his power. Constantine was more interested in unity than in getting the correct doctrine of the trinity. In fact before he died Constantine switched sides and took Arius' position regarding the trinity instead of the position that he forced through the council of Nicea.

Without Constantine's presiding, actively guiding, and actively controlling the discussion there would not have been a 'coequal' 'coeternal' 'God the Son' Nicene creed. But what manner of man was this person who pushed through this doctrine which was to become the cornerstone of Christianity?

The HarperCollins Encyclopedia of Catholicism 1995

". . . scholars generally agree that there is no doctrine of the trinity as such in either the Old Testament or the New Testament."

If the trinity is the cornerstone of Christianity then how did the church of the first three centuries get along so well without it? If the trinity is the cornerstone of Christianity then why is it not mentioned in the Bible?

Among those who uphold the doctrine of the Trinity, few know much about it beyond the “God in three persons” formula.

They don’t understand it. They just accept it because that is what they have been taught.

It’s confusing to them so they just pass it off.

You will see how confusing it gets as we get more into this teaching.

You will even become confused.

Because the trinity doctrine is confusing.

It makes no sense.

There are a number of terms that we will need to consider:

- Monarchianism
- Modalism
- Sabellianism
- Patripassianism
- Hypostases
- Ousia

These are not terms and language that you will use in your preaching.