

The pre-existence or pre-destination of Jesus Christ?

This subject has been chosen because questions are frequently



asked, and that some Bible passages appear to be difficult to understand. This afternoon, we would like to explore those passages, which are claimed to support the preaching of the trinity, and get to understand the truth of what the Bible teaches.

But first let us remind ourselves of what some of these words mean.

Trinity: a group of three people or things, and according to the Cambridge Dictionary *refers to the three persons of the Christian Godhead; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

We strongly dispute this, as the Cambridge dictionary is not an authority on the Bible, but just uses the most popular understanding. The word Trinity is not found in the Bible, and is a false apostate teaching, it is a complete invention and fabrication by the Roman Catholic Church many centuries ago, which became the most popular church, in the Christian denomination.

This booklet will show that some of the popular passages used to support the teaching of the Trinity teach the reverse.

What is pre-destination? Again, the Cambridge dictionary: *the belief that people have no control over events because these things are controlled by God or by fate.* Again, we would strongly dispute this as the Bible teaching, but to be fair to the Cambridge dictionary it does also say: *A great deal is made of whether*

predestination is to be understood as part of divine providence, or as part of salvation

What is pre-existence?

Not surprisingly, and in support of what we are saying this afternoon, the word pre-existence is not found in the Cambridge Dictionary. Although Wikipedia says this: *Pre-existence is the belief that a soul or entity exists before its birth, conception, or union with a physical body, often implying a previous life or heavenly existence.* Needless to say, this teaching we also completely reject as being false and having no scriptural basis.

So from this we can see an element of confusion already about the understanding of these terms.

In a nutshell many claiming to be of the Christian denomination believe that Jesus existed in bodily form as part of the Trinity, before he was born, and they use misunderstood Bible passages to prove this.

Instead the truth is that Jesus did not exist in a bodily form before he was born but was pre-destinated to be the Son of God.

Introduction

Simply put, God who knows all things from the beginning, (Acts 15:18) had a Son in mind when he created the earth, as He knew that giving mankind freewill, would carry with it the risk that man would fall from the Grace that had been given him, and so God would intervene Himself to provide a way back, and that this would be through His own Son. God knows the end of all things before they even happen. The plan He had for mankind was therefore centred in the way of salvation which would be supplied by His son, which would be once for all time for all men for all generations.

This meant that the prospect of the life, death, resurrection of Jesus Christ, his sacrifice and victory, and the ransom for sin being paid was for the majority of people of something that would happen in the future – 4000 years of history would pass before the Lord Jesus was born, and only 2000 would pass before he would appear for the second time.

For those in the 4000-year period of history, how could people be saved by a sacrifice that had not been offered, or a ransom that had not been paid?

Because when God makes a promise, it cannot fail. He is not a man that he should lie – Numbers 23:19. He cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18). If God has said something will happen, it is as good as done. The principle of salvation, the method of reconciliation, the covering prepared was as good as done, as soon as God proclaimed the idea or concept, even though in practice the actual action had not yet been performed. See Romans 4:17...*As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who raises the dead, and calls those things which be not as though they were*

This appreciation is fundamental to a good strong understanding of the outworking of the Will of God.

Secondly with the above point in mind, it was God's will that He should reveal this plan to those who believed Him. That belief would manifest itself as Faith, because Believers would Trust that God would perform that which He had promised. The Revelation of this plan to men and women before the first appearing of Jesus was in types and shadows. The teaching of the way of salvation was from the very beginning. The Life of Jesus Christ was mapped out and portrayed in type and symbol from the outset.

