

DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

Matt: 22:42 What think ye of Christ?

I. PRE-EXISTENCE

Definition: He existed before birth, before creation and before time.

A. What Evidences are there for his Pre-existence / Pre-incarnation*?

Define Pre-incarnation: Before embodiment or union of divinity and humanity.

*Premise: Is there any way to answer this question without the bible?

1. Before creation:

- a) **John 1:1;14** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word 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.
- b) **2 Tim 1:9-10** Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began, But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel;
- c) **John 17:5** And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

2. Creation: through Christ

- a) **Heb 1: 2** has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;
- b) **Col 1: 16** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

3. Eternal (everlasting)

- a) **Micah 5: 2** "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."
- b) **Isaiah 9: 6** For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

B. Why is Christ's pre-existence important?

C. What are Christ's pre-incarnate works?

1. Creation

- a) **Extent: Heb 1: 2** has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;
- b) **Purpose: Col 1: 16** For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.
- c) **Continuation Col 1: 17** And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

2. Angel of Jehovah or Angel of the LORD: Angel who is manifested, speaks, identifies and claims to demonstrate the prerogatives of God. He appeared at different times for different purposes:

a) As a Messenger:

- 1) **Gen 16: 7;13** And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands. 10. And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. 11. And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction. 12. And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren. 13 Then she called the name of the LORD who spoke to her. You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees; for she said, "Have I also here seen Him who sees me?"
- 2) **Gen 31: 11** "Then the Angel of God spoke to me in a dream, saying, 'Jacob.' And I said, 'Here I am.' 12 "And He said, 'Lift your eyes now and see, all the rams which leap on the flocks are streaked, speckled, and gray-spotted; for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. 13 'I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed the pillar and where you made a vow to Me. Now arise, get out of this land, and return to the land of your family.'"
- 3) **John 12:49-50** For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak."

b) As a Protector/Guide:

- 1) **Exod 14: 19** And the Angel of God, who went before the camp of Israel, moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud went from before them and stood behind them.
- 2) **ICor 10: 4** and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.
- 3) **Zech 12: 8** "In that day the LORD will defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; the one who is feeble among them in that day shall be like David, and the house of David shall be like God, like the Angel of the LORD before them.

c) As an Encourager:

- 1) **Judges 6: 11 ¶** Now the Angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth tree which was in Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon threshed wheat in the winepress, in order to hide it from the Midianites. 12 And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him, and said to him, "The LORD is with you, you mighty man of valor!" 16. And the LORD said to him, "Surely I will be with you, and you shall defeat the Midianites as one man."

d) As one delivers Judgment

- 1) **II Samuel 24: 16** And when the angel stretched out His hand over Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD relented from the destruction, and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of the LORD was by the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite.
- 2) **1 Chron 21: 15** And God sent an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. As he was destroying, the LORD looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain your hand." And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshing floor of Ornan the Jebusite.

3. Counsel (of the eternal God-head).

Some verses that point out that Christ was part of the counsel of the Triune God:

- a) **Rom 11:34** For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?
- b) **Eph 1:11-12** That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him: 12. In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will.
- c) **Gen 1:26** And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

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II. INCARNATION:

What does the term “incarnation” mean?

1. Declarations from scripture

- a) **John 1:14** And the Word 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
- b) **1 John 1:1-3** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2.(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) 3. That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.
- c) **Isa 9:6** For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

2. Is it okay not to believe in the incarnation of Christ?

- a) **2 John 7** For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.
- b) **1 John 4:2-3** Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3. And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.
- c) **John 5:23** That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him.

B. Old Testament - Predictions of the virgin birth (the means)

- 1. **Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.
- 2. **Isaiah 9:6** For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

C. New Testament - Fulfilled

1. **Matt 1:23** 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.
2. **Luke 1:31;34-35 31** And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 34 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

D. Why did Christ come in the flesh?

1. To Reveal God to us.
 - a) **John 1:18** No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.
 - b) **John 6:46** Not that any man hath seen the Father, save he which is of God, he hath seen the Father.
 - c) **Heb 1:3** Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person...
 - d) **John 14: 7** If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.
2. To provide an Effective Sacrifice for Sin.
 - a) **Heb 10:4-5;10;12 4.** For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins. 5. Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: 10. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 12. But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;
 - b) **1 John 3:5** And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.
 - c) *“If he were not man, He could not die; if He were not God, His death would not have had infinite value.”* (Chafer – Major Bible Themes)
3. To Be Able to Be a Sympathetic High Priest.
 - a) **Heb 2:17-18** Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. 18. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.
 - b) **Heb 4:15** For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

- E. The person of the Incarnate Christ...Undiminished deity...Perfect Humanity...United in one person forever. (contrasts)
1. "...one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-Begotten, recognized in two natures, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation, the distinction of natures being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one Person..." excerpt from Council of Chalcedon (A.D. 451)
 2. Contrasts: Humanity v. Deity
 - a) Weary (John 4:6) v. Source of Rest (Matt 11:28)
 - b) Hunger (Matt 4:2) v. Bread of Life (John 6:35)
 - c) Thirsty (John 19:28) v. Water of Life (John 7:37)
 - d) He Grew (Luke 2:40) v. Eternal (John 8:58)
 - e) **Mt 27:42** He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him.

