



How Many Gods Are There? - NKJV

By Karen Sue Nyquist

God wants people of all religions, cultures, and races to come to Him. The Bible, His Word, tells us how. We can turn to it to find answers to our questions.

1. How can we know that the Bible is reliable, that it was translated accurately?

a) Translators have early copies in the original languages. Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek experts have translated the newer English translations from those manuscripts, not from previous translations, ensuring their accuracy. (All verses in this article are from the New King James Version. You are encouraged to check out more recent English translations if you prefer. The wording is often easier to understand.) **Read the Bible!** You can start with the New Testament.

b) Almighty God promised that He would preserve His Word. "The words of the Lord are pure words ... You shall keep them, O Lord, You shall preserve them from this generation forever" (Psalm 12:6-7). **Trust the Bible, it's God's Word.**

2. What about other religious books? God kept things simple, He only wrote one holy scripture. Only the Bible is God's Word. He said, "You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you" (Deuteronomy 4:2). He gave it through His Jewish prophets and apostles. Don't accept any other gospel even from "an angel from heaven" (Galatians 1:8). Writing other books and following them as though they are sacred doctrine is definitely "adding" to God's Word.

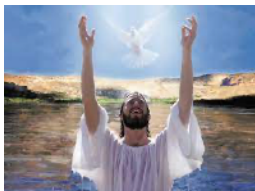
3. Has God always been God? - Yes! The Bible says: "from everlasting to everlasting You are God" (Psalm 90:2). "Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God alone who is wise be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen" (1 Timothy 1:17). "You are My witnesses," says the Lord, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me" (Isaiah 43:10).

4. How many Gods are there? - There is only one God! The Bible says, "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God'" (Isaiah 44:6). "Hear, O Israel: The LORD (Yahweh) our God, the LORD is one" (Deuteronomy 6:4). **As God, He is the King of Heaven (Daniel 4:37) and Creator of the Earth (Isaiah 40:28).** It is He who Jesus said we could call "Father" (Matt. 6:9).

a) Is Jesus God? - Yes! Jesus identified Himself as God. When John saw Jesus in heaven, Jesus said to him, "I am Alpha and Omega, **the First and the Last:** and, what you see, write in a book ... I am He who lives, was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of death" (Revelation 1:11, 18). **But how can Jesus be both God and man?** Jesus had a miraculous birth. The angel Gabriel told Mary, Jesus' mother, "And the angel answered and said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God'" (Luke 1:35). "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory" (1 Timothy 3:16). **If Jesus is God, why did He have to die? As God, Jesus came from heaven and became a human to die as payment for the sins of the world, then He rose from the dead 3 days later (Luke 24:46)! Jesus is the Savior of the World (1 John 4:14). He loves us that much! (Ephesians 5:2). But there is only one God!**

b) Is the Holy Spirit/Holy Ghost God? - Yes! The Bible says: As God, "the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters" during creation (Genesis 1:2) and He overshadowed Mary at Jesus' conception (Luke 1:35). When Ananias lied to Peter, Peter said that he had lied to the Holy Spirit who is God (Acts 5:1-4). God will put His Holy Spirit, which is called the Spirit of truth, into us when we ask Him (1 Corinthians 6:19), then "He will guide you into all the truth" (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit helps us grow in love, joy, peace, ... (Galatians 5:22). **"But there is only one God! Great is the mystery of godliness!**

c) In the beginning, God started to show us His nature. "And God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image'" (Genesis 1:26). God refers to Himself in the plural, but He also said, "Hear, O Israel: The LORD (Yehweh) our God is one LORD" (Deuteronomy 6:4). At Jesus' baptism, all three aspects of God were present: the Father speaks from heaven, the Son is being baptized, and the Holy Spirit descends as a dove (Matthew 3:16-17). "Jesus said, 'Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit'" (Matthew 28:19). **But there is only one God! Great is the mystery of godliness!**





5. **How can the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost all be one God?** It can be hard to understand or explain. David said, “Lord, my heart is not haughty, Nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, Nor with things too profound for me” (Psalm 131:1). The Bible speaks for itself, maybe we shouldn’t try to add any human explanations. **Great is the mystery of godliness!**

6. **Can we become gods? The Bible say “You are gods?” - No, we can’t.**

a) Let’s look at that passage. “God (*Elohim*) stands in the congregation of the mighty (*El-God*); He judges among the gods (*Elohim - judges, gods, mighty ones*). How long will you judge unjustly, and show partiality to the wicked? Selah. ... I have said, You are gods (*Elohim-judges, gods, mighty ones*); and all of you are children of the most High (*Elyon*). But you shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes. Arise, O God, (*Elohim*) judge the earth; for You shall inherit all nations” (Psalm 82:1, 2, 6-8).

b) The word Elohim, when referring to men, is translated as “judges” or “masters” (Exodus 21:6; 22:8-9). This passage is saying that God stands in a group of His people; He is judging the judges and/or leaders. He asks them how long are they going to be judging unjustly and showing preference to wicked people. Selah - Think about that. He says, “I said you are gods (*judges/leaders*) and all of you are My children. But you are going to die like other men and fall like a prince can fall from power.” Then the psalmist asks, “God arise and take over the judging, judge the whole earth, since You will inherit all the nations.” God may have been using the word Elohim for emphasis or even sarcasm, saying that these men think they are so mighty and so high above others. That’s why He reminds them that they are just men who will die and fall. (1) <https://nickcady.org/2022/01/05/what-does-it-mean-when-it-says-you-are-gods-in-psalm-82-john-10/>. No we can’t become gods.

7. **Then why did Jesus quote this passage, saying “You are gods?”** (John 10:34-36) The Jewish leaders were about to kill Him with stones. To defuse the situation Jesus used this passage for 3 reasons: 1) to assert the Bible is inerrant, 2) to declare He is the Son of God, 3) to ask them a difficult question about scripture, catching them off guard, and giving Him a chance to escape. It was not yet time for Him to die for our sins. (1)

8. **How do we know which church is the true church?** There are many groups of churches and denominations that are true. The Bible says that Jesus is able to preserve His church: “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18). **Read the Bible** so you know what it teaches, compare it with the teachings of a church, then ask the Holy Spirit to lead you to one that teaches truth and is right for you.

9. **Who can mediate for us? - Jesus Christ Himself! - The Bible says:** “For there is one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5). Jesus taught us to pray directly to God, calling Him “Our Father.” Jesus is our “great high priest” (Hebrews 4:14). Jesus is our only mediator, no one else has that role.

10. **Would you like to know this amazing, loving God and have eternal life with Him in heaven?** “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent” (John 17:3). **Jesus said that we are to repent of our sins,** (Matthew 4:17) and **“He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned”** (Mark 16:16). **“In My Father’s house (*heaven*) are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also”** (John 14:2-3).

11. **Do you want Jesus to be your God and Savior? - If so, you may pray.**
Suggested Prayer: “Jesus, I believe You are the Christ, the Son of God, and that You died for my sins, then rose from the dead. I repent of my sins. Thank You for loving me and dying for me. I confess You as my God and Savior. Please, help me live in Your will and give me the Holy Spirit. AMEN!” Name _____ Date _____

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