

THE
DOCTRINE OF
THE TRINITY

Christianity's
Self-Inflicted Wound

Anthony F. Buzzard

and

Charles F. Hunting

INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS PUBLICATIONS

This important new work is a detailed Biblical investigation of the relationship of Jesus to the One God of Israel. The authors challenge the notion that Biblical monotheism is legitimately represented by a Trinitarian view of God and demonstrate that within the bounds of the canon of Scripture Jesus is confessed as Messiah, Son of God, but not God Himself. Later Christological developments beginning in the second century, and under the influence of pagan Gnosticism, misrepresented the Biblical doctrine of God and Christ by altering the terms of the Biblical presentation of the Father and the Son. This fateful development laid the foundation of a revised, unscriptural creed which needs to be challenged. This book provides a definitive presentation of a Christology rooted in the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. The authors present a sharply-argued appeal for an understanding of God and Jesus in the context of Christianity's original, Apostolic, unitary monotheism.

Sir Anthony Buzzard, Bt. was born in Surrey, England and educated at Oxford University and later at Bethany Theological Seminary, Chicago. He holds Master's degrees in languages and theology. He currently teaches at Atlanta Bible College. Anthony has traveled widely, including visits to Malawi for purposes of evangelism. He is author of *Our Fathers Who Aren't in Heaven: The Forgotten Christianity of Jesus, the Jew* and co-editor of *A Journal from the Radical Reformation*, published by Atlanta Bible College/Church of God General Conference.

Charles Hunting is a retired pastor and college business manager.

Market: Biblical Studies; Trinitarian and Deist Studies; Theology

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The Doctrine of the Trinity – Christianity’s Self-Inflicted Wound

At first appearance this book would seem to be a very thorough study disproving the doctrine of the Trinity. But wrapped within its scholarly reasoning is, in this writer’s opinion, its true purpose (whether realized by the authors or not) – which is to confuse those who were taught the plain Bible truth about the nature of God by Herbert W. Armstrong. Jesus Christ said God reveals truth to babes and not to the wise of this world, for Matthew 11:25 says, “At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes.” Scholars are simply the wrong place to be looking for the truth. Both Anthony Buzzard and Charles Hunting are former Ambassador College faculty members and former (disfellowshipped) members of the Worldwide Church of God, and most of what they know of the truth they learned from Herbert W. Armstrong. But in stark contrast to Herbert W. Armstrong’s straight forward, simple to understand, Bible-interprets-the-Bible explanation of the scriptures, their book, to the average reader, is not far from being incomprehensible.

To make it simple, there is one scripture alone that proves the Buzzard-Hunting pure Unitarianism position to be false. It is the one scripture that Herbert W. Armstrong used in Mystery of the Ages to prove that Jesus Christ was the pre-existent creator of all things. And strangely, this scripture is not addressed in Buzzard’s and Hunting’s 343 page book on the subject (I emailed Anthony Buzzard through his website and he responded and confirmed that it was not addressed in his book, and he had nothing to say about it in his email). The scripture is **Ephesians 3:9 – “And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.” (KJV)** The only Unitarian explanation I have seen of this verse is, “*by Jesus Christ* is not in the Greek.” However, the Greek text being referred to is the uninspired and corrupt Alexandrian text discovered in Egypt and used by the Catholic Church. But the inspired Greek Byzantine Majority textform confirms the King James translation to be accurate – “*by Jesus Christ*” **IS** in the inspired Greek text! (See the other articles in our reference section showing that the Byzantine Majority textform is the only inspired Greek text of the New Testament.)

Byzantine Majority

και φωτισαι παντας τις η οικονομια του μυστηριου
του αποκεκρυμμενου απο των αιωνων εν τω θεω τω
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Alexandrian

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We have several other articles on God’s nature in our reference section, and on the following pages are some additional comments on Anthony Buzzard’s and Charles Hunting’s book made by an unknown author. You can prove for yourself that Herbert W. Armstrong did teach the plain Bible truth!

DID CHRIST EXIST BEFORE HIS HUMAN BIRTH??

The Journal quite often will print articles written by men who do not believe that Christ existed with the Father **before** He was born a human. These men tend to get into a lot of “word meaning games” trying to dazzle the reader with all their scholarly reasoning. But those of understanding will see it for what it really is!

In *The Journal* issue of January 31, 2006, Kenneth Westby admittedly, **strenuously** looks to scholars to “enlighten” him. Why? Did Christ go to the scholars of His day or did He look to God ONLY??? Be honest! Whose example should you follow?