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III. Deity

Some would say God is inherent in human nature. Man can think, reason, plan and work, but to say the Lord Jesus is no greater than man diminishes the uniqueness of his Godhead. Deity represents the very nature, essence and being of God.

A. PROOFS - Direct Statements

1. Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;
2. Heb 1:1-3 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
3. John 8: 58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

B. Statements of others

1. John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
2. John 4:42 Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."
3. Mt 27: 54 So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

C. Names of God

1. Is 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.
2. Rev 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."
3. Tit 2:13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,
4. Others

D. ATTRIBUTES

1. Self Existent

John 5:26 "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,

2. Omnipotent : ALL POWERFUL

Mt 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth

3. Omniscient : ALL KNOWING

John 2:24-25 But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.

4. Omnipresent : ALWAYS PRESENT

Mt 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

5. Eternal: Forever (no beginning & no end)

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

6. The attributes above are but a small sampling of attributes of Christ. As God he possesses every attribute we discussed under the Doctrine of God (i.e. Holy, Love, Infinite, etc.).

E. Performing works only God could do

1. Forgiveness

John 8:10-11 When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more."

2. Life

John 1:4, In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

John 5:26 "For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself,

3. Raise the dead

John 5:21 "For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to them, even so the Son gives life to whom He will

Lk7:14 Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

4. Righteous Judge

John 5:22,27 "For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, 27, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

5. Others

F. Equality in the Trinity

1. With the Father

John 14:23, Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

John 10:30 I and My Father are one."

2. With Father & Spirit

Mt 28:19, Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

2Cor 13:14, The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

IV. Humanity

A. Human attributes

1. Human body

- a) Rom 1: 3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh,
- b) Heb 2: 14 ¶ Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,
- c) Luke 24: 39 "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."

2. He had a human soul and spirit

- a) Mt 26: 38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."
- b) Luke 23: 46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last.

3. Hunger, Thirst, Weary, Emotion

- a) John 4: 6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, sat thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.
- b) John 19:26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son 27 Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

4. He had human names

- a) Mk 10: 47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"
- b) Luke 19: 10 "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

5. He was able to die

- a) Acts 2: 23 "Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;

B. Humility (Kenosis: Literal Emptying)

Php 2:6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 **but made Himself of no reputation**, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

1. Full Deity - being in the form of God

2. It was voluntary - but made Himself of no reputation

- a) Heb 10: 7 ¶ Then I said, 'Behold, I have come--In the volume of the book it is written of Me--To do Your will, O God.'

3. Veiled his Glory

- a) Joh 17:5 "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

- b) Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

4. Coming in the form of sinful man

- a) Ga 4:4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law
- b) Col 1:22 **in the body of His flesh** through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—
- 5. To the point of death, even the death of the cross
 - a) Is 53: 12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.
- 6. Examples of Christ's humility
 - a) He experienced Poverty
 - 1) 2Co 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
 - b) Servant hood
 - 1) Jn 13: 4 rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself. 5 After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel with which He was girded.
 - c) Subjection to the Fathers will
 - 1) Mt 26:39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.
 - 2) 30 "I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.
 - d) Not seeking his own glory
 - 1) John 7: 3 His brothers therefore said to Him, "Depart from here and go into Judea, that Your disciples also may see the works that You are doing 4 "For no one does anything in secret while he himself seeks to be known openly. If You do these things, show Yourself to the world."
 - 2) Luke 23: 35 And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God." 36 The soldiers also mocked Him, coming and offering Him sour wine, 37 and saying, "If You are the King of the Jews, save Yourself." ... 39 Then one of the criminals who were hanged blasphemed Him, saying, "If You are the Christ, save Yourself and us."

C. Sinless

1. Statements from Scripture
 - a) 2 Cor 5: 21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him
 - b) 1 Pet 2: 22 "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; 23 who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;
 - c) 1 Jn 3:5 And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.
 - d) Heb 4:15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.

2. Statements of Others

- a) Judas Mt 27: 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." And they said, "What is that to us? You see to it!"
- b) Pilate John 18: 38 Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all.

3. His own statements

- a) John 15: 10 "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.
- b) John 8: 46 ¶ "Which of you convicts Me of sin? And if I tell the truth, why do you not believe Me?"

4. His Testing

- a) Mt 4: 1 ¶ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry. 3 Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread." 4 But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" 5 Then the devil took Him up into the holy city, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down. For it is written: 'He shall give His angels charge over you,' and, 'In their hands they shall bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus said to him, "It is written again, 'You shall not tempt the LORD your God.'" 8 Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, "All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." 10 Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'" 11 Then the devil left Him, and behold, angels came and ministered to Him.
- b) James 1: 13 ¶ Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.

V. Earthly Ministries

- A. Miracles
- B. Teaching
 - 1. Parables, etc...
- C. Example: his walk
- D. Sacrifice
 - 1. Death
 - 2. Burial
 - 3. Resurrection
- E. Post Resurrection Ministry (ex. Road to Emmaus)
- F. Ascension

VI. Present Ministries – his work even today

- A. Advocate
- B. High Priest
- C. Head of the church

VII. Future Ministries

- A. Bridegroom
- B. Millennial Reign (King)
- C. Judge
 - 1. Judgment seat of Christ
 - 2. Great white throne
- D. Light of Heaven

