

God the Son – Part 1

The Pre-existence of Christ

People often mistakenly believe that God the Son came into existence when Jesus was born from Mary. This could not be further from the truth. God the Son has existed from the beginning. This is what we mean by saying the “pre-existence of Christ” - that He existed before His birth on earth, and in fact, before the world existed. This section will study many passages that show that God the Son existed before creation.

- I. Study John 1:1-18 to find the answers to these questions (Yes, we studied this passage in a previous study packet, but repetitive analysis of scripture is never a bad thing!):
 - a. Highlight all the occurrences of “Light” in this section. How many did you find? _____
 - b. Highlight all the occurrences of “Word” in this section. How many did you find? _____
 - c. According to verses 1-3, through whom was the world made? _____
 - d. According to verse 9-10, through whom was the world made? _____
 - e. Do the terms “The Word” and “The Light” refer to different entities or the same entity? Please record which verse(s) prove your answer. _____

 - f. According to verse 14, what did the Word do? _____

 - g. In verse 15 what did John the Baptizer say about the Word? _____

 - h. What other verse in John 1 quotes this same statement? _____
 - i. What is the given name of the one about whom is John speaking when He makes this statement? _____
 - j. Which verses in Luke chapters 1-3 show the relationship between John the Baptizer and Jesus? _____
 - k. What was their relationship? _____
 - l. Which one was born first? _____
 - m. Since this is the case, the statement made by John the Baptizer in John 1:15 tells us what? _____

- n. Studying this section as a whole (John 1:1-18), Jesus is said to have existed before what? Please make a list of these things. _____

- II. For the next set of questions, you will need to study Colossians 1:13-20.
- a. To whom is the “Beloved Son” referring here? _____
- b. He is the image of whom? _____
- c. What three statements indicate His relationship to creation?
- i. _____ Him all things were created
- ii. All things have been created _____ Him
- iii. And (all things have been created) _____ Him
- d. What has been created by Him according to this passage? _____

- e. He is before what? _____
- f. What does He hold together? _____
- g. Of what is He the head? _____
- III. For the following passages, record what it says about the preexistence of Christ:
- a. John 1:24-30, _____

- b. John 3:12-15, _____

- c. John 8:57-59, _____

- d. John 16:26-28, _____

- e. John 17:5, _____

- f. John 17:24, _____

- g. 2 Corinthians 8:9, _____

h. Philippians 2:5-8, _____

i. Hebrews 1:1-2, _____

The Pre-incarnate Christ:

When Jesus was on earth, He was God incarnate (meaning that He was “God in the flesh” - in human form). Thus, the time before He was born on earth was the time before His incarnation. This is where we get the term pre-incarnate Christ. We have already looked at the fact that Christ existed before the foundations of the world, but what was He doing before His birth? In this section we will study times that we see Christ acting before His life on earth as a human.

The testimony of Isaiah 6:

- I. This part of the study requires us to examine two different passages. Let's start by turning to Isaiah 6:
 - a. In Isaiah 6, highlight or make note of all the occurrences of “Lord.” How many did you find? _____
 - b. Which Hebrew word is translated as “Lord” in this Chapter? _____
 - c. Why does Isaiah say, “Woe is me”? _____

 - d. What does the seraphim do to remedy this? _____

 - e. In verse 8 does the Lord refer to himself in the singular or the plural? _____
 - f. Who does the Lord send to preach to the people? _____
- II. Turn forward now to John 12:36-41:
 - a. Highlight or make note of all the pronouns (He, His) which refer to Jesus. How many did you find? _____
 - b. After Jesus said “these things” what did He do? _____
 - c. Did the people believe Jesus's message? _____
 - d. John 12:40 quotes which verse from Isaiah 6? _____
 - e. In whom did many of the authorities believe according to John 12:42? _____

- f. Why were they unwilling to admit their belief? _____

- g. Based on the context of this passage in John, who did Isaiah see in His glory according to John 12:41? _____
- h. Thus having studied these two passages (Isaiah 6 & John 12:36-41), which person of the Godhead did Isaiah see seated on His throne when he was called to preach? _____

The testimony of Isaiah 40:3-5

- III. Just like the previous section, this part of the study will also require us to examine two different passages. Let's start by turning to Isaiah 40:3-5.
 - a. In these verses, what Hebrew word is translated as Lord? _____
 - b. What Hebrew word is translated as God? _____
 - c. What is to be made in the desert for our God? _____

 - d. What is to happen to the valleys? _____
 - e. What is to happen to the mountains? _____
 - f. All of this done to reveal what? _____
- IV. Now let's turn forward to Matthew 3:1-6 to see the fulfillment of this passage:
 - a. Who is the person under discussion in these verses? _____
 - b. What was His primary message? _____
 - c. Which verse from Isaiah 40 is quoted here? _____
 - d. Read through the rest of Matthew Chapter 3. For whom did John prepare the way? _____
 - e. Isaiah 40 speaks of the way being prepared for _____, John fulfilled this by preparing the way for _____.
Thus, _____ is _____!

What Christ did before His incarnation:

- I. What does John 1:1-5 say that "The Word" (meaning Jesus) did in the beginning? _____
- II. What does Colossians 1:15-17 tell us that Jesus created? _____

- III. According to 1 Corinthians 10:1-4, who led the Israelites through the wilderness? _____
- IV. In 1 Peter 1:10-11, what is the Spirit of Christ said to have done before Christ's incarnation? _____
- V. In Revelation 19:10 what does an angel tell John about the testimony of Jesus? _____

The Angel of the Lord:

While this section technically still falls under the heading "The Pre-incarnate Christ," The Angel of the Lord is, in itself, a very involved study so it gets its own section. The Angel of the Lord is a figure who is seen throughout the Old Testament, and often could be the pre-incarnate Christ.