Scholars have tendencies to “dissect” one little word or phrase so many times that in the end of their 30-page theme paper of “*wind and confusion*” (Is. 41:29), they derive at a meaning that is so far off track that the reader forgets the original subject in question. Scholars are “*Blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel!*” (Mat. 23:24).

God makes knowledge easy for those that understand! Prov. 14:6, “A scoffer seeks wisdom **and does not find it**, but knowledge is easy to him who understands.”

The scholars are of those that are the “voice of strangers” (John 10:5). Should Kenneth [and not only him, but hundreds of others like him] be setting up a following, teaching for doctrines what he gathers in from the “strangers”?? Be honest!

Anthony Buzzard, in the same issue, speaks of the One-God Controversy. He too, comes to the one-God conclusion because of his sources of knowledge – scholars, professional journal, scholarship by professional lexicographers, professional linguists, standard “authorities”, etc. He states, “...*logos* or its Hebrew equivalent *davar* (word) never meant a person or spokesperson.” And he asks, “Why call *logos* a person when a word is not a person?” **GOD’S ANSWER:** John 1:14, “**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**”

Anthony makes a statement, “The Greek word *pros* translated “with” in John 1:1 does not have to mean “face to face”. Then again, it CAN mean, “face to face” – is that what you “won’t” say, Anthony? Did you choose a meaning to fit your agenda? Be honest!

Remember, if your beliefs contradict even one scripture, you will need to reevaluate your thinking of the subject and “...*cry out* [to God, not to a scholar] *for discernment and lift up your voice for understanding.*” (Prov. 2:1-7).

Why is it that the following scriptures are carefully avoided in his writing?

Gen. 1:26, “Then **God** said, let Us make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness;...”

Phil. 2:5-11, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, **who being in the form of God** did not consider it robbery to be **equal with God**, but make Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every



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tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” **Christ willingly relinquished His glory when He came to earth, though still of the Godhead.**

John 3:13, “No one has ascended to heaven but **He who came down from heaven**, that is the Son of Man who is in heaven.”

I Cor. 15:47, “The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is **the Lord from heaven.**

John 3:31, “**He who comes from above** is above all; he who is of the earth is earthly and speaks of the earth. **He who comes from heaven is above all.**

John 16:28, “*I came forth from the Father and have come into the world. Again, I leave the world and go to the Father.*”

John 17:5, “*And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*”

John 6:38, 62, “*For I have come down from heaven,*” “*...What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where He was before?*”

I Cor. 10:1-4, “*...that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.*”

To deny Christ’s preexistence is a satanic attempt to greatly diminish the fullness of what Christ put-on-the-line that ALL may be saved!! Anthony states in reference to Christ, “But he is not the Lord God.” Answer this: How could a mere man’s life be so valuable that it could be sacrificed to save all mankind from the penalty of sin?? However, for a member of the Godhead to put **His** Eternal Life in jeopardy is of GREAT VALUE, you can be sure!!

Anthony admits that in Ps. 110:1 that *Christ* is the “second” Lord, David speaks of here. Then, the “first” Lord, is today called the Father. “First” + “second” = 2 Lords, Anthony, remember this was spoken before Christ’s human birth. Notice, the scribes of Christ’s day were in denial of Christ’s preexistence just as Anthony, Kenneth, and others are today – so Christ posed a question to those scoffers which they could not answer in Lk. 20:41-44, “*And He said to them, How can they say that the Christ is the Son of David? Now David himself said in the Book of Psalms: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’ Therefore David calls Him ‘Lord’; how is He then his Son?*”

Christ makes the following statement while He is yet human, “*For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.*” (Mat. 12:8; Ex. 16:29; Ex. 20:11). This statement signifies a preexistence.

John 17:2-5, “*as You have given Him authority over all flesh, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. And this eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished work which You have given Me to do. And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*” Christ had the “God-glory” before the world was!! Yet, Christ wants all people to understand that the Father is greater than He. John 10:29-30, “*My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand. I and My Father are one.*”

John 17:21-22, “*that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us. That the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one;*” While He was still human, Christ says He and the Father are **one**. 2 Beings, yet are called **one**. How could this be?? They are of one-mind, of one Godhead, of one government, if you will, they are of **like minds**. Also, the **many** that are chosen will be **one**-- v. 23, “*I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made*



DID CHRIST EXIST BEFORE HIS HUMAN BIRTH??

perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me." When God's Word says there is ONE TRUE GOD, it is understood, therefore, eventually many will become ONE as Christ and the Father are ONE. Many beings, yet ONE. Why must this "one" unit if called a "family" receive such scoffing for doing so??

