

The Black Velvet Project

created by the Pulpitarian Fuehrer

The Council of Nicaea

The First Council of Nicaea, held in Nicea in Bithynia (in present-day Turkey), convoked by the Roman Emperor Constantine I in 325, was the first ecumenical conference of bishops of the Christian Church.

The purpose of the council (also called a synod) was to resolve disagreements in the Church of Alexandria over the nature of Jesus in relationship to the Father; in particular, whether Jesus was of the same or of similar substance as God the Father. St. Alexander of Alexandria and Athanasius took the first position; the popular presbyter Arius, from whom the term Arian controversy comes, took the second. The council decided against the Arians overwhelmingly (of the estimated 250-318 attendees, all but 2 voted against Arius).

Arian controversy (Arianism)

The Arian controversy was a Christological dispute that began in Alexandria between the followers of Arius (the Arians) and the followers of St. Alexander of Alexandria (now known as homoousians). Alexander and his followers believed that the Son was of the same substance as the Father, co-eternal with him. The Arians believed that they were different and that the Son, though he may be the most perfect of creations, was only a creation. A third group (now known as homoiousians) tried to make a compromise position, saying that the Father and the Son were of similar substance.

Much of the debate hinged on the difference between being "born" or "created" and being "begotten". Arians saw these as the same; followers of Alexander did not.

Homoousians believed that to follow the Arian view destroyed the unity of the Godhead, and made the Son unequal to the Father, in contravention of the Scriptures ("The Father and I are one", John 10:30). Arians, on the other hand, believed that since God the Father created the Son, he must have emanated from the Father, and thus be lesser than the Father, in that the Father is eternal, but the Son was created afterward and, thus, is not eternal. The Arians likewise appealed to Scripture, quoting verses such as John 14:28: "the Father is greater than I".

Jesus Christ is said to be "begotten, not made," asserting his co-eternality with God, and confirming it by stating his role in the Creation.

Finally, he is said to be "from the substance of the Father," in direct opposition to Arianism. Some ascribe the term Consubstantial, i.e., "of the same substance" (of the Father), to Constantine who, on this particular point, may have chosen to exercise his authority. Of the third article only the words "and in the Holy Spirit" were left; the original Nicene Creed ended with these words. In the Council of Nicaea, one specific creed was used to define the Church's faith clearly, to include those who professed it, and to exclude those who did not.

The works of Arius were ordered to be confiscated and consigned to the flames, although there is no evidence that this occurred. Nevertheless, the controversy, already festering, continued in various parts of the empire.

Effect of the council

The long-term effects of the Council of Nicaea were significant. For the first time, representatives of many of the bishops of the Church convened to agree on a doctrinal statement. Also for the first time, the Emperor played a role, by calling together the bishops under his authority, and using the power of the state to give the Council's orders effect.

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The above models for God were decided on by a **council** dating back to **325 AD**. With the subsequent advancement and further developments in the fields of study ranging from pure science to technology, **The Black Velvet Project** now challenges **YOU** to come up with an improved model for God. The central criterion is that your model should not falter when put to the scriptural test (that is, when tested against **any** biblical verses). If so, it will **crash & burn** and be ejected from this forum.

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In this forum we view the Nature of God from six possible perspectives:

1. The Trinity #1	A singular GOD presented in the form of three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit In this context God is ONE God who presents himself in three forms: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
2. The Trinity #2	The Three Persons of God - GOD the Father, GOD the Son & GOD the Holy Spirit. In this context of God there are the three persons of God: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit who act together in one unified form.
3. The Dual Deities	The Father and the Son are separate and were in existence from the beginning. In this context the Father and the Son are separate and were in existence from the beginning, co-operating together in a GOD family.
4. The Duality	The Dual Nature of God - GOD presented as the Father & the Son. In this context of understanding God, we have to look at the building block of life: the cell. In nature, the individual cell divides to form a Parent cell and a Child cell. These cells in turn divide to form a Parent cell and a Child cell, and the process continues along in like manner. If this process occurred only once, it would result in an only-begotten Child cell.
5. The Singularity #1	GOD as the One and Only Supreme with the Son as the first of Creation. In this context God is ONE God who created his firstborn Son. The first created Son, as the first of all creation, is created as an exact duplicate of the Father.
6. The Singularity #2	GOD as the One and Only Supreme with the Son as the first of Creation. In this context God is ONE God who created his firstborn Son. The first created Son is the first of all creation.

