

**From the *Shema* to the *Homoousios*:
The Jewish Roots and New Testament Origins of the Nicene Creed**

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We believe in one God, the Father	Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:6; Matt. 28:19; Eph. 4:5, 6; Acts 2:33
The Almighty	Rev. 4:8, 11
<i>Maker of heaven and earth,</i>	Exod. 20:11; Acts 17:24–25; Rom. 1:20
of all things both visible and invisible	Col. 1:16
And in one Lord Jesus Christ	Deut. 6:4; 1 Cor. 8:6; Matt. 28:19; Eph. 4:5; Acts 2:21, 36
the Son of God, the <i>only-begotten</i> ,	John 1:14 ; 3:16, 18
begotten from the Father <i>before all the ages</i> ,	[cf. John 1:1, 2 ; also Heb. 1:2]
that is, <u>from the substance of the Father</u> ,	Cf. John 1:14; Phil. 2:6
<u>God from God</u> ,	John 1:1b, 1c
Light from Light, true God from true God	John 1:4–5, 7–9 ; John 17:3; 1 John 5:20
begotten, not made	John 1:3, 14
consubstantial (ὁμοούσιον) with the Father;	Cf. John 1:14 ; see also Phil. 2:6
through whom all things came to be	John 1:3, 10; 1 Cor. 8:6b; Col. 1:16; Heb. 1:2
<u>both things in heaven and things on earth</u> ;	Col. 1:16
who for us humans and for our salvation	1 Cor. 15:3 ; Rom. 5:8; Eph. 5:2; Titus 2:14
came down <i>from the heavens</i> ,	John 6:31–58; 16:27–28
and became incarnate	John 1:14
from the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,	Matt. 1:18–20; Luke 1:35
and was made [<i>became</i>] human	Phil. 2:6–7 ; cf. John 1:14
<i>was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate</i> ,	Acts 2:23; Phil. 2:8
suffered, <i>and was buried</i> ;	1 Cor. 15:3–4
and rose the third day,	Acts 2:32; 1 Cor. 15:4 ; 1 Peter 3:21
<i>according to the Scriptures</i> ,	Cf. Acts 2:16, 25; 1 Cor. 15:4
and ascended into the heavens;	Acts 2:33–34 (cf. 1:9–11); Eph. 4:8–10; 1 Peter 3:22a
<i>and sits at the right hand of the Father</i> ;	Acts 2:33 ; 1 Peter 3:22b
and will come again <i>with glory</i>	Matt. 16:27; Mark 8:38; 2 Thess. 1:7–10
to judge the living and the dead;	Acts 2:35 ; 10:42; 2 Tim. 4:1
<i>of whose kingdom there will be no end.</i>	Luke 1:33; 2 Peter 1:11; Rev. 11:15
And in the Holy Spirit,	Matt. 28:19; Eph. 4:4; Acts 2:33, 38
<i>The Lord and life-giver</i> ,	2 Cor. 3:16–18; John 6:63; 2 Cor. 3:6
<i>Who proceeds from the Father</i> ,	John 15:26
<i>Worshipped and glorified with the Father and the Son</i> ,	Cf. John 4:21–24; Phil. 3:3; contrast Matt. 12:21–22; Heb. 10:29
<i>Who spoke through the prophets</i> ;	Acts 1:16; 28:25; 2 Peter 1:21; cf. Acts 2:18
<i>In one holy, catholic, and apostolic church.</i>	Eph. 4:4 ; Rom. 12:4–5; 1 Cor. 12:12–14; Col. 3:15
<i>We confess one baptism for the remission of sins.</i>	Acts 2:38; Eph. 4:5
<i>We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the age to come. Amen.</i>	Eph. 4:4 ; Mark 10:30; 1 Cor. 15:12–13, 21, 42

Underlined: Only in Creed of Nicaea (325); Italics: Added in Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed (381)
 Bold: Major passages: Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; John 1:1–18; Acts 2:14–39; 1 Cor. 8:6; 15:3–4; Col. 1:16; Phil. 2:5–8; Eph. 4:4–6

Table 1. Matthew 28:19 as the Framework for the Nicene Creed	
Matthew 28:19	Nicene Creed (325)
Baptizing them	We believe
<i>In</i> [εἰς] the name of <i>the Father</i>	<i>In</i> [εἰς] one God, <i>the Father</i>
And of <i>the Son</i>	<i>And in</i> [εἰς] one Lord, Jesus Christ, <i>the Son</i> of God
<i>And of the Holy Spirit</i>	<i>And in</i> [εἰς] <i>the Holy Spirit</i>

Table 2. Ephesians 4:4–6 and the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed	
Ephesians 4:4–6 (different order)	Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed
One faith	We believe
One God and Father of all	One God, the Father
One Lord	One Lord, Jesus Christ
One Spirit	The Holy Spirit
One body	One holy catholic and apostolic church
One baptism	One baptism
One hope	we look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the age to come

Table 3. Acts 2:14-39 and the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed	
Acts 2	Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed
God . . . the Father (v. 33)	I believe in one God, the Father
Everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. . . God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus (vv. 21, 36)	And in one Lord, Jesus Christ
Crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men [i.e., Pilate and his men] (v. 23)	He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, and suffered, and was buried
This Jesus God raised up (v. 32)	And the third day he rose again
This is what was uttered through the prophet Joel. . . . For David says concerning him (vv. 16, 25)	In accordance with the Scriptures
exalted at the right hand of God (v. 33)	And ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father
until I make your enemies your footstool (v. 35)	From there he shall come again with glory to judge the living and the dead
the Holy Spirit (vv. 33, 38; cf. v. 18)	And in the Holy Spirit
the remission of your sins (v. 38)	Baptism for the remission of sins

On the interpretation of many of the biblical texts cited here, see Robert M. Bowman Jr. and J. Ed Komoszewski, *The Incarnate Christ and His Critics: A Biblical Defense* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 2024).