

231.1-3  
1d 5-c  
NBTS  
M.Th.

**THE NIGERIAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

**THE CONCEPT OF THE TRINITY IN SOME SELECTED  
SERVANT PASSAGES IN ISAIAH AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR  
CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANS**

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO**

**THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES IN CANDIDACY  
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF THEOLOGY**

**DEPARTMENT OF BIBLICAL STUDIES**

**BY**

**DAVID OLUSOLA IDOWU**

**OGBOMOSO, OYO STATE**

**JUNE, 2005**

**J. C. POOL LIBRARY  
BAPTIST SEMINARY  
OGBOMOSO NIGERIA**

06 - 0507

## ABSTRACT

The concept of the Trinity, which is one of the cardinal doctrines of the Christian faith, states that God is one but has revealed Himself in three distinct persons as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This concept has been a subject of perennial debate since its formulation in the fourth century. This debate cuts across different religious groups. While there good number of Christians, both in the contemporary and in the yesteryears that are confused about the concept, other religious groups like Judaism and Islam are of the opinion that God cannot be one and three at the same time. Hence, the concept of the Trinity, to them, promotes polytheism. Furthermore, the basis for both the confusion of the Christians and the allegation of other religious groups is that the doctrine is unscriptural.

Therefore, this thesis titled "The Concept of the Trinity in Some Selected Servant Passages in Isaiah and Its Implications for Contemporary Christians," attempts to proffer solution to the problem of misconception of the doctrine of the Trinity by establishing its biblical revelation through a method of exegetical investigation of some selected servant passages in Isaiah that foreshadow the doctrine in the Old Testament. The selected servant passages are Isaiah 42:1; 48:16; 61:1 and 63:9-10. These servant passages were chosen because they all give glimpses of the three persons of the Trinity. Also, in addition to establishing the biblical basis for the doctrine of the Trinity this thesis also aims at bringing to consciousness the fact that the concept of the Trinity is foreshadowed to a large extent in the Hebrew Scripture otherwise known as the Old Testament in the Christian Scripture.

The significance of this thesis is seen in the implications of the result of the exegesis carried out. This significance relates to Christian doctrine; Christian preaching; Christian apologetics, and Christian living.

## RECOMMENDATION

This writer has only explored a fraction of the many indicators that point to the revelation of the Trinity in the Old Testament Scripture. Hence, it is therefore recommended that a further research can be carried out in the future with regard to the subject in focus. Two major areas that may be considered for such an exercise are: "The use and meaning of מַלְאֲכֵי יְהוָה (The Angel of Yahweh) in the Old Testament with a particular reference to the book of Genesis (or any other book)," and "The use of plural pronouns and verbs for God in the Old Testament and its implications."

This thesis has established the fact that the doctrine of the Trinity is not a later development or an after thought of God's self-disclosure. This is clearly evident in the result of the passages exegeted in this work. It therefore means that the doctrine is a progressive revelation of God, starting from the Old Testament era when He began to make Himself known to His chosen people,

Israel, to the period of the Incarnation of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ in the New Testament epoch. Consequently, the doctrine of the Trinity is Scriptural and logical. This is because it is a matter of faith, and not just a subject of reason.