

GOSPEL OF JOHN
WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?
JOHN 1:1-5, 14

Introduction

We live in a time when folks spend a lot of money, time, and effort researching into their past. Companies such as *Ancestry.com* and *Genealogy.com* were some of the first to make money off of people who wanted to look into their family tree and understand more about where they come from.

Today the searches have gotten even better with **DNA tests** that can supposedly tell you a lot about your family's heritage.

Some have done such searches to find out they had someone famous in their past! While others have found out they had someone infamous in their past! I saw on the news just recently that a man found out that he had a half-brother he didn't know about!

I personally don't know that I want to know! But a lot of folks are curious and do want to know!

Back in Jesus' day **there was a controversy about Who Jesus was then** and the controversy still rages today! **Is Jesus the Son of God or was He just the Son of Man...or was He both as He claimed?**

But listen, that controversy began even before Jesus was ever *"made flesh!"* (*Vs 14*) **The Old Testament prophets spoke and wrote of what the LORD told them to of the Promised Messiah that was to come!** In fact, there are over 100 prophecies related to the first coming of Jesus that were literally fulfilled by Him!

Some of the claims about Him many found hard to believe! Especially the part where it was prophesied that He would be born of a virgin! *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.*

There were those, such as the Pharisees, who had trouble putting the two ideas together that Jesus is **BOTH the Son of God AND the Son of Man.** That is why Jesus said to them:

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John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

Scripture shows that in fact **Jesus Christ is Son of God Who was sent to be born as the Son of Man** so that the sons of men could become the sons of God!

We hear a lot about genealogy in our day! Jesus has both a human genealogy and a Heavenly genealogy! A genealogy in Scripture is a list of all of the *"begats"*. The genealogies that we find in *Matthew 1* and *Luke 3* deal with Jesus' human genealogy. We'll not concern ourselves with those genealogies today...that's would be a whole another message!

But here in *John 1* we see Jesus' true Heavenly genealogy. We find out that Jesus came from Heaven where He previously existed as *"The Word"*.

Why is He is called *"The Word"*? Well, think about the purpose of words? **Words express thoughts, or an action, or an object, or an idea.**

If we want to understand someone better and get to know them better, we have to talk to them and do our best to listen to the words they use, don't we.

If as a speaker I want you to visualize an object, then I must select words to form an image in your mind. If I want you to have an idea of what I am like or how I feel, one of the best ways that I communicate those things with is by use **WORDS!**

God wants us to understand Who He is! So, He has given us not only **His written Word**, but **His incarnate Word, the Lord Jesus Christ.** The Lord Jesus is the expression of Who God is! He communicates to us Who God is! Hold your place there and look with me at *Hebrews 1:1-3.*

John 14:8-9- "Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. 9 Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?"

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We know about God, because He is revealed to us through this One called **The Word** here, Who is none other than Jesus Christ, the Son of God!

I. LET'S CONSIDER HIS PREEXISTENCE! (Vs. 1-2)

John 1:1—"IN THE BEGINNING WAS the Word..."

John 1:2—"The same WAS IN THE BEGINNING with God."

If we are going to worship someone, don't you agree that that someone should be far superior to us?

There is a specific time that we all started living. At conception we became alive in our mother's womb! For Jesus, there was no such starting time. Jesus was very much alive before He was ever conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of His mother Mary!

The Lord Jesus Christ is eternal! He has always existed! He is far superior to us! In fact, the first ten chapters of the book of Hebrews points out Christ's superiority in many different areas!

1. He Is Better Than The Prophets (Hebrews 1:1-3)
2. He Is Superior To The Angels (Hebrews 1:4-2:18)
3. He Is Better Than Moses (Hebrews 3)
4. He Is Better Than Joshua (Hebrews 4:1-13)
5. His Priesthood Is Better than Aaron's (Hebrews 4:14-7:28)
6. His Ministry Is Better Than Aaron's (Hebrews 8)
7. His Offering Is Superior To Those Of The Old Testament. (Hebrews 9-10)

John 1:1—"In the beginning was the Word..." This beginning goes back before creation into eternity past. The word "was" here means that He "was continuing".

(i.e. There was never a time when Jesus did not exist!)

Micah 5:2—"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

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Colossians 1:17—"And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

Revelation 22:13—"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last."

So, we see *HIS PREEXISTENCE...next...*

II. LET'S CONSIDER HIS PRESENCE! (Vs. 1-2)

John 1:1—"... and the Word WAS WITH GOD..."

John 1:2—"The same WAS IN THE BEGINNING WITH GOD."

Jesus was with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit in eternity past in Heaven! He was present! The idea here is also that He was on the same level with them! It is the idea that we find in what we call The Trinity. One God expressed in three Persons.

If I were ushered into the presence of God the Father, I would be on my face. I would not be on the same level as He is and neither would you! But Jesus, on the other hand, was able and is able to look at God the Father face to face, because He is on the same level.

