

THE UNIQUENESS OF JESUS: HIS PRE-EXISTENCE

No human can claim what is true concerning Jesus. He existed before He was born in Bethlehem. Jesus is not simply unique, but He is unique in that He is God, God in the flesh.

“Have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, existing in the form of God, counted not the being on an equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient even unto death, yea, the death of the cross” (Philippians 2:5-8 ASV).

Jesus' pre-existence is taught in prophecy. God did not wait until the Lord was born to declare the Messiah's eternal existence. Micah 5:2 (ASV) made known that Jesus has existed from eternity to eternity, “But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah ... out of thee shall one come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.” In the early days of the Lord, scribes quoted and applied this verse to Jesus (Matthew 2).

Jesus' pre-existence is taught in His being before Abraham and being “I AM”: “Jesus said ... Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was born, I AM. They took up stones therefore to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple” (John 8:58-59 ASV). Compare the concept “Abraham was” in contrast to “I am.” One has accurately noted, “Jesus' life was from and to eternity. Hence the formula for absolute, timeless existence, I am.” The Jew's reaction demonstrates they knew He was claiming to be deity-eternal.

Jesus' pre-existence, and therefore His deity, is taught in the magnificent declaration that He created the heavens and the earth (John 1:1-3 ASV). “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that hath been made.” Nothing was created without Him, no tree, no earth, no moon, and no angel. Jesus is from everlasting unto everlasting. He is not a created being; He is deity.

The facts are these: The Word was in the beginning with deity because He is deity, and God has no beginning or end. Because man needed to be redeemed, the Word left the comforts of heaven and was born in the flesh by the virgin Mary. When the shepherds and the wise-men looked upon Jesus, they looked upon God. They worshiped God.

Though He is no longer on the earth, Jesus is still God, and He is still the Savior of the world. Is He your Savior?

Ron Cosby *from West End Watchman*

THE UNIQUENESS OF JESUS: HIS BIRTH

The declaration of the angels indicates that there was something unique about Jesus.

“And the angel said unto them, Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all the people: for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this is the sign unto you: Ye shall find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, and lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men in whom he is well pleased” (Luke 2:7-15).

You knew there was something unique about Jesus when the wise men sought to worship Him (Matthew 2:11). Jesus is unique because He was born of a virgin. Isaiah predicted, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call

his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14). “Almah” is translated “virgin.” Seeking to cast doubt on the Bible and the Lord, modern versions mistranslate this passage, saying “the young woman is with child.” Folks, there is nothing unusual about a young woman or maiden being with child. How could a young woman who is not a virgin being with child be a “sign” as Isaiah predicts? Matthew gives an inspired understanding of Isaiah by quoting and applying the passage to Jesus (Matthew 1:22-23). Matthew uses a Greek word that means “virgin.” If that is not enough, he adds, [Joseph] “knew her not till she had brought forth a son: and he called his name JESUS” (Matthew 1:25).

Jesus is so unique, supposed believers doubt the virgin birth, saying, “I do not believe in the Virgin Birth and hope that none of you do” (Harry Emerson Fosdick, spoken from the pulpit of the Riverside Church in New York City). Hmmm! Mr. Fosdick knows? Jesus was not born of a virgin because he was not there?

Fortunately, we do have eyewitnesses to Jesus' unique birth. The angel of God who spoke to Mary declared it (Luke 1:30-35). Mary's response of not “having known a man” declares it. The angel of God to Joseph declared it (Matthew 1:18-25). Elisabeth, being filled with the Spirit, declared it (Luke 1:41-45). When I compare the integrity of the eyewitnesses to that of Mr. Fosdick — well, there is no comparison. God did indeed make Jesus like unto His brethren to save them (Hebrews 2:14-18). Someone has properly said, “If God wanted to relate ultimately to us; If God wanted to show us love, acceptance and compassion; If God wanted to express an understanding of all we go through: God's only option was to become one of us!” He did indeed become one of us.

Ron Cosby *from West End Watchman*

BIRTHDAYS

Leah Thrasher, 04-30; George Thomas, 05-04.

ILL

Sunday: Gary Cole. **Wednesday:** Anne and Dee Adams, Millie Robertson. Those battling cancer: Diane Cannon, Kim Clark and Ledgia Campbell. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Janice Carter, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams is at the Del Mar Gardens, Room 229. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

BAPTISMS

We rejoice that four of our young ladies were baptized into Christ on Sunday, April 23, 2006: Jessica Carter, Sarah Marcum, and Abby and Erin Stillwell. We are thankful for their decision to obey the Gospel and pray for them a long and fruitful life of service in Christ.

OUT OF TOWN

The Nelson family was in Newton, KS over the weekend. Wilba Hopkins was in Neosho, MO visiting relatives. Myron Nebergall is in Jamaica on a mission trip. Ted and Julia Thrasher were in Dyersburg, TN for the Phillips Street Lectures.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held on Sunday, May 7 following our AM worship. Please plan to come and enjoy the good food and company!

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 57; Sunday PM, 45; Wednesday PM, 49.

- Good works alone in the life of a Christian are not grounds for salvation, but the absence of them is grounds for damnation.*

Those To Serve

April 30, 2006

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Nelson

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... George Thomas
SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson
OPENING PRAYER Michael Simmons
PRESIDE..... John Carter
ASSIST..... David Parish
ASSIST..... Allen Scott
CLOSING PRAYER..... Charles Tullis

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER Gary Cole
CLOSING PRAYER..... John Dodson
LORD'S SUPPER..... John Carter

WEDNESDAY May 3rd

SONG LEADER..... George Thomas
INVITATION Michael Simmons

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Morning Worship 10:30 AM
Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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