

THE LIFE OF JESUS BEFORE HIS BIRTH! (21)

John, one of the books of the Bible that tells the life story of Jesus, begins this way:

John 1:1-4

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was in the beginning with God. (3) All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. (4) In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

Someone, called the "Word", was in the beginning with God and actually was responsible for the creation of the universe. In this same chapter John later said, "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory" (John 1:14). "He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him" (John 1:10-11). So the human being we know in history as Jesus, once existed in another form. What form did the "Word" take before he received a body of flesh from Mary at his birth?

Philippians 2:5-8

Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, (6) who, although He existed in the FORM OF GOD, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, (7) but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, {and} being made in the likeness of men. (8) And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Jesus, before his birth, was equal to God but did not hold on to this position. WHY? He willingly emptied himself of His equality with God to become a man and to die on the cross so that we might have forgiveness of sins.

We even see evidence of Jesus' pre-human existence way back in the first pages of Genesis. Genesis was written by Moses 1400 years before the birth of Jesus. Moses quotes God at the time of creation as saying, "Let US make man in OUR image, according to OUR likeness" (Genesis 1:27). Notice the use of the plural pronouns. SOMEONE was there in the beginning with God. The book of John lets us know it was the WORD who later was known as Jesus.

Jesus prayed the night before he died this interesting prayer, "I glorified YOU on the earth, having accomplished the work which YOU have given Me to do. And now, glorify Me together with YOURSELF, Father, with the glory which I had with YOU before the world was" (John 17:4-5). God the Father and his Son planned his coming into the world before the first man was ever created.

The death of Jesus on the cross as a sacrifice for sin was as sure as done even before the creation of the world. Jesus is called the "lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8). Peter says we "were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, (19) but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, {the blood} of Christ. (20) For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you." (1 Peter 1:18-20).

Remember, unlike other faiths and religions, biblical faith is rooted in history. Christians believe that God has acted in history, just as He acts in our lives to accomplish His purposes. In the next few lessons we are going to show evidence in several thousand years of history, that God planned everything we now know about Jesus before it actually happened. This historical evidence will be a strong reason to have confidence that the God of the Bible is the true God.

QUESTIONS:

1. John refers to Jesus as _____ who was God and was with God.
2. The word became _____ and lived among us.
3. Jesus once was in the form of God, but he _____ himself, taking the form of a bond servant.
4. In the beginning God said, "Let _____ make man."