These are examples:

- It is not good for man to dwell alone, a help suitable for man was created, a Bride for the Son (Ephesians 5:25-32)
- When Eve was created she was fashioned from a rib out of man. Spiritual woman created out of Body of Christ (Eph 5:30-31)
- Man was given the responsibility to teach his wife, the Gospel of Christ is the knowledge from tree of life.
- Man was given the opportunity to die for his wife. He didn't, but Christ died for his wife.
- The seed of the woman was promised that he would bruise the head of the seed of the servant, though in the process he would be bruised in the foot.
- A covering of animal skins was provided to be a covering for sin.
- Abel offered a more excellent sacrifice, because he understood the need to give the best of the flock.
- Noah built an ark of wood, and was saved by water, being buried by baptism, preaching the resurrection (1 Peter 3:2—21)
- He offered animals described as clean long before the law of Moses was given, appreciating how certain characteristics represented the nature of the perfect man.
- Abraham, three-day journey with the Son, with the wood, My Son God will provide himself a Lamb.
- The sacrifice was found with thorns around his head.
- Joseph sold for 30 pieces of silver thrown in a pit became saviour of the world.
- The tabernacle, its construction and its furniture all spoke of the atoning work to come.
- The sacrifices and offerings all spoke of the sacrificial work to come

- The calendar and feast days given to the nation spoke of the great redemptive work of the One to come.
- Hundreds of references in detail to the life work death, resurrection, ascension of Jesus found in the Psalms of David
- The prophets from Isaiah to Malachi all spoke of just one who would come- the promised seed.

God inspired the prophets to write down His plan and purpose. He mapped out the detailed life and character of Christ long before the Christ was even born. The salvation of hundreds of thousands of people if not millions depended upon faith in this promised coming Messiah and the faith and understanding of those who looked and believed in this Messiah was real even though he had not been born.

God made known (or manifest) His glory – His plan, His will, through His Word for 4000 years. It focussed on the Coming One, His Son, the Promised Seed, and the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. The Gospel. At times this Gospel was acted out in the Mosaic Law, or acted out in the lives of certain people, like David, Joseph, Jeremiah or Daniel. It was even acted out in the people of God the Jews. But they fell from that high standard.

When Jesus met some of his followers who were so sad because he had been crucified, and did not believe he would be resurrected, he met them on the road to the village of Emmaus. He said to them Luke 24: 25-27 *O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them **in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.***

This means that ALL the scriptures in the Old Testament that the Believers possessed and read, were prophesying of no one else but

Jesus Christ. That Jesus expected them to understand that. He called the fools and slow of heart because they did not believe.

Jesus believed. He believed so much. He grew up learning the Bible, the Old Testament, that he could know it by heart. He knew it was talking of himself. He knew what was expected of him. He carefully kept to all the laws and commandments that God had given to him, so that he actually fulfilled all the prophecies of the Old Testament one by one, so much so, that he became known as the Word Made Flesh. He was the living embodiment of the Word of God. He was the will of God in action.

Taking all of the above comments together, we conclude that the Lord Jesus Christ – the Anointed Ruler and Saviour, as his name means, did not pre-exist before he was born, but was pre-ordained, pre-destined before he was born. The Bible does not use the word pre-exist. In fact, the word is a contradiction of terms. (How can something exist before it exists? – unless there is death in-between or a non-existence and even trinitarians are agreed this is not the case with Jesus Christ).

The scripture makes **no** allowance in any form, at any time, in any place for Jesus have existed **bodily** before he was born.

He existed before he was born – **only** in the sense that he existed in the mind of God as a concept or idea, he was God's plan, purpose and will, the method of God's intervention to save mankind from their sin. He existed as the Word, the Gospel, the Ark, the Sacrifice, the Altar, the Veil, the Holy Lampstand, the Brasen Serpent, Tree of Life, the Rainbow, The Rock, The Manna in the wilderness.... The list can go on... But Jesus Christ himself, the person of Jesus did not exist before he was born in Bethlehem.

God's Point of View

Psalm 139: 16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in

continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them. I believe this is a Messianic Psalm, that is a Psalm written describing the thoughts or life of the Messiah before he was even born. Some may say, no, it is David or someone else. It does not really matter because what this verse shows is exactly God's Point of View.

CLICK See the NET version for clarity: *Your eyes saw me when I was inside the womb. All the days **ordained** for me were recorded in your scroll **before** one of them came into existence.* Pre-ordained before existence. God saw before existence. Does God lie? No. So the man existed in God's mind – he saw him before he existed. See also Jeremiah 1:5.