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Religions as they fit into the various groups

Below is a general list of various religions as they conform to the groupings outlined above.
You can obtain additional information on each denomination at Wikipedia.org, the online encyclopedia.

The Trinity #1

Modalism

The Trinity #2

Trinitarians

Traditional
Christianity

Seventh Day
Adventists

Worldwide Church
of God

The Dual Deities

Armstrongians

The Church of God

The Duality

No denomination

The Singularity #1

No denomination

The Singularity #2

Russelites

Jehovah's
Witnesses

Other groupings:

Arianism: (not to be confused with Aryan which is an ethnic group) is an obsolete religious teaching of the followers of Arius

Mormons: The Latter Day Saints of the church of Jesus Christ

Millerites: The followers of the teachings of William Miller

You can find out more about each denomination by visiting Wikipedia.org: the online encyclopedia.

Mark 3:25 And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand.

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(1) KJV - Genesis 1:26 ¶And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

The Trinity #1

In this context, as it is inconceivable that God is addressing himself, it must be discerned that the term 'Let us' indicates that God is addressing the angels in heaven. Here God has created man with his qualities and in his image and likeness.

The Trinity #2

In this context the term 'Let us' indicates that God the Father is addressing God the Son and God the Holy Spirit and possibly the angels in heaven. Here God has created man with his qualities and in his image and likeness.

The Dual Deities

In this context the term 'Let us' indicates that the Father is addressing the Son and possibly the angels in heaven. Here the Father has created man with his qualities and in his image and likeness.

The Duality

In this context the term 'Let us' indicates that God is addressing his begotten Son and possibly the angels in heaven. This verse has a profound meaning as all men originate from a single cell that constantly divides into Parent and Child cells. These cells take on specialized functions to create a fully formed human being. Each cell in the body is a duplicate of the original cell. Here God has created man with his qualities and in his image and likeness.

The Singularity #1

In this context the term 'Let us' indicates that God is addressing his duplicate created Son and possibly the angels in heaven. Here God has created man with his qualities and in his image and likeness.

The Singularity #2

In this context the term 'Let us' indicates that God is addressing his created Son and possibly the angels in heaven. Here God has created man with his qualities and in his image and likeness.

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(2) KJV - John 1:1 ¶In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 The same was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

The Trinity #1

In this context, as God merely *presents* himself in the form of the Son, the Word [meaning the Son] is in fact God himself.

The Trinity #2

In this context the Word [God the Son] is with God the Father. As part of the triune Godhead, the Word was God.

The Dual Deities

In this context the Word [the Son] is with God. Having the same qualities, the Word [the Son], is equivalent to God.

The Duality

In this context the Word [the begotten Son] is with God. Having originated from the exact same Source, the Word [the begotten Son], was God.

The Singularity #1

In this context the Word [the duplicate created Son] is with God. Having been created as a duplicate of God, the Word [the duplicate created Son] was God.

The Singularity #2

In this context the Word [the created Son] is with God. As the only direct creation of God, the Word [the created Son] is seen as a god.

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- (3)** KJV - Matthew 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. 32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

The Trinity #1

In this context a word spoken against God when he presents himself in the form of the Son will be forgiven, but a word spoken against God when he presents himself in the form of the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven.

The Trinity #2

In this context a word spoken against God the Son shall be forgiven, but a word spoken against God the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven.

The Dual Deities

In this context a word spoken against the Son shall be forgiven, but a word spoken against God's holy spirit shall not be forgiven.

The Duality

In this context a word spoken against the begotten Son of God shall be forgiven, but a word spoken against God's holy spirit shall not be forgiven.

The Singularity #1

In this context a word spoken against the duplicate created Son of God shall be forgiven, but a word spoken against God's holy spirit shall not be forgiven.

The Singularity #2

In this context a word spoken against the created Son of God shall be forgiven, but a word spoken against God's holy spirit shall not be forgiven.

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(4) KJV - Mark 13:32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

The Trinity #1

In this context, as God merely presents himself in the form of the Son, this is impossible and would be tantamount to a lie.

