

Christian Doctrine

Jesus Christ (Part 2)

Preexistence and Incarnation

The Preexistence of Christ

Christ's "preexistence" refers to the fact that He existed before the time of His birth. The Scriptures clearly teach His preexistence ([Micah 5:2](#); [John 1:1](#); [8:58](#)). Note the activities of Christ during this period:

- His work as the Creator ([John 1:3](#); [Heb. 1:2](#))
 - All three persons of the trinity were involved in creation ([Gen. 1:26](#)). It appears that Christ's part was performing the creative work itself ([Heb. 1:10](#)).
 - Everything was created not only "through him," but also "for him" ([Col. 1:16](#)).
- His appearances in the Old Testament ([I Cor. 10:1-4](#))
 - He served as a messenger, and guided and protected the Israelites. The name "Jesus Christ" is not used in the OT; He is often given the title "Angel of the Lord."
 - Examples include appearances to: Hagar ([Gen. 16:7-13](#)); Abraham ([Gen. 18](#)); Jacob ([Gen. 32:24-30](#)); Moses ([Ex. 3:2-6](#)); Joshua ([Josh. 5:13-15](#)); etc.

The Incarnation of Christ

Incarnation means "in flesh." The incarnation refers to Christ taking on humanity. It is a focal point of Scripture.

- Prophecies in the Old Testament told of the coming Messiah, who would be born of a virgin ([Is. 7:14](#); [9:6](#)).
- The Virgin Birth was the means of the incarnation.
 - Mary and Joseph were each told by an angel that Mary, who had never "known" a man, would bare a son, given by the Holy Spirit, who would save His people from their sins. ([Luke 1:26-35](#); [Matt. 1:20-25](#))
 - Through the virgin birth, God came in the likeness of man, taking on humanity. Yet He was without a sin nature, which is passed down from the father. ([Phil. 2:7](#); [Rom. 8:3](#); [II Cor. 5:20](#))
- The purpose of the Incarnation was to:
 - Reveal God to us ([John 1:18](#); [14:9](#)).
 - Provide us with a sacrifice for sin ([Heb. 10:5-10](#)).
 - Destroy the works of the devil ([I John 3:8](#)).
 - Give an example of holy living ([I John 2:6](#)).