

## 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).
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