The Trinity #2

In this context God the Son is unaware of the day and the hour, only God the Father is.

The Dual Deities

In this context the Son is unaware of the day and the hour, only the Father is.

The Duality

In this context the begotten Son is unaware of the day and the hour, only the Father is.

The Singularity #1

In this context the duplicate created Son is unaware of the day and the hour, only the Father is.

The Singularity #2

In this context the created Son is unaware of the day and the hour, only the Father is.

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(5) KJV - John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The Trinity #1

No comment.

The Trinity #2

In this context God the Son is given the title of only begotten Son, indicating that 1) God the Son was not always in existence in the triune Godhead or 2) the term refers to the fact that God the Son was the only spirit being to be **born** as a human.

The Dual Deities

In this context the term refers to the fact that the Son was the only spirit being to be **born** as a human.

The Duality

In this context the Son was begotten.

The Singularity #1

In this context the duplicate created Son was the first and only direct creation of God and hence the only begotten Son. All other things in heaven and on earth ensued from the Son.

The Singularity #2

In this context the created Son was the first and only direct creation of God and hence the only begotten Son. All other things in heaven and on earth ensued from the Son.

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- (6) KJV - Philippians 2:6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:
7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:
8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.
9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:
10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

The Trinity #1

In this context God merely *presents* himself as the Son in the likeness of men.

The Trinity #2

In this context God the Son relinquishes his power and presents himself in the likeness of men.

The Dual Deities

In this context the Son relinquishes his power and presents himself in the likeness of men.

The Duality

In this context the begotten Son relinquishes his power and presents himself in the likeness of men.

The Singularity #1

In this context the duplicate created Son relinquishes his power and presents himself in the likeness of men.

The Singularity #2

In this context the created Son relinquishes his power and presents himself in the likeness of men.

(7) KJV - Revelation 2:8 ¶And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

The Trinity #1

In this context God, in the form of the Son is the firstborn of the dead who existed from the beginning.

Firstborn of the dead indicates that the Son was raised to life and **continues** to live indefinitely, thus leading the way for others to follow.

The Trinity #2

In this context God the Son is the firstborn of the dead who existed from the beginning.

Firstborn of the dead indicates that the Son was raised to life and **continues** to live indefinitely, thus leading the way for others to follow.

The Dual Deities

In this context the Son is the firstborn of the dead who existed from the beginning.

Firstborn of the dead indicates that the Son was raised to life and **continues** to live indefinitely, thus leading the way for others to follow.

The Duality

In this context the begotten Son is the firstborn of the dead who existed from the beginning.

Firstborn of the dead indicates that the Son was raised to life and **continues** to live indefinitely, thus leading the way for others to follow.

The Singularity #1

In this context the duplicate created Son is the firstborn of the dead.

Firstborn of the dead indicates that the Son was raised to life and **continues** to live indefinitely, thus leading the way for others to follow.

The Singularity #2

In this context the created Son is the firstborn of the dead.

Firstborn of the dead indicates that the Son was raised to life and **continues** to live indefinitely, thus leading the way for others to follow.

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- (8) KJV - Revelation 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.
- 13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.
- 14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.
- 15 For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.
- 16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.
- 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.
- 18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:
- 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.
- 20 ¶He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus.

The Trinity #1

In this context God, *presenting* himself in the form of the Son, is the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last.

The Trinity #2

In this context God the Son, as part of the triune Godhead, is the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last.

The Dual Deities

In this context, the Son, having always existed from the beginning is the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, as the Father is the Alpha and Omega, and the first and the last.

The Duality

In this context, the begotten Son, having originated from the same Source is the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, as the Father is the Alpha and Omega, and the first and the last.

The Singularity #1

In this context, as the duplicate created Son would not claim to be the first and the last or the Alpha and Omega, it must be assumed that Rev 22:13-15 is referring to the Father. While the duplicate created Son could claim "equality" with the Father, he would in reality be the second and the last.

The Singularity #2

In this context, as the created Son would not claim to be the first and the last or the Alpha and Omega, it must be assumed that Rev 22:13-15 is referring to the Father. The created Son would be, in this context, the second and the last.