The need for God to so often declare that He is the ONE TRUE GOD throughout the bible, is because of the rampant sins of people looking to **FALSE GODS** even in His own Church!!!! If these men would go to the True Source, they would understand that!! Beware, "For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect." (Mat. 24:24). Men sit where they ought not, in place of Christ, between the people and God the Father. They are the "false christs".

The Father and Christ calls, chooses, reveals to whoever They Will. Scholars are not going to give you "hidden manna" (Rev. 2:17) or "a pearl of great price" (Mat. 13:46). To understand what is going on in the Church today – should be **top priority** of every one of you. Allowing yourself to be tossed by every wind of doctrine and going after the "voice of strangers" will one day be to your shame! Is. 30:1-5 "Woe to the rebellious children, says the Lord, who take counsel, **but not of Me**, and who devise plans, **but not of My Spirit**, that they may add sin to sin; who walk to go down to Egypt, **and have not asked My advice** to strengthen themselves in strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt! Therefore the strength of Pharaoh shall be your shame and trust in the shadow of Egypt shall be your humiliation. For his princes were at Zoan, and his ambassadors came to Hanes. They were all ashamed of a people who could not benefit them, or be help or benefit, **but a shame and also a reproach.**"

Christ came from the Father, had God-glory with the Father before His human birth, declares the Father as being greater than He, has been given all authority from God, declares He and the Father are one even when He was yet a human man, and speaks according to the Father's Will. Christ was/is a God, is Ruler over all flesh, is Spokesman for the Father because He is the True Mediator, between God the Father and the people. The responsibility of a Mediator is being a spokesman for both parties. Christ came to reveal the Father and He learned through His sufferings, the weaknesses of the flesh of which He is Captain in being able to relate those weaknesses to the Father, thereby, becoming highly qualified to judge and have compassion on all flesh. (Heb. 4).

Those that go to the "voice of strangers" are "...led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." II Tim. 3:7. In contrast, those who forsake their idols are given the hidden manna and will know what the hand of the Lord is doing. Is. 66:14. God's indignation will be known by His enemies. His "fire" is His Word of written judgment. (Jer. 23:29-30; Is. 29:6; 30:27; 42:25).

God is angry (Is. 66:15) about the idolatry in the Church! He wants it to end! He wants you to look to Him for knowledge and understanding, and forsake your idols (which are set up in your heart), forever! Only when all of the Church look to the True God to be taught, will His people be of like-minds. (I Cor. 1:10). Then God will reign in the **New Jerusalem**. Rev. 21; Is. 65:19, "I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in My people; Is. 66:13, "As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem."



IS CHRIST'S TITLE, *SON OF MAN*, FURTHER "PROOF" HE HAD NOT PREEXISTED??

In conception, Christ had one human parent and one Spiritual Parent, yet He was given the title of the "Son of Man". There are some so entangled in the web of scholarly reasoning that they go so far as to claim that Christ was raised from the dead *as a man* and even now is a man, because of His title the "Son of Man". Please see the issue July 31, 2006 of *The Journal*, pg. 19, Ken Westby's series of the one-God theory. *Beware* of this logic!

He states, "Defenders of the doctrine of Jesus' preexistence make appeals to a few passages that seem to support the possibility of preexistence." Please remember, when you find any scriptures that contradict your beliefs, you do need to reconsider your understanding of the matter. God's Word could not be definitive if there was contradiction. "*But knowledge is easy to him who understands.*" (Prov. 14:6). Do you ever ask *why* Ken will not explain these "few passages that seem to support the possibility of preexistence" of Christ?? Because he *cannot*!

To follow this scholar's same line of reasoning that the "Son of Man" first came into existence as a man and always will be a man-- then the "sons of God" [Rom. 8:14; Gal. 4:5; Phil 2:15; I John 3:1-2] are *spirit-beings* from the beginning and always will be. Are Christians a 'spirit-being' even now, because they are referred to as the 'sons of God'??? Were they never a human?? That would make them on a higher God-level in the Kingdom than their Savior, wouldn't it? No, his *logic* fails in applying titles as further "proof" that Christ did not preexist.

