

=LIFE OF CHRIST=

Lesson 1

The Preexistent Life of Christ

INTRODUCTION: To many people, the life of Christ began at Bethlehem. However, this is not true. Christ simply “came to earth” in Bethlehem. He lived before Bethlehem. He is a part of the eternal Godhead. The lesson for today will begin the life of Christ, that is, our studies in the life of Christ. There is no way to “begin” the life of Christ, for Christ never began. He is eternal and has always been with the Father.

- I. HE WAS IN THE BEGINNING. In John 1:1a, you will notice the Bible says, “In the beginning was the Word.” Notice Revelation 19:11-13 and you will find that “The Word” is a name given to Jesus Christ. Jesus was “in the beginning with God,” John 1:2.
- II. HE WAS THE CREATOR. In John 1:3, notice, “All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.” Jesus was the Creator of the world. This is shown in Genesis 1:1 where we find these words: “In the beginning God created...” The Hebrew word used for God is “Elohim.” It is a plural word and yet a singular word. It means “more than one, and yet one.” What it really means is that God is one God and yet He is revealed in more than one person. Hence, Jesus was equal with the Father in creation. In Genesis 1:26, God says, “Let us make man in our image.” Here is this plurality again—only one God, but three persons. Jesus as the Son of God is one of those persons.
- III. HIS COMING TO EARTH WAS SIMPLY GOD BECOMING FLESH. Notice John 1:11, “He came unto his own, and his own received him not.” This means that Bethlehem was Jesus’ coming to His own. In verse 14 we read, “And the Word [*Jesus*] was made [*became*] flesh, and dwelt [*tabernacled*] among us, (and we beheld his glory...” This means that God became flesh and tabernacled among us. Jesus was in His permanent form in Heaven. He took upon Himself a temporary form, like a tent or tabernacle, and came to earth for thirty-three years. He came to reveal God to man. This is what the birth of Jesus was all about.
- IV. HE TOOK STEPS DOWN WHEN HE CAME TO EARTH. See Philippians 2:5-8. This is the descent of Christ as He left Heaven and came to earth. Notice the different steps in His descent:
 1. He “made himself of no reputation.”
 2. He “took upon him the form of a servant.”
 3. He “was made in the likeness of men.”
 4. He “humbled himself.”
 5. He “became obedient unto death...”
 6. “...even the death of the cross.”This is a picture of Christ’s coming to earth and what He came to do.
- V. HE WAS THE IMPRESS IMAGE OF GOD. In Hebrews 1:3, the word “express” means “impress.” He was the impression of God in a human body. Just as print is impressed on a piece of paper, Jesus was impressed in flesh. He was not just “born” in Bethlehem; He **became** flesh. God was impressed in flesh in Bethlehem.
- VI. HE WAS BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH. Read Hebrews 1:8-10. Not only was He the Creator, but before the world was created, Jesus was. In Hebrews 1:8 it is plain that the Scripture is speaking about the Son of God. In verse 10 He was in creation, for He laid the foundation of the earth and the heavens. At one time someone mentioned Abraham, and Jesus said, “Before Abraham was, I am,” John 8:58b. This means that Jesus was with Moses. When Moses was sent by God to go to Pharaoh and ask for the Israelites’ freedom, he asked God, “When I...shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them?” (Exodus 3:13) God answered, “Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.” Jesus said, “Before Abraham was, I am.” Hence, He was with Moses.
- VII. THERE ARE SEVERAL APPEARANCES OF JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT BEFORE HIS BIRTH. Jesus was the voice of God Who walked in the Garden of Eden in the cool of the day, as we see in Genesis 3:8. It was Jesus Who wrestled with Jacob all night. See Genesis 32:24-31. It was Jesus Who was in the fiery furnace with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. Read Daniel 3:24, 25. It was Jesus Who was the Captain Who spoke to Joshua, as we read in Joshua 5:14, 15.