

Notice in today's Gospel we see an early example of the TRINITY in action.

GOD (the Father)

TRINITY with John the Baptist  
at Ravenna Italy

c.550

SON

SPIRIT,

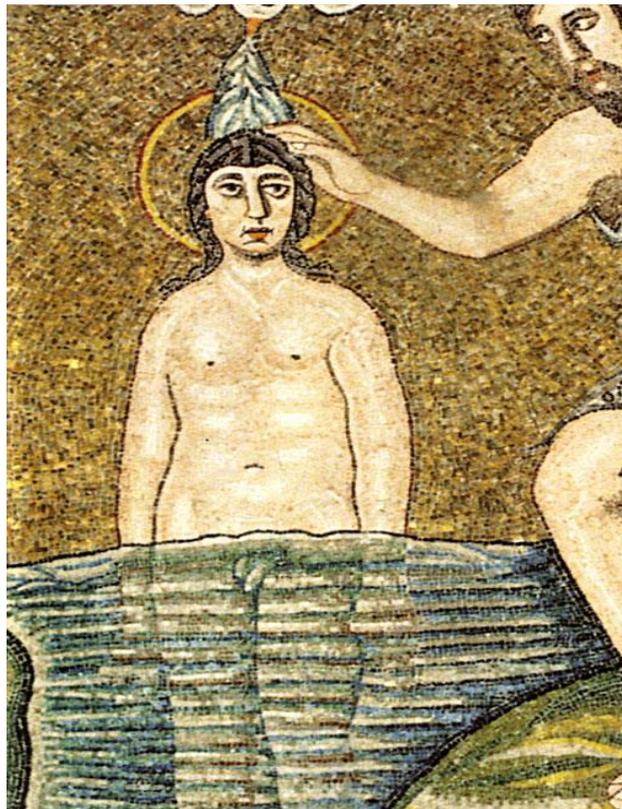
The same creating 'breath'  
and 'WIND'  
who moved over the waters  
creating the world  
in Genesis.

Surrounded by  
all the Martyrs  
and Saints



102. The Baptism of Christ, mosaic in the Arian Baptistery, Ravenna, first half of the sixth century

Any doubt that XT  
IS TRUE MAN?



## GOSPEL

Some early Xtians thought that Jesus was just a MAN until his baptism by John. Jehovah's Witnesses today still hold this idea. MATTHEW and LUKE included their Xmas INFANCY NARRATIVES, in order to teach clearly that XT was GOD when he was BORN. Then John, in the last Gospel written, adds that XT was God even before he was “born”. [This explains the Gospel: In the Beginning. . . which we read on Xmas Day.]

Matt emphasizes JOSEPH; Luke, MARY. Tradition has it that LUKE got his ‘story’ from Mary.

I am adding v. 17 to show how Matthew makes his point, repeating 14.

v.17 Thus the total number of generations from Abraham to David is **fourteen** generations; from David to the Babylonian exile, **fourteen** generations; from the Babylonian exile to the Messiah, **fourteen** generations.

Why? Because like most ancient languages the Letters of the alphabet were also NUMBERS. The number 14 in Hebrew is **DVD = DaViD**. = 7174 + 6 + 4

It is a shorthand way for Matt to say that JESUS is the Son of DAVID. 7 = *daleth* 1 = *va* [Even that is not so SIMPLE. Though Matt’s genealogy shows the continuity of God’s plan from Abraham on, there is some difference from the standard OT list of names and from Luke’s list. [[They emphasize different points.]] The women: *Tamar* (Mt 1:3), *Rahab and Ruth* (Mt 1:5), and the wife of Uriah, *Bathsheba* (Mt 1:6), were NON-Jews or bore their sons through unions that were unusual and unexpected. These “irregularities” culminate in the supreme “irregularity” of the Messiah’s birth of a **virgin mother**. *Mary, pregnant by the Holy Spirit, is also an out-of-the-ordinary creative act of God.* If all this sounds pretty dense, Raymond E Brown, the most famous bible scholar of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, wrote a whole book on this! Brown was a Catholic Priest who taught for 30 years at Union Theological, a Protestant Seminary!]

**betrothal** was the first part of the marriage. In Jewish Law the two were ‘married’ even before they lived together.

**A righteous man and UNwilling to expose her to shame** The penalty for proven adultery was death by stoning. Now we can be sure that Joseph understood about Birds and Bees. So in Matthew’s Godspel Joseph is held up for us as a man of FAITH. He trusted God, just as Mary trusted Gabriel. Joseph’s willingness to trust God—against all human knowledge—was an important theme in Medieval Thinking.

### The angel of the Lord

Jews felt that God was so “other”, so different from us humans, that Angels (= *Messengers*) were needed to communicate with us. **In a dream!** There are countless instances of God communicating in DREAMS. Dreams are common ways for gods to communicate in all cultures.

*Matt does not say GABRIEL. He simply says “an angel”. GABRIEL is named only IN LUKE, where Gabriel announces the birth of John the Baptist—itsself extraordinary—to Elizabeth and then announces the birth of Christ to Mary—even more out of the ordinary.*

*In both cases the HOLY SPIRIT is present because new LIFE is being created.*

**Jesus:** in first-century Judaism the Hebrew name **Jesus** is also **Joshua** (Greek Iēsous - Ἰησοῦς) meaning “Yahweh helps”, can also mean “Yahweh saves.” Same name as the Joshua who “Fit the Battle of Jericho”.

**Until she bore a son:** the Evangelist emphasizes that Joseph was not responsible for the conception of Jesus. This does not necessarily mean that Mary had no other children—even for Catholics. {See Raymond E Brown on that too.} In fact there were several early Xtian thinkers who thought she did. If this blows your mind, sorry. Jerome and some others did NOT. Jerome said the use of ‘brothers’ was like the Black sub-culture use of “my brothers” or using it for teammates, “My bros on the team”. Catholics and Orthodox have agreed with Jerome.

Xtians from the beginning have identified this VIRGIN [young unmarried girl, maiden] with Mary.

Isaiah:

... a young unmarried girl (trans: Virgin) shall give birth to a son, who will be called Emma-nu-el, usually translated “God is With Us” but as it comes = the “With-Us-God.”

emma= with

nu = us all;

elohim = the Most High God.

NOTE: Muhammad in the Koran accepts the virgin birth of `Īsā.

Muhammad says: **If Allah can create the world from nothing, why can't he make a great prophet like `Īsā without a human father.** Is this another shocker?

In fact Mary, MIRIAM, is the only woman named in the Koran. Two chapters, Suras, of the Koran are dedicated to MIRIAM.

The Psalm asks: **Who will see the Lord?**

Answer: whoever ascends God's Holy Mountain

--with a **pure heart.**

Epistle to the ROMANS

Doulos in Greek means slave; Latin uses *servus*, which means either *slave* or *servant*. In those days not much difference. Both have to carry out the wishes of their Master. In Paul's case his master is Christ. Paul has to carry out the orders of XT. Why? Because XT called him to be a disciple. Xt call US too, so we have to carry out his orders.

Like **Joseph**, who faithfully carried *out the* orders of his God, **Paul** has to attend to God's “orders”, since *Paul has accepted XT as his Lord. He must be a faithful servant! That is the message for all of us.*