When Christ was born a human, He took on the title of the "Son of Man". Perhaps Lk. 1:32 sheds some light on the reason God gave Christ that title: "*He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.*" When Christ lived as a human, His whole life was spent in the effort and goal to become the Savior and Mediator for all humanity and to be given the Throne of David (Eze.21:27). This title, Son of Man, does not make Christ only human forevermore. Just as the Christian title, son of God, does not make him a *God* in the beginning and forever, he is first a human. God Planned stages/roles.

Only Christ qualified as the True Mediator because He had existed as BOTH God and Man! He fully understands the heart/mind of God as well as the heart/mind of man. He thereby, has become a perfect Judge and High Priest. It was after He lived as man, that He became a very compassionate Mediator and High Priest (I Tim. 2:5; Heb. 4).

The meaning of Christ's very Name reveals that He preexisted, "GOD WITH US". Mat.1:23. Only a cornered scholar will deny/avoid that which is as plain as the nose on his face. Why does he fear to admit that he was wrong, would it be a blow to his intellect?

Beware of scholars who claim *they grow in knowledge* but refuse to explain certain scriptures that plainly contradict their teachings. For example, there are some who look to scholars that twist and turn scripture to say Passover is the 15th. These 'students' that are 'growing in knowledge' are so spiritually "drunk" on scholarly reasoning, that they can not "see" simple, plain scriptures in which **God says** Passover is the 14th! "*They departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the day after the Passover the children of Israel went out with boldness in the sight of all the Egyptians.*" (Num. 33:3; Lev. 23:5). They get the biblical recorded events that occurred **on** the first Passover out of time sequence through scholarly reasoning and refuse to see God's foundational commands to be careful to keep it on its Day – the 14th! (Num. 9:2-3).

One-God theorists are no different in their choice of source of knowledge. Ken boasts that he had long hours of study in the Berean process of inquiry to 'grow in this knowledge'. But by his own admission, has gone to scholars/Greek philosophers, therefore his statement was misleading by



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the fact that he did NOT do as the Bereans, and search the scriptures ONLY in guidance by the True Teacher!(John 5:39-40; Acts 17:11). Please read I Cor. 1:20-31, the knowledge of scholars is *foolishness to God*, so why do Ken and so many others in the Church go to the wrong sources to "grow in knowledge"?? Knowing how **God** feels about the 'wise' of the world, it should be a "red flag" to the people listening to such things! (Prov. 14:6; Prov. 2:6; Mat. 11:25).

Rev. 1:8, 17, "*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End*". *Who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. Do not be afraid, I am the First and the Last.*" (Is. 44:6). Does that sound like a "man always a man" speaking?? **Be honest!** Christ was the *First* True God (Teacher) of the Church in the Beginning and then men crept in – false gods (false teachers) that led the people astray after idolatry, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men (Mat. 15:9) – but in the *End* He will be the True God Ruling His Ecclesia forevermore. People will come to "see" their idols and flee and turn to the True God with all their hearts. Nevermore looking to scholars/men who teach error. There is nothing to fear in this process of inquiry to seek knowledge from the True Teacher ONLY, looking forward to joy as you have never known. (I John 1:1-4; Mat. 12:32)

Gen. 1:26, "*Then God said, Let Us make man in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness;*"

Mat. 12:36-37, "*But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they give account of it in the Day of Judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.*" These men and women who are friends with the world (scholars) are the enemy of God, (James 4:4) for which they will have to give account.

John 6:38, "*For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*"

v. 62, "*What then if you should see the Son of Man ascend where he was before?*"

Phil 2:6-11, "*who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*"

John 17:5, "*And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*" **One must ask:** Are the one-God theorists calling Christ a liar???

These scholars use Christ's title, Son of Man, in cunning attempt to further their agenda of the One-God theory, but Christ ALSO was given titles of the "Son of God" and the "Melchizedek" who is without father, mother, genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, made like the Son of God. (Heb. 7; Dan. 3:25; mat. 4:5; Mat. 16:16; Mark 1:1). It is these *false teachers/mediators* trying to do a job that only Christ has the right to as the True Teacher—that God had the need to express – **THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD** – throughout His Word – there are those like Ken, that are of the many false christs/teachers that will rise to deceive, if possible, the elect. **Beware!**

Eph. 4:13-14,--24, "*till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the **knowledge of the Son of God**, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, **by the trickery of men in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,***" May God speed the day of TRUE UNITY FOREVERMORE!!!!