To be 100% sure that any particular instance is the pre-incarnate Christ, we must have confirmation of it in the New Testament (the second part of this section will discuss passages that mention the Angel of the Lord, but do not have New Testament confirmation that it is specifically referring to the Pre-incarnate Christ).

- I. Though it is not the first time that the Bible mentions the Angel of the Lord, Exodus 3 gives us a frame of reference to establish a better understanding concerning who the Angel of the Lord is:
 - a. What was Moses doing close to Mt. Horeb? _____
 - b. In Exodus 3:2, who appeared to Moses in the burning bush? _____

 - c. Which Hebrew word for "Lord" is used here? _____
 - d. Why must Moses take off his sandals? _____
 - e. How did God identify Himself in verse 6? _____

 - f. In what way does God refer to Himself in verse 14 after Moses asks about His name? _____
 - g. In verse 15 what name does God apply to Himself? _____
 - h. In this section we have seen God referred to as:
 - i. The _____ of the _____
 - ii. The God of your _____
 - iii. The _____ (Hebrew word: _____)
 - i. In this section does the Angel of the Lord accept worship? _____

- j. From these things, is it clear that the Angel of the Lord in this section is Deity? _____
- II. In conjunction with the previous passage, we also have to study John 8:54-59 to see the connection between the Angel of the Lord and Jesus.
- a. In verse 56, What does Jesus says that Abraham rejoiced to see? _____

- b. Why were the Jews so surprised by this statement? _____

- c. Jesus responds by saying “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, ____ ____.”
- d. By making this statement, Jesus is saying that He was the One who appeared to _____ in the burning bush (Exodus 3).
- e. In what way did the Jews respond to this statement? _____

- f. Would they have responded this way if He had not just claimed to be God? _____
- III. Next, we will study Exodus 23:20-25 (again, in connection with a New Testament passage), which will further solidify our view of who the Angel of the Lord is.
- a. The Angel sent by God was going to do what? _____

- b. What three ways were they to respond to the Angel?
- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____
- c. What reason did God give for why they should respond to the Angel in that way?
- i. _____
- ii. _____
- d. Who does verse 23 say would bring them to the promised land? _____

- IV. Once again, to fully understand the importance of this passage in Exodus, we must now cross-reference it with a passage in the New Testament. Turn forward to study 1 Corinthians 10:1-13.
- a. To what set of people is the phrase “Our Fathers” referring in verse 1?

 - b. In verse 4, the Rock did what? _____
 - c. The identity of the Rock according to verse 4: _____
 - d. According to verse 9, who did they put to the test? _____
 - e. How did they do this? _____
 - f. By studying both Exodus 23:20-25 and 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 we see that _____ is the one who led the Israelite people in the wilderness.
- V. This next passage gives us a slightly different view than we have seen thus far. Please study Joshua 5:13 - 6:5 (keep in mind that the chapter breaks were not in the original manuscript, they were inserted in the 16th century AD).
- a. Where is Joshua when this event takes place? _____
 - b. What is the man who appears before him holding? _____
 - c. How does this man identify himself? _____
 - d. In what way does Joshua respond to this statement? _____

 - e. In what way does Joshua’s visitor respond to Joshua’s action? _____

 - f. What does this tell us about the visitor (cross reference Exodus 3:5)?

 - g. In Joshua 6:2 the speaker is identified as whom? _____
 - i. Which Hebrew word is used here? _____
 - ii. Thus we see that the _____ of the Lord’s army is _____
 - h. What information does He give to Joshua? _____

- VI. To see the full importance of this we now have to go to the New Testament and study Revelation 19:11-16.
- a. What names or titles are ascribed to the commander of the Lord's army in this passage?
 - i. (Verse 11) _____
 - ii. (Verse 13) _____
 - iii. (Verse 16) _____
 - b. Who do these titles reveal to us concerning the identity of the commander of the Lord's armies? _____
(if you are unsure, then study these cross-references: Revelation 3:7, 3:14, 17:14, John 1:1-16)
 - c. What description is given of His appearance? _____

 - d. What is He going to do with the nations?
 - i. _____
 - ii. _____
 - e. What will He do with the winepress of God's wrath? _____
- VII. For these next passages, we do not have New Testament confirmation about whether they refer to the Pre-incarnate Christ, so we will study them on their own merits. For each occurrence, paraphrase what the Angel of the Lord says and what He does, and record whether or not He is worshiped or claims to be deity:
- a. Genesis 16:7-13. What does He do? _____
 - i. What does He say? _____
 - ii. Is He worshiped? _____
 - iii. Does He claim to be deity? _____
 - b. Genesis 22:9-18. What does He do? _____
 - i. What does He say? _____
 - ii. Is He worshiped? _____
 - iii. Does He claim to be deity? _____

- c. Judges 2:1-5. What does He do? _____
 - i. What does He say? _____
 - ii. Is He worshiped? _____
 - iii. Does He claim to be deity? _____
- d. Judges 13. What does He do? _____
 - i. What does He say? _____
 - ii. Is He worshiped? _____
 - iii. Does He claim to be deity? _____
- e. As an example for comparison of how angels typically react to worship, read about the angel who spoke to John in Revelation 19:10. What does John do? _____
 - i. What does the angel say when he is worshiped? _____

 - ii. Does he claim to be Deity, or something else? _____

In next month's study packet, we will study the Deity of Christ, the Humanity of Christ, Prophecies about the Messiah, the Birth of Christ and more.