

Excerpt on Genesis 1:26 from *Does Everyone Believe in the Trinity?*

BY ANTHONY BUZZARD



Anthony Buzzard

www.restorationfellowship.org

Genesis 1:26

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

The Word Bible Commentary states correctly, "It is now universally admitted that the use of the plural in Gen. 1:26 did not mean to the author that [God was more than one Person.]"

Excerpt on Genesis 1:26 from: *Does Everyone Believe in the Trinity?*

Amazingly when some Bible readers arrive at Genesis 1:26 and they read that God said "Let us make...", they leap to the conclusion that God is more than one Person. There is no logical reason for this. Scripture describes God as "I", "He," "Him," "Me" thousands of times. When on a very rare occasion God says, "Let us..." it means that God, who is one person, involves others with Him. How is it that Bible readers imagine "Let us..." to mean "Let us THREE..." The verse says nothing about three members of a Godhead.

The helpful note in the NIV Study Bible (on Gen. 1:26) points out that God involved His angels in some way with creation. Angels, when they appear, look like men (Gen. 18:2). Both man and angels bear a resemblance to God Himself. From the *Word Bible Commentary* ("From a team of international scholars, a showcase of the best in evangelical scholarship"):

"When angels appear in the OT they are frequently described as men (Gen. 18:2). And in fact the use of the singular verb in v. 27 does in fact suggest that God worked alone in the creation of mankind. 'Let us create man' should therefore be regarded as a divine announcement to the heavenly [angelic] court, drawing the angelic host's attention to the master stroke of creation, man. As Job 38:4, 7 puts it: 'When I laid the foundation of the earth all the Sons of God shouted for joy' (cp. Luke 2:13-14)."

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The idea that Genesis 1:26 even hints at the Trinity is false. The *Word Bible Commentary* states correctly, "It is now universally admitted that the use of the plural in Gen. 1:26 did not mean to the author that [God was more than one Person.]"

Real truth-seekers will make an effort not to start their investigation with the assumption that the Trinity is a true biblical teaching. They will begin with an open mind and look for clear evidence. Is there such evidence in the Old Testament?

Many have abandoned Genesis 1:26 as any indication of plurality in God. The NIV study note, widely available, provides the public with the needed information pointing out with many commentaries that God was addressing His attendant council of angels. There is no shred of proof for the Trinity in Genesis 1:26.

What if you picked up a book in which the father of a family was described by the singular pronouns "I," "me," and "him" hundreds of times? If that same father then said, "Let us take a vacation" would you immediately think that the father was really more than one person? Or would you think that the father was inviting others to join him, a single individual, in an activity?

"Does Everyone Believe In The Trinity?" is available in its entirety in the 21st Century Reformation online Library under Who is God or visit Restoration Fellowship at www.restorationfellowship.org/articles/trinity