1 Peter 1:19 -21: *But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was **foreordained** before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you...* This passage is another Divinely inspired example of God's Point of View, the idea, the concept, the plan of God of the saving work of His Son as the Lamb without blemish was with God from **before** the foundation of the world.

Romans 8:29-30: *For whom **he did foreknow**, he also did **pre-destinate** to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did pre-destinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.*

Turning now to scriptures used by trinitarians to support pre-existence Let us go through them one by one.

John 1:1,2,3

In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God.-Vs 2 . He was in the beginning with God. -Vs 3. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

This is probably one of the main passages whereby people argue that Jesus is part of the trinity, and that Jesus pre-existed. However, Jesus is not literally the Word. Indeed, in verse 14 of this chapter the Spirit describes Jesus as the Word made flesh.

The Greek word for ‘Word’ is *logos*, which means concept, idea, plan, reason. *Logos* does not have a personality, is not male or female, so the verse should read...Vs 2 . *IT was in the beginning with God.* -Vs 3. *All things were made through IT, and without IT nothing was made that was made* – See how it changes things – doesn’t suit the trinitarians now does it?

Even so, the personification – making *logos* male or female of this idea is not new for example another passage used is in

Proverbs 8:22: *The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old.* -Vs 30. *Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman. And I was daily His delight.* The context of these verses shows the writer was referring to wisdom – (and not the second person of the trinity as Catholics claim) Wisdom and knowledge, originate from God, before he even decided to commence the Creation. There is no justification to say that this passage is referring to Jesus. But instead it personifies wisdom as a woman.

When we read here in John 1:2 that all things were made by him (or it, as it should be) it is not saying that Jesus made everything, but that it was by the Word, the command of God that brought about the creative process. For example: Psalm 33:6,9 *By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. For he spoke, and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast.* Hebrews 11:3: *Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God.*

However, after Jesus was born, and developed into the remarkable man he is, he became the Word made flesh by living what the Word

commanded, in other words he was *logos* manifest, the best example we can see of the *logos* of God.

John 1:14,15.

And the word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the father, full of grace and truth. -Vs 15. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me." -

John said in verse 15 ...he was before me...In what way was Jesus before John the Baptist? Surely, he was younger and came afterwards? The Diaglott translation, which is an accurate accepted translation of the New Testament says this: *John testified concerning him, and cried saying: This is he of whom I said, He who comes after me is in advance of me, For he is my superior.* This translation clarifies that John was not saying that Jesus existed before him, but instead that Jesus was superior to him, and before him in that sense. This is confirmed by another gospel account: Matthew 3:11: *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:*

John 3:13

"No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the son of man who is in heaven."

This may seem to be saying that Jesus came down from heaven, therefore he must have existed in heaven before his birth as a human upon earth. However, we read the passage carefully. It says the Son **of man** in heaven. How could a man, be in heaven with God? (See Exodus 33:20 *for there shall no man see me, and live.*) Instead, Jesus as the son of man originated in heaven because his mother was visited by the Holy Spirit which was from God in heaven (see Luke 1:35). Jesus was speaking the words of God, his

father which were in heaven (see John 7:16). Additionally Jesus was living as a citizen of the heavenly Kingdom.

John 3:17

"For God did not send His son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

This in no way shows the pre-existence of Jesus or that Jesus was part of any trinity, but is teaching that the first mission of Jesus was not judge the world. It is true it uses the word 'send' so some people might imagine this means God sending Jesus from heaven. Instead it just means being sent on a mission – see for example John 17:18. Jesus speaking of his disciples: *As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.*

John 6:38,46,

Verse 38: *For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, the will of Him who sent me.* This manner of speaking, and what he was referring we have just spoken about. This passage shows that the trinity does not exist, as the father and son are not co-equal if one has sent the other. Instead, this is a way of speaking reserved for his disciples only, that Jesus expected to understand him, that his mission was heavenly sent.

