

# The Triquetra



The NKJV carries a triquetra as part of its cover design. The publishers explain this symbol on the copyright page of each edition as follows:

**Cover Design:** The triquetra (from a Latin word meaning "three cornered") is an ancient symbol of the Trinity. It comprises three interwoven arcs, distinct yet equal and inseparable, symbolizing that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are three distinct yet equal Persons and indivisibly One God.

Concerning the triquetra, the logo used on the NKJV, Riplinger asserted:

The NKJV logo is the ancient symbol for the pagan trinity, not the Christian Trinity. Use of number symbols (like this 666) can be traced back to Pythagoras (582 B.C.), initiate into the Egyptian mysteries. The symbol was popularized again by satanist Aleister Crowley (circa 1900) for the Royal Arch (Lucifer) of the 3rd Degree of the York Order of Masonry. The symbol's shape is duplicated as three initiates join arms and feet, while repeating the names of [the] ancient pagan trinity. The NKJV's symbol can be seen on satanic rock group albums like Led Zeppelin, as well as on New Age bestsellers like The Aquarian Conspiracy.

This statement is false in several respects. It is false because it is in direct contradiction with authorities on Christian symbolism. Thomas Albert Stafford declared that the triquetra is

...one of the most beautiful and most satisfying of the symbols of the Holy Trinity. The three equal arcs of the circle denote equality of the three Persons of the Godhead. The lines run continuously and therefore express their eternal existence. They are interwoven, which expresses their unity. The center forms an equilateral triangle, itself a symbol of the Trinity. Each pair of arcs combines to form a "vesica," previously explained as an aureole, indicative of glory. So, here we have a complex expression of equality, eternity, unity and glory in what is essentially a simple form.<sup>1</sup>

Heather Child and Dorothy Colles affirm the same details, indicating that the symbol is early:

*The Triquetra* is an early symbol of the Trinity; the continuous interweaving of indivisible but equal arcs may be taken to express Eternity; in the centre is the triangle of the Trinity.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Thomas Albert Stafford, *Christian Symbols in the Evangelical Churches* (New York: Abingdon-Cokesbury Press, 1994), pp. 50-52.

<sup>2</sup> Heather Child and Dorothy Colles, *Christian Symbols, Ancient and Modern: A Handbook for Students* (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1971), p. 44.

Robert P. Wetzler and Helen Huntington also identify the triquetra as a symbol of the Holy Trinity.<sup>3</sup>

Riplinger's statement is false because the symbol that appears on some albums of the rock group Led Zeppelin has been modified with a superimposed circle. Furthermore, Riplinger falsely identifies the triquetra with the symbol on the cover of Marilyn Ferguson's book *The Aquarian Conspiracy*. However, that symbol is not a triquetra, as Riplinger rightly knows--she has been informed.<sup>4</sup> The symbols are similar but distinctly different as the following illustration indicates. The triquetra has three distinct corners, as its name indicates; the symbol on Ferguson's book has three rounded lobes which cannot be confused with corners.



Triquetra

Ferguson's Symbol

From this false equating of the symbols, Riplinger imagines that the triquetra forms three sixes which she then identifies with the number 666 of the antichrist. One could visualize sixes on a Ferguson's symbol, but never on a triquetra. No one writes or prints a six with a pointed bottom! The following illustration demonstrates how ridiculous the suggestion is:



Triquetra 6 (?)

Mobius 6

The evidence indicates that Riplinger bore false witness. The triquetra is an ancient symbol of the Holy Trinity and it remains so today. The fact that recent unbelievers have abused, misused, and even desecrated this symbol does not deprive it of its ancient sacred significance.

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Source: Email received 3/10/2008

Wayne: Attached is a file on the triquetra.

It is extracted from my defense of the NKJV against Ripplinger's false accusations of the NKJV.

You may use the material as you see fit.

Blessings,  
Jim Price\*

\*Dr. James D. Price was the editor of the New King James version of the Bible.

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<sup>3</sup> Robert P. Wetzler and Helen Huntington, *Seasons and Symbols: A Handbook on the Church Year* (Minneapolis: Augsburg Publishing House, 1962), pp. 70, 71.

<sup>4</sup> See her book *New Age Bible Versions*, p. 101. There she erroneously equated the triquetra with the symbol on the cover of *The Aquarian Conspiracy* which she identified as a mobius symbol.