Think of this. The very Son of God was on equal level with God the Father. He could look God the Father in the eye, so to speak. And He left His position of power and importance to be born of a virgin and go to the cross to die for our sins. **WHAT LOVE!**

Philippians 2:5-9—"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:"

So, we see *HIS PREEXISTENCE...HIS PRESENCE...next:*

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III. LET'S CONSIDER HIS POSITION! (Vs. 1)

John 1:1—"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **THE WORD WAS GOD.**"

Jehovah's Witnesses deny the Deity of Christ and so they have translated this in their so called Bible as "*and the word was a God*". That just isn't so. This verse is stating that Jesus is indeed very God!!!

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."

You might have heard someone say that Jesus never claimed to be God. But, that is also just not true! Look at **John 8:56-59**.

The Jews understood that Jesus was claiming to be "**I AM**" or Jehovah, the preexistent God that revealed Himself to Moses in **Exodus 3:13-14**.

Josh McDowell, author of many books including the book "**More Than A Carpenter**" has said, **there are only three possibilities as to the identity of Jesus.**

1. **He was a liar!** (i.e. Because of His claims to be God.)
2. **He was a lunatic!** (i.e. He was a madman, insane and disillusioned.)
3. **He is Lord!** (i.e. He is Who He claimed to be—God in the flesh!)

Do you believe that Jesus is God? Be careful how you address Him. "**Lord**" is preferred. Don't joke about Him. Be careful that you not take His name in vain and use it as a cuss word.

So, we've seen *HIS PREEXISTENCE...HIS PRESENCE...HIS POSITION...next...*

IV. LET'S CONSIDER HIS POWER! (Vs. 3)

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John 1:3—"All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."

Look at **Colossians 1:16-17**.

We read earlier in *Hebrews 1:1-2* - "*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, [2] Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, **by whom also he made the worlds;***"

God the Father created the universe through His Word, the One Who is His Son! So Jesus was the instrument of creation!

We really can't fathom how large the universe is. A heaven full of planets and stars. The Lord Jesus created all of that plus all the flowers, plants, animals and insects large and small. And He created us!

Psalms 139:14—"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

We've already seen that Jesus is God! That's why Jesus has all the power!

So, we've seen *HIS PREEXISTENCE...PRESENCE...POSITION... POWER...*

V. LET'S CONSIDER HIS PROVISION! (Vs. 4-5)

John 1:4—"In him was life; and the life was the light of men."

Before Jesus came He had two qualities mentioned here that He has shared with man. This is His provision for us!

A. Christ Has Provided Us LIFE!

There are three aspects of life that Jesus gave to man.

1. Physical Life!

Because He is creator, He has given you and every other individual "**life**". Genesis 2:7

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2. Eternal Life!

Jesus came to earth with eternal life. But He didn't only come with eternal life, He came to GIVE eternal life! Look at **John 3:14-18!**

3. Abundant Life!

John 10:10—“ . . . I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

Jesus not only came to give us eternal life, but He came to give us His abundant life, right now.

Our lives before coming to Christ were marked with failure! But our lives after coming to Christ can be and should be marked with victory!

Because Christ has come we have abundant life in several ways.

a. We Have The Abundance Of Christ's Presence!

Matthew 28:20—“ . . . and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

John 15:4-5—“ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. 5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.”

b. We Have The Abundance Of Christ's Peace!

John 14:27—“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

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c. We Have The Abundance Of Christ's Provision!

Philippians 4:19—“But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

d. We Have The Abundance Of Christ's Power!

Philippians 4:13—“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

John 14:13-14—“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”

Christ Has Provided Us Life!

B. Christ Has Provided Us Light!

John 1:4—“In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”

With His life comes His light! Jesus is God and God is light! *1 John 1:5—“This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”*

This old world is entrenched in the darkness of sin. Jesus came into the world to give it light! He came to point people to the God of light!

John 8:12—“Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

John tells us in John 1:5—“*And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.*”

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The Light came to this world and He shined in the darkness, but by and large, the world did not comprehend and does not comprehend (or understand) Him!

Conclusion

So this morning we've seen Who Jesus Christ is:

We've seen His PREEXISTENCE, His PRESENCE, His POSITION, His POWER, and His PROVISION!

Listen dear friend, our PHYSICAL LIFE came from Him! But have you received of His ETERNAL LIFE?

He is both the LIFE and the LIGHT that is needed for the darkness that sin has caused in your soul!

Don't let Satan keep you trapped in your sin because you can't comprehend God! Come to Him for your eternal salvation TODAY! If you do that He will turn on the Light in your soul and give you the Life you need!

If you are a child of God, have you received His provision for you of the ABUNDANT LIFE that He promised you?
(His Presence, His Peace, His Provision, His Power!)