

Lighthouse Baptist Church

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John 1:1-5, 14

### The Pre-Existence of Jesus Christ

The great question before us today is the same as it was in the first century. Jesus and His disciples had just entered the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, and Jesus asks them a most important question: “Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?”

The disciples replied to the question with these words: “Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some Elias [Elijah]; and others, Jeremias [Jeremiah], or one of the prophets.” To the average person Jesus was one among many – good but not the best – great but not the greatest – a prophet but not the Prophet.

Many only saw Him as just human; a man of clay! But then Jesus looked to His disciples and asks: “But whom say ye that I am?” Simon Peter immediately answered and replied, “Thou art the Christ [Messiah], the Son of the living God.”

Then Jesus, in response to Peter’s answer said, “Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven” (ref. Matthew 16:13-17).

Peter, unlike many in his day, understood clearly the true identity of Jesus; but even Peter would not have known it if it had not been for the supernatural work of God the Father. Peter understood that there was more to Jesus than that which can only be arrived at through intellect or natural wisdom – there was something deeper to Jesus than most understand.

John, in our text tells us what that something is!

John opens our text with these words: “In the beginning was the Word [Christ], and the Word [Christ] was with God [the Father], and the Word [Christ] was God” (John 1:1).

Let us notice the phrase “In the beginning.” This phrase in John 1:1 is essentially the same as that of Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” It is very important to understand that both Moses and John had the same thing in mind when they refer to “the beginning.”

The phrase “In the beginning” does not refer to the beginning of some particular process, or to a definite localized point of time. Rather, both Moses and John were referring to the indefinite eternity which preceded all time, the immeasurable past.

The importance of these words cannot be overstated. Eternity past is of paramount importance!

Therefore, when John in verse 1 refers to “the beginning,” he is referring to something before time began – eternity past.

And in eternity past there “was the Word,” and we know that when John uses the word “Word” he is referring to the person “Christ.”

And where was Christ at this point? Christ was already in existence “with God,” and not only was He in existence with God, John said, Christ “was God.”

It cannot be said that Christ has come into being at any given time or moment; He always was! That is what is meant by the term “the pre-existent Christ.” Christ existed in eternity past before His birth as Jesus.

Furthermore, John said, “The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men” (John 1:2-4).

Then John tells us: “And the Word [Christ] was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14).

It was the angel Gabriel that announced to Mary “... thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS” (Luke 1:31).

It was also announced to Joseph that his wife Mary “... shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

Then Matthew records that “... all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us” (Matthew 1:22-23).

Christianity stands or falls on Christ’s pre-existence. Christ was in eternity past with God the Father, and was born as Jesus Christ to save us from sin – Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God. He is the second person in that great mystery we refer to as the trinity – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit!

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