Verse 46: *Not that anyone has seen the father, except He who is from God. He has seen the father.*

This verse trinitarians love, because it seems to be saying that Jesus has seen God. However, if Jesus has seen God, and no man can see God and live, then Jesus must have pre-existed as God, and not man. However, they trip over themselves, as they teach the Holy Spirit is also a person, but according to their argument, the Holy Spirit cannot see God, as only Jesus has seen God. Again, their arguments have so many holes in them. Therefore, it shows that Jesus simply does not mean that. Jesus was referring to seeing in

the sense of perception, understanding, and unity of mind – as in “do you see what I mean?” For example Jesus said John 14:9: *he that hath seen me hath seen the Father*. So we can see it is not out of the ordinary for John to use “see” to communicate “seeing with the mind” or “perceiving”. This occurs amid a very metaphorical exchange by Jesus in which he says that he “came down out of heaven” (John 6:42) and is the “bread of life” (John 6:48), neither one of those statements should be taken literally because Jesus is making a parallel between himself and manna in the Old Testament, a story in which God “gave them bread out of heaven to eat”

John 6: 61,62:

When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples complained about this, He said to them, Does this offend you? What then if you should see the son of man ascend where He was before? This, the trinitarians argue that Jesus must have existed before his life upon the earth. But again, Jesus here describes himself as the Son of man. The trinitarians must answer the question: How exactly can a son of man exist in heaven, before he was son of man??

Additionally, it is not wise to rip verses out of their context. The whole of this section of chapter 6 is about how Jesus is comparing himself to the manna which the children of Israel received in the wilderness. This manna was described as the *bread from heaven* see verse 31 for example. The bread did not literally fall all the way from beyond the atmosphere or outer space, however the miracle of its provision originated from heaven – via the Holy Spirit. So too, Christ Jesus came from heaven in the sense, heaven was his origin, via the Holy Spirit which was sent from heaven to conceive a child within the womb of Mary.

Additionally, we have already shown that the Lord Jesus existed previously to his birth, in the mind of God. After his ascension he

was to sit on the right hand of the Father – to the place of his origin.

John 8:57,58.

Then the Jews said to Him, "you are yet fifty years old, and have seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I Am".

Jesus said in the previous verse (56) that Abraham rejoiced to see my day and was glad. This is said to prove the pre-existence of Jesus – *before Abraham was, I am*. And that in referring to I AM Jesus was telling the Jews that he was very God. This is not the case. In the first place Jesus simply was referring to the fact that Abraham through the eye of faith in understanding the gospel message (Galatians 3:8) could look forward and see the day when the Promised seed would appear. Secondly, Jesus was responding to the fact that the Jews were claiming Abraham as their father. Jesus was teaching his pre-eminence over Abraham, and not his pre-existence. He said before Abraham was I AM, not I was!! He was cryptically explaining that before even the birth of Abraham, he Jesus Christ existed in the plan and purpose of God, and that here he was before them, demonstrating the fulfilment of that Divine plan.

John 17:5,24.

And now, O Father, glorify me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was...Father, I desire that they also whom you gave me may be with me where I am, that they may behold my glory which you have given me; for you loved Me before the foundation of the world.

The phrases ...'with the glory which I had with You before the world was' and 'You loved me before the foundation of the world' ... does not prove the pre-existence of the Lord Jesus.

The glorification Jesus is referring to is his death and resurrection to perfection (see John 17:1, Hebrews 1:3). How did the Lord Jesus possess such glory before the world was? As previously explained it was in the mind of God, the *logos*, the state of perfection and unity before the world was, and then after the fall of man, which was only attainable through the Atonement.

Philippians 2:5-7.

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

This is another favourite of pagan trinitarians. They say, that this means that Jesus had the nature of God before he was born, and that he gave this up, in order to come to earth to live as a human. This confused argument has no basis.

The Apostle says that Jesus was in the form of God. If Jesus was God, then the Apostle would say exactly that, but no, he says he is the form of God. How was Jesus in the form or likeness of God? It is explained in Hebrews 1:3 as the express image or the exact representation of God – not the same as God! Words are important! In fact, it is referring to the character of Jesus being a mirror of that of the Father. The Lord Jesus in being the Word made flesh, because he lived out the Will of God obeying His Word in every respect, became the form of God by matching the character of God. He thought the same, spoke the same, because he not only inherited the superior intellect of God, but with the Holy Spirit given him from on high, he enacted every part of his Father's will. This enabled him to develop the same character. This is described as the form of God in this passage.

