

GETTING TO KNOW JESUS: HIS PERSON & WORK

7 April 2021 | *Week 1: Introduction & The Eternal Christ*

INTRODUCTION

1) *Leading People to Know and Trust Jesus*

2) Class Outline

Part 1: The Person of Christ

- Week 1: Eternal Christ
- Week 2: Incarnate Christ
- Week 3: Risen Christ

Part 2: The Work of Christ

- Week 4: Atonement
- Week 5: Effectual Call, Regeneration, Faith & Repentance
- Week 6: Justification, Adoption & Union with Christ
- Week 7: Sanctification, Perseverance & Glorification

I. The Prologue of John's Gospel

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. – John 1:1-5

Goal for our Study: To prove that Jesus, before He became a man and walked upon the earth, was already in existence as the second Person of the triune God.

II. Jesus Preexistence

1. The Word existed in the beginning
2. The Word was with God
3. The Word created all things
4. Creator and Preexistent

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. – Col. 1:15-17

Isaiah 6:1-10

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called to another and said:

*"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!"*

⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!" Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. ⁷And he touched my mouth and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." ⁸And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me." ⁹And he said, "Go, and say to this people:

*"Keep on hearing, but do not understand;
keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'
¹⁰Make the heart of this people dull,
and their ears heavy,
and blind their eyes;
lest they see with their eyes,
and hear with their ears,
and understand with their hearts,
and turn and be healed."*

John 12:36-41

"While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." When Jesus had said these things, he departed and hid himself from them. ³⁷Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, ³⁸so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

*"Lord, who has believed what he heard from us,
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"*

John 12:36-41 (continued)

Therefore they could not believe. For again Isaiah said,

*⁴⁰ "He has blinded their eyes
and hardened their heart,
lest they see with their eyes,
and understand with their heart, and turn,
and I would heal them."*

Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him.

III. Jesus Preexistence

John 8:48-59

The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?" ⁴⁹ Jesus answered, "I do not have a demon, but I honor my Father, and you dishonor me. ⁵⁰ Yet I do not seek my own glory; there is One who seeks it, and he is the judge. ⁵¹ Truly, truly, I say to you, if anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." ⁵² The Jews said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham died, as did the prophets, yet you say, 'If anyone keeps my word, he will never taste death.' ⁵³ Are you greater than our father Abraham, who died? And the prophets died! Who do you make yourself out to be?" ⁵⁴ Jesus answered, "If I glorify myself, my glory is nothing. It is my Father who glorifies me, of whom you say, 'He is our God.' ⁵⁵ But you have not known him. I know him. If I were to say that I do not know him, I would be a liar like you, but I do know him and I keep his word. ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad." ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am." ⁵⁹ So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

1. Jesus's Discussion with the Pharisees

¹³ Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴ God said to Moses, "I am who I am." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I am has sent me to you.'"— Exodus 3:13-14

Now I want to remind you, although you once fully knew it, that Jesus, who saved a people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe. - Jude 1:5

IV. Understanding Eternal Generation

1. The Eternal Relations of the Trinity

Eternal Generation of the Son: God the Father eternally and by necessity generates or begets God the Son in such a way that the substance (divine essence) of God is not divided.

Nicene Creed: And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.

⁵ For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? Or again "I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son"? - Hebrews 1:5

CASTLETON CORE: WEEK 1

Getting To Know Jesus: His Person & Work | Study Questions | Hebrews 1:8-12

1. What historical context is needed to help you understand this passage?
2. Is the Old Testament quoted in this passage? If so, how is it used?
3. How does this passage give support for the preexistence of Christ?
4. What are some of similarities between Heb. 1:10, Col. 1:15-17 and Jn. 1:3?
5. Name some of the descriptions that God the Father uses to describe Christ in Heb. 1:10-12. How do these point to a better understanding of Christ's preexistence?
6. How does a clear understanding of Christ's preexistence more clearly help us in our worship of him?

Suggested Resources for Further Study

Books

ESV study Bible: English Standard Version. (2011). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

Frame, J. M. (2002). *The Doctrine of God.* Phillipsburg, NJ: P & R Pub.

Köstenberger, A. J., & Swain, S. R. (2008). *Father, Son, and Spirit: The Trinity and John's Gospel.* Nottingham, England: Apollos.

Lanier, G. R. (2020). *Is Jesus truly God?: How the Bible teaches the Divinity of Christ.* Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

Letham, R. (2019). *The Holy Trinity: In Scripture, History, Theology, and Worship.* Phillipsburg, NJ:P&R Publishing.

Sanders, F. (2017). *The Deep Things of God: How the Trinity changes everything.* Wheaton:Crossway.

Sanders, F., & Swain, S. R. (2017). *Retrieving eternal generation.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan.