

“The Godhead”

Introduction

The word **“Godhead”** occurs *three* times in scripture; Acts 17:29, Romans 1:20, Colossians 2:9. Each occurrence of the word **“Godhead”** has a special significance with respect to the word itself. 1 John 5:7 identifies the three Persons of the **“Godhead.”**

“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one” 1 John 5:7¹. Fundamentalists have disputed 1 John 5:7 but Gail Riplinger² states that *The testimony of early writers, the great mass of Old Latin and Vulgate manuscripts, the necessities of Greek syntax and the cry of the priesthood of believers all mandate its inclusion in the text...*

Versions: Old Syriac A.D. 170, Old Latin A.D. 200, Vulgate: 4th and 5th century, Italic: 4th and 5th century.

Writers: Tatian A.D. 150, Tertullian A.D. 200, Cyprian A.D. 225, Athanasius A.D. 350, Priscillian A.D. 350, Vadmarium A.D. 380, Cassian A.D. 435, Jerome A.D. 450, Cassiodorus A.D. 480, Vigilus A.D. 484, Victor-Vita A.D. 489, Fulgentius A.D. 533, PS Athanasius A.D. 550.

Writings: Liber Apologeticus A.D. 350, Council of Carthage A.D. 415.

Considering the three references in scripture to the term **“Godhead”** in turn:

Acts 17:29

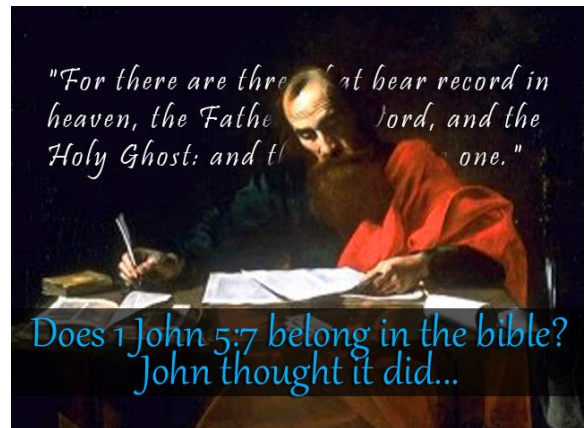
Acts 17:29 is significant as *the first mention* of the word **“Godhead”** in scripture.

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

Paul’s statement condemns idolatry but it also shows that *even idolatrous heathen* (apart from **“certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks”** Acts 17:18, who may be found in various academic circles today) had a better understanding of **“the true God and eternal life”** 1 John 5:20 than modern version editors and Bible critics like James White and Robert A. Joyner. Acts 17:29 shows that they knew that they needed *three* materials; *gold, silver, stone* to represent **“THE UNKNOWN GOD”** Acts 17:23 *even in idolatry*. Note then Paul’s exhortation to the Corinthians. **“Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble”** 1 Corinthians 3:12.

Noting again that **“we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone”** because these substances do not live and God is **“the living God”** Deuteronomy 5:26, Joshua 3:10, 1 Samuel 17:26, 36, 2 Kings 19:4, 16, Psalm 42:2, 84:2, Isaiah 37:4, 17, Jeremiah 10:10, 23:36, Daniel 6:20, 26, Hosea 1:10, Matthew 16:16, 26:63, John 6:69, Acts 14:15, Romans 9:26, 2 Corinthians 3:3, 6:16, 1 Timothy 3:15, 4:10, 6:17, Hebrews 3:12, 9:14, 10:31, 12:22, Revelation 7:2; 30 references in all, these substances are nevertheless a reminder of **“the Godhead”**³:

- **“Gold”** is a reminder of **“the Father”** 1 John 5:7 in that gold was used extensively in the construction of the tabernacle and in the making of the priestly garments. **“All the gold that was occupied for the work in all the work of the holy place, even the gold of the offering, was twenty and nine talents, and seven hundred and thirty shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary”** Exodus 38:24 with Exodus 25, 26, 36, 37. **“And these are the garments which they shall make; a breastplate, and an ephod, and a**



1 John 5:7 and the Record in Heaven

robe, and a broidered coat, a mitre, and a girdle: and they shall make holy garments for Aaron thy brother, and his sons, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office" Exodus 28:4 with Exodus 28, 39.

- **"Silver"** is a reminder of **"the Word"** 1 John 5:7 because silver is the price of redemption, Exodus 30:13-15, Numbers 3:47-49 and **"the Word"** John 1:1, 2, 14 is the Lord Jesus Christ **"In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins"** Colossians 1:14.
- **"Precious stones"** are a reminder of **"the Holy Ghost"** 1 John 5:7 because **"the Spirit is life because of righteousness"** Romans 8:10 and **"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ"** 1 Peter 2:5 **"And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him"** Malachi 3:17.

As indicated *even unsaved idolatrous heathen* (apart from **"certain philosophers of the Epicureans, and of the Stoicks"** Acts 17:18, who may be found in various academic circles today) understood **"the Godhead"** Acts 17:29 better than those who changed **"Godhead"** into **"Deity"** etc. and those who approved of or even condoned that change.

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; so that they are without excuse" Romans 1:20. Romans 1:20 associates God's **"eternal power"** with the Godhead. *All three Persons of the Godhead manifest this eternal power.*

"God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God" Psalm 62:11.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" Matthew 28:18.

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost" Romans 15:13.

Colossians 2:9

"For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" Colossians 2:9.

Colossians 2:9 associates **"fulness"** with the Godhead. *All three Persons of the Godhead manifest this fulness.* In addition to Colossians 2:9 note:

"Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there" Psalm 139:7-8.

"Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD" Jeremiah 23:24.

Conclusion

The word **"Godhead"** confirms Three Persons, Acts 17:29, **"the power of God"** Luke 22:69, Romans 1:20 and **"the fulness of God"** Ephesians 3:19, Colossians 2:9 as **"a threefold cord"** Ecclesiastes 4:12 **"and these three are one"** 1 John 5:7.

References

All web references were current at the time of writing. See shop.timefortruth.co.uk/ruckman.html for Dr Ruckman's books.

¹ www.defendproclaimthefaith.org/1_john_57_and_the_record_in_heaven.html 1 John 5:7 and the Record in Heaven by John McTernan

www.timefortruth.co.uk/bible-studies/alan-oreillys-studies.php 1 John 4, 5

² www.avpublications.com/avnew/home.html New Age Bible Versions by Gail Riplinger, p 381 2008 Edition, p 421 2019 Edition

³ store.kjv1611.org/ Ruckman Reference Bible p 1513