If Jesus pre-existed as God before he was born, why would he think it robbery to be equal with God if he was equal already? It really is

nonsense. Many translations have this phrase *robbery* as *something to be grasped at*. This is helpful as it endorses the gospel records where Jesus was tempted to take all power for himself but he responded *Go away Enemy: for it is written, You shall worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve*. (Serving God, and worshipping God does not make sense if Jesus was very God!)

Hebrews 1:1,2

GOD, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these days spoken to us by His son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He also made the worlds;

Again, like the previous quotation, this reference is also used to try and prove the pre-existence of Christ as it says God made the worlds by His son – so he must have been there in person at the time of the creation,- as part of the trinity!

Where it says: *through whom he made the worlds*, the Greek word for worlds is *aions* which means ages, eras or epochs. As we have already explained Christ Jesus was the Saviour for all these eras. Whether before the flood, after the flood, under the law of Moses, or the times of the Gentiles, and indeed during the Kingdom of God, all peoples could only be saved by the gospel which was understanding that salvation was only possible by the redeeming blood of the Son of God for the forgiveness of sins. Only through this provision was the ages or eras of man even possible.

Revelation 3:14.

And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, These things says the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the Beginning of the creation of God.

This quotation from the book of sign and symbol, is not meant to be understood literally, that that Jesus is referring to himself as

being at the beginning of the creation of the seas, land and sun and so on. Instead as the context shows in all the previous letters to the six other ecclesias, Jesus is using spiritual and symbolic language, in order for his faithful servants to grasp the depth of the grace of God.

Jesus is not referring to the literal creation, but the creation of a new men and women, born again through water, to become part of a new heavens and new earth.

Colossians 1:15-17.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

How can Jesus be the firstborn over all creatures if he did not pre-exist? is the question asked by some when reading this verse. Especially if it says that everything was created by him. How could he create everything if he did not exist before? And especially as it says he is before all things! So he must have pre-existed is their conclusion, and it leads them to be deceived by trinitarian apostacy.

It is not advisable to be carried away by trinitarian doctrine, as this passage actually disproves the trinity. If Jesus was firstborn, he had a beginning and therefore was not 'uncreate' as they claim. If he is the image of the invisible God, he is therefore not the same as God!

In this particular passage, there are other ways to consider Jesus being the first born of all creatures, other than immediately thinking it must mean he was literally created first! The context shows us what the Apostle was referring to was in fact the firstborn from the dead ...verse 18: *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead...* He is

the first to be raised to eternal life, overcoming mortality which is the condemnation upon all.

Additionally, the Greek term firstborn *prōtotokos* could refer either to first in order of time, such as a first-born child, or it could refer to one who is preeminent in rank. This can be easily proved by the prophecy of Jesus Christ in Psalm 89:27 *Also I will make him my firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth*. Note also in this Psalm, the words *I will make...* God had not yet ‘made’ His Son, as the Inspired Psalmist confirms, Jesus did not exist when he wrote that Psalm.

It should be pointed out that the words *by him* can also be understood as *through him* or *because of him*.

This verse reflects the teaching of the Apostle elsewhere, where he expects a level of spirituality to be understood and achieved by his readers.

God, who knows all things from the beginning (Isaiah 46:10, Ephesians 3:9) had the creation of a Son at the forefront of His mind from the beginning. He would be the centrepiece of His creation, the first in perfection, and without blemish. Through him, and him alone, would the work of salvation of all peoples be possible. The will of God centred upon this one man, all Kingdoms principalities and powers, and all events ultimately through the advent of Jesus Christ were permitted and allowed to exist.

The truth is plain to see, it is not complicated, and it is a golden thread which runs through scripture, all is in harmony and in unity. If there are any questions arising from this presentation, we would be glad to revisit and expand any of these Bible Passages, or any not listed.