

## GREAT BIBLE TRUTHS



### 9. Person of Christ

#### An Introduction

We are now going to study the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, who he is and what he came to do. Let's begin with seeing how Jesus lived from the very beginning.

#### PRE-EXISTENCE OF CHRIST – Where did he come from?

The fact that Jesus Christ lived from the beginning is stated in the New Testament and assumed in the Old Testament.

##### 1. Christ in the Old Testament: Pre-existence assumed

###### (a) References to the Son of God

- The Son of God is referred to. Psalm 2:7, Isaiah 9:6-7
- The Son of God appeared among men. This is called a 'theophany'. Genesis 18:1, 32:28, Joshua 5:13-14
- He is personified as wisdom. Proverbs 8:22-31

###### (b) The Messiah is foreshadowed in types

- These are like divinely inspired illustrations. More than that, these types point to what they illustrate. For example, the Ark (Genesis 6), sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22), the Passover (Exodus 12, 1 Corinthians 5:7), manna (Exodus 16:4-5, John 6:30-32), water from the rock (Exodus 17:6, 1 Corinthians 10:4), the serpent (Numbers 21:8, John 3:14), the sign of Jonah (Matthew 12:39-41).

###### (c) The Messiah is foretold by the prophets

- The Book of Moses or the Pentateuch, foretells the conflict with evil (Genesis 3:15), the blessing he would be to the nations ((Genesis 12:3, 18:18), and his ultimate rule and prophetic office. Genesis 49:10, Deuteronomy 18:15
- The Book of Samuel foretells his human descent. 2 Samuel 7:16
- The Psalms foretell his kingly (Psalm 132:12), and priestly office (Psalm 110:4), and of his suffering (Psalm 69:20-21), resurrection (Psalm 16:10) and ascension. Psalm 16:10
- The Prophets foretell him being the Son of Man (Daniel 7:13) and the Suffering Servant. Isaiah 42:1-9

##### 2. Christ in the New Testament: His pre-existence told

See this in the following verses:

- John 1:1, 14, 3:17, 6:51, 8:42, 58, 13:3, 17:5, 24
- Philippians 2:4-5
- Colossians 1:17-18
- Revelation 1:8, 2:8, 22:13



*How can this doctrine of the pre-existence of Jesus help us in sharing Christ with those of different religions?*

## **NATURE OF CHRIST** – Who was he?

A true knowledge of Jesus doesn't come from textbooks, but rather from a personal relationship with the one who was man, and yet God.

### **(a) Humanity** – Was he really a man?

- His birth and infancy: Although he had a miraculous conception, he had a normal birth.
- Human growth: His childhood was like that of other Jewish children and he had brothers, sisters, parents, home, attended the synagogue and school, and later had a job.
- He had human feelings: He faced thirst and hunger (Mark 3:5), experienced sorrow and tears (John 11:33), shrank from death and was subject to temptation (Hebrews 4:15), felt love, anger, affection for friends and had human desires. Luke 22:15
- Had a human death: 'suffered and died in flesh'. 1 Peter 3:18, 4:1
- Human character: Jesus had all the desirable human characteristics, all in perfect balance. He had a sense of purpose, faith, he loved God and man, he was joyful, generous, indignant at wrong, loyal, sincere, persevering and self-controlled.

### **(b) Christ was sinless**

The New Testament says: "God sent his Son in the likeness of sinful flesh." Romans 8:3  
Jesus was like us in his earthly life, however he was not identical, as he was without sin.

- Testimony of others  
John the Baptist (John 1:27), Judas (Matthew 27:4), Pilate (Luke 23:4), Pilate's wife (Matthew 27:19), the Centurion (Luke 23:47), and the dying thief. Luke 23:41
- Testimony of New Testament writers  
They described Jesus as holy, righteous and that he knew no sin. Acts 3:14, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Hebrews 4:15, 7:26, 1 Peter 2:22, 1 John 3:5
- Testimony of Jesus  
He accused others of sin and called others to repent. Also he claimed to be one with the Holy God. John 8:39-40, 46, 14:30-31
- Other proofs  
Jesus is the greatest inspiration to live a holy life. He was declared sinless by the resurrection.



*Why was baptised in water if he was sinless? Discuss.*

*Would it have been possible for Jesus to sin? What do you think?*



**Jesus was qualified to become the sacrifice for our sin, because he lived a sinless life.  
1 John 3:5. Let us thank him for paying the price for us!**