

## LESSON SEVEN

# THE NATURE PRE-EXISTENCE AND ETERNAL PURPOSE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

**INTRODUCTION:** Every generation of mankind, from the first century A.D. onwards has been puzzled how to explain the coming of the world, extraordinary life, marvelous deeds, brilliant wisdoms and terribly tragic death of Jesus Christ. Some have said he was just another man, albeit a singularly distinguished one. Others that he was a prophet or even John the Baptist, raised from the dead! Others that he was the SON OF GOD, hence, as such himself GOD!

That these explanations cannot all be correct is self-evident. Let us see what the Bible has to say about it.

In our previous study of the life, preaching and baptism of John the Baptist, we found that John's coming into the world was to prepare the way for the coming of Jesus Christ. We learn that at least two Old Testaments prophets – Isaiah and Malachi – had foretold the advent of John in this capacity.

We learned that when John and Jesus both were being carried in the wombs of their respective mothers, when Mary, the mother of Jesus, came to visit Elizabeth, the mother of John, John leaped in Elizabeth's womb for joy.

Later, when he had grown to manhood, John came preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, saying "Prepare ye the Way of the Lord, make his paths straight." (Matthew 3:3) Depreciating himself, John said, **"I, indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is MIGHTIER THAN I whose shoes I am not worthy to bear..."** (Matthew 3:11) John bore witness of Jesus, saying, **"This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh AFTER me is preferred BEFORE me; for he WAS before me."** (John 1:15, 30) **"... He must INCREASE, but I (John) must DECREASE."** (John 3:30)

How is it even possible that Jesus Christ, who was born some six months AFTER John could yet be BEFORE John? To understand this we must consider...

### I. THE NATURE OF JESUS CHRIST.

*(Note: Those who think of Jesus as being ONLY HUMAN, stumble at the claims made for him by the Bible)*

#### A. The New Testament presents Jesus Christ as being MORE THAN MAN.

1. Jesus himself claimed to be ONE WITH GOD,
  - a. In John 10:30, Jesus said, "I and my Father are ONE"
  - b. Again, in John 14: 10-11, he declared, **"...I am IN THE FATHER, and the FATHER IN ME..."**
  - c. Yet again, in his great intercessory prayer, Jesus prayed, **"Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be ONE, as WE are..."** (John 17:11)
  - d. In that same manner, Jesus prayed further, **"Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be ONE as THOU, FATHER, ART IN ME, as I IN THEE, that they also may be ONE IN US: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou**

gavest me I have given them; that they may be ONE, even as WE ARE ONE.” (John 17:20-22)

## 2. EQUAL WITH GOD

- a. The apostle Paul, in Philippians 2:5-11, exhorts, “**Let this MIND be in you, which was also in CHRIST JESUS; who, being in the FORM OF GOD, thought it not robbery to be EQUAL WITH GOD: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore, GOD also hath HIGHLY EXALTED HIM, and given him a name which is ABOVE EVERY NAME: that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE SHOULD BOW, of things IN HEAVEN, and things IN EARTH, and things UNDER THE EARTH; and that EVERY TONGUE SHOULD CONFESS that JESUS CHRIST IS LORD, to the glory of God the Father.**”
- b. Jesus’ own admission of his equality with God upset the Jews. As we read in John 5:17, 18, “But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him, because he not only had broken the Sabbath, but said also that GOD was his FATHER, making himself EQUAL WITH GOD.”

## 3. EXISTING AS GOD.

- a. The writer of Hebrews records God, the Father, as saying unto Jesus, his Son, “**Thy throne, O GOD is forever and ever . . . therefore GOD even THY God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness ABOVE THY FELLOWS . . .**” (Hebrews 1:8-9)
- b. The apostle John also describes Jesus as BEING God, also as being “WITH GOD” (John 1:1-2), which further emphasizes that although the “**Godhead**” is ONE in PURPOSE it is nonetheless PLURAL in PERSON.
- c. The apostle Paul says of Jesus, “For in him dwelleth all the FULNESS of the GODHEAD bodily.” (Colossians 2:9)

## II. THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF JESUS CHRIST.

(Note: *Having already established Jesus as being 1) ONE with God, 2) EQUAL with God, and 3) existing AS GOD, we should now begin to understand that his EXISTENCE did not BEGIN with his BIRTH through Mary into this world. He has ALWAYS EXISTED – from eternity! Hence:*

- A. John the Baptist said of Jesus, “**He IS before me because he WAS before me.**” (John 1:15, 30)
- B. Jesus existed even BEFORE ABRAHAM, who lived some 2000 years before John the Baptist!  
“**Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, BEFORE ABRAHAM WAS, I AM.**” (John 8:58)
- C. Jesus declared he existed BEFORE THE WORLD BEGAN.
  1. “And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee BEFORE THE WORLD WAS.”
  2. “Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.” (John 17:24)
- D. The WORLDS and ALL THINGS were made by Jesus; hence he existed *BEFORE all things.*

1. "ALL THINGS WERE MADE BY HIM: and *without him was not anything made that was made.*" (John 1:3)
  2. The apostle Paul wrote, "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; and to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in GOD, who CREATED ALL THINGS by JESUS CHRIST. . ." (Ephesians 3: 8-9)
  3. "For *BY HIM* were all things CREATED, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible whether they be thrones, or dominations, or principalities, or powers: ALL THINGS WERE CREATED BY HIM, AND FOR HIM: and he is *BEFORE* ALL THINGS, and *BY HIM* ALL THINGS CONSIST." (Colossians 1: 16-17)
  4. "GOD, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers the prophets, hath in these last days spoken to us *by His Son*, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, *by whom* also HE MADE THE WORLDS." (Hebrews 1: 1-2)  
NOTE: Seeing that God, the Father (*ONE PERSON*), made the worlds and all things by God, the Son (*ANOTHER PERSON*), this helps us to understand the use of the plural "US" and "OUR" in Moses' account of creation: 1) "Let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness. . ." (Genesis 1:26) and again 2) in Genesis 3:22, "the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of US, to know good and evil. . ."
- E. Jesus (referred to as "the word" in John chapter one) is described as
1. "In the BEGINNING. . ." (v.1)
  2. "In the BEGINNING WITH GOD. . ." (v.2)
- F. Micah prophesied about the one to be born in Bethlehem (Jesus) that his "goings forth have been from OF OLD, FROM EVERLASTING." (Micah 5:2)
- G. Jesus thus having existed FROM ETERNITY, we can, therefore, understand what Hebrews 13:8 means wherein it says, "JESUS CHRIST the same YESTERDAY, TODAY and FOREVER."

### III. GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE CONCERNING JESUS CHRIST.

(NOTE: *Seeing that Jesus Christ, as God the Son, was equal and co-existent with God the Father, many are perplexed as to WHY he was ever sent into to world at all.* Let us see)

- A. Just after creating man, the God commanded the man, saying,  
"Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." (Genesis 2: 16-17)
- B. In Genesis 3: 1-19, Moses gives the account of how the Devil, Satan, in the form of a serpent, beguiled Eve so that she "TOOK OF THE FRUIT THEREOF, AND DID EAT, AND GAVE ALSO TO HER HUSBAND (ADAM) WITH HER; AND HE DID EAT."
1. This was the FIRST TRANSGRESSION of God's will to man in the history of the world. Thus SIN came into the world, ". . .FOR SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW." (1 John 3:4)
  2. "And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou has done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of

thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; and it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise his heel. Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband and he shall rule over thee. And unto Adam he said, because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” (Genesis 3: 13-19)

**3. “Wherefore.....by one man (Adam) SIN ENTERED INTO THE WORLD, and DEATH PASSED UPON ALL MEN.....” (Romans 5:12)**

a. Until the law (given on Mount Sinai) sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law” (Romans 5:13)

b. “Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression ...” (Romans 5:14)

**C. Man’s SIN, thus, had SEPARATED BETWEEN HIM AND GOD. (Isaiah 59:1-2)**

1. He was driven away from the garden. (Genesis 3:22-24)

2. Man offered sacrifices, but they could not take away sin.

**“But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. For IT IS NOT POSSIBLE THAT THE BLOOD OF BULLS AND OF GOATS SHOULD TAKE AWAY SINS.” (Hebrews 10: 3-4)**

**D. To RECONCILE MAN UNTO HIMSELF, God sent his Son (Jesus) as ATONEMENT for man’s sin.**

1. “For God so loved the world that HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON. . .” (John 3: 16)

2. “God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, CHRIST DIED FOR US. Much more then, being JUSTIFIED BY HIS BLOOD, we shall be SAVED FROM WRATH THROUGH HIM. For if, when we were enemies, we were RECONCILED TO GOD by the DEATH of his Son, much more, being RECONCILED, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the ATONEMENT.” (Romans 5: 8-11)

**E. Thus the coming of Jesus Christ was according to God’s ETERNAL PURPOSE.**

**“According to the eternal purpose which he PURPOSED IN JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD: in whom we have BOLDNESS and ACCESS with CONFIDENCE by the faith of him.” (Ephesians 3: 11-12)**

## QUESTIONS ON LESSON SEVEN

1. In relation to Jesus Christ, what was the purpose of John the Baptist's coming into the world?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Since Jesus was born into the world approximately six months later than John the Baptist, why did John say "he was BEFORE ME"?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Does the Bible present Jesus as "just a man" or "more than a man"? Which?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Evidently referring to God in heaven, Jesus, while on earth, declared, "I and my Father are ONE." How can TWO be ONE?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. **Fill up the blanks:** "Let this mind be in you, which was also \_\_\_\_\_ who, being in the \_\_\_\_\_, thought it not robbery to be \_\_\_\_\_." (\_\_\_\_\_)
6. Philippians 2 says that God has highly exalted Christ Jesus and given him a name which is above every name. State God's reason for doing this:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Why should every knee in heaven, in earth and under the earth bow at the name of Jesus?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What should every tongue confess to the glory of the Father?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. In John 5, we see that the Jews got so upset at Jesus that they sought to kill him. Why?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. In Hebrews 1: 8-9, the God who made the worlds addressed his Son (Jesus) by a certain designation. By what did He call Him?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
11. Did the existence of Jesus begin with his birth in the town of Bethlehem?  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. How long has Jesus existed?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. John 17:5 mentions something Jesus had before the world began. What was it?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**14.** Ephesians 3 mentions that God created all things by what?

---

---

**15.** By whom do “all things consist”?

---

---

**16.** By whom did God make the worlds?

---

---

**17.** What was made without Jesus Christ?

---

---

**18.** Is Jesus Christ “changeable” or “changeless”? Prove your answers.

---

---

**19.** What is sin?

---

---

**20.** How did sin come into the world?

---

---

**21.** What came by sin?

---

---

**22.** What did sin do as between God and man?

---

---

**23.** Could the blood of bulls and goats take away sins?

---

---

**24.** According to Romans 5:9, what justifies us from our sins?

---

---

**25.** Why did God send Jesus?

---

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Email id: \_\_\_\_\_