

WHERE WAS THE SON OF GOD BEFORE THE INCARNATION?

By Brother Mike Sutherland

The Lord Jesus Christ is referred to as the “Son of God” 53 times in 52 verses in the New Testament. The “Son of God” is the title and representation of his deity in the New Testament. The Lord Jesus Christ is directly referred to as the “Son of man” 88 times in 84 verses in the New Testament. The “Son of man” is the title and the representation of his humanity in the New Testament. When putting these two presentations of the Lord Jesus Christ together, many state that he is 100% God and 100% man. A theological term that is used to express that relationship is “The God-Man”. There is only one God-Man and that is the Lord Jesus Christ. There will never be another one. A Biblical term that is used to describe this relationship is “(the) Godhead”. *Colossians 2:8-9* states:

⁸ Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. ⁹ For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. *Colossians 2:8-9*

What that means is that in the body of the Lord Jesus Christ dwells God the Father and God the Holy Ghost. The God-Man is an everlasting being. The reason we state that is because there is a specific point in time where we can point to and say that the God-Man came into existence. He will never cease to exist in that manifestation. *1 Timothy 3:16* states:

¹⁶ And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. *1 Timothy 3:16*

That word “manifest” is in the present continuous tense which means it never ceases to manifest. Notice that *1 Timothy 3:16* says that that flesh was received up into glory! It is still there in waiting for his appearance before his Jewish brethren! The Bible also states in *1 John 4:3* and *2 John 7* that anyone who refuses to acknowledge that the Lord Jesus Christ came in the flesh is under the control of the spirit of antichrist.

The Lord Jesus Christ was not robed in flesh. That is a heresy rooted in the false doctrine of Incarnational Sonship. *John 1:14* says that the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word was **MADE** flesh. He did not become flesh. He was not robed in flesh. A robe is something you can put on and take off at will. The Lord Jesus Christ was made the everlasting God-Man at the incarnation the instant he was conceived of the Holy Ghost in the womb of the virgin Mary. Mary was not the Immaculate Conception. Mary was a sinner in need of a Saviour which she acknowledged in *Luke 1:47*. The Lord Jesus Christ was the Immaculate Conception that was conceived in the womb of the virgin Mary. We know that the Lord Jesus Christ will continue as the everlasting God-Man because he will appear in his crucified flesh before the Jewish people. That is documented in *Zechariah 12:10*, *Zechariah 13:6*, and *Revelation 1:7*. The wounds and piercing in these three passages of scripture are not scars. The song “One Nail Scarred Hand” would be more appropriately named “One Nail Pierced Hand”. Lest we forget, I would remind everyone that the Son of God is an eternal being. According to *Micah 5:2* “his goings forth have been from of old, **from everlasting**.” *Habakkuk 1:12* states:

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¹² *Art thou not **from everlasting**, O LORD my God, mine Holy One? we shall not die. O LORD, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction. **Habakkuk 1:12***

The phrase “**from everlasting**” in *Micah 5:2* and *Habakkuk 1:12* means that if you could walk back in time for ever and ever, you could never find a point in time where he did not exist. That is baffling! So, what is time? Time is the space between two events. That “Holy One” from *Habakkuk 1:12* is the Lord Jesus Christ as we will prove before we close today. The Lord Jesus Christ, like God the Father, is self existing. God the Father said in *Exodus 3:13-14*:

¹³ And Moses said unto God, Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What *is* his name? what shall I say unto them? ¹⁴ And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you. *Exodus 3:13-14*

The Lord Jesus Christ stated the same condition of existence in *John 8:57-59*:

⁵⁷ Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? ⁵⁸ Jesus said unto them, **Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.** ⁵⁹ Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by. *John 8:57-59*

Hebrews 1:3 says that the Lord Jesus Christ is the “**EXPRESS IMAGE**” of God.

We also know that the Lord Jesus Christ existed before the incarnation, because the New Testament says that he is the creator. John chapter 1 says:

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² The same was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. *John 1:1-3*

Colossians 1:12-17 says:

¹² Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: ¹³ Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son: ¹⁴ In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins: ¹⁵ Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: ¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. *Colossians 1:12-17*

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Hebrews 1:1-2 says:

¹ 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; *Hebrews 1:1-2*

We See The Son of God in the Old Testament: We would refer you to *Proverbs 8:22-36*, *Proverbs 30:4*, and *Daniel 3:25*:

²² The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. ²³ I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. ²⁴ When *there were* no depths, I was brought forth; when *there were* no fountains abounding with water. ²⁵ Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: ²⁶ While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. ²⁷ When he prepared the heavens, I *was* there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: ²⁸ When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: ²⁹ When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth: ³⁰ Then I was by him, *as* one brought up *with him*: and I was daily *his* delight, rejoicing always before him; ³¹ Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights *were* with the sons of men.

³² Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed *are they that* keep my ways. ³³ Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. ³⁴ Blessed *is* the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. ³⁵ For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD. ³⁶ But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death. *Proverbs 8:22-36*

⁴ Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what *is* his name, and what *is* his son's name, if thou canst tell? *Proverbs 30:4*

²⁵ He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God. *Daniel 3:25*

Proverbs chapter 8 is the Wisdom of God personified. *Proverbs 8:22-23* clearly states that Wisdom is from everlasting. The Lord Jesus Christ clearly stated that he is the Wisdom of God in *Matthew 23:34* (Read also *Matthew 11:19*, *Luke 7:35*, *Luke 11:49*, and *1 Corinthians 1:21-31*). *Proverbs 30:4* is a clear statement that God has a Son. *Daniel 3:25* was one fulfillment of God's promise to Israel in *Isaiah 43:1-3*:

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¹ But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called *thee* by thy name; thou *art* mine. ² When thou passest through the waters, I *will be* with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. ³ For I *am* the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt *for* thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. *Isaiah 43:1-3*

In relation to walking through the fires, The Holy One of Israel is mentioned in verse 3 of Isaiah chapter 43. That Holy One is a preincarnate manifestation of the Lord Jesus Christ. That Holy One is identified as the Lord Jesus Christ six times in the New Testament. Those passages are *Mark 1:24*, *Luke 4:34*, *Acts 2:27*, *Acts 3:14*, *Acts 13:35*, and *1 John 2:20*. In two of those passages, *Mark 1:24* and *Luke 4:34* even the devils and unclean spirits acknowledge that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Holy One of Israel. In my last several appearances before you, it has been my objective to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ as he appears in the book of Isaiah. The book of Isaiah is a microcosm of the entire Bible. As a reminder, the phrase “Holy One” occurs 30 times in the book of Isaiah; the capitalized form of “Redeemer” seven times, and the lower case form of “redeemer” six times: all in reference to the Lord Jesus Christ. The book of Isaiah contains many confirmations of the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:8, *Revelation 1:11*, *Revelation 21:6*, and *Revelation 22:13* when taken with *Isaiah 41:4*, *Isaiah 44:6*, and *Isaiah 48:12* prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that the Lord Jesus Christ is Jehovah manifest in flesh. Put another way, when all these scriptures are taken together, they prove that the Lord Jesus Christ is God manifest in flesh (*1 Timothy 3:16*). Any doctrine, or an fake Bible, that states that the Lord Jesus Christ is a created, or begotten, god (lower case “g”) is a Satanic damnable heresy concocted in the pits of hell in a vile attempt to destroy the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. Peter said in *2 Peter 2:1-2*:

¹ But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. ² And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. *2 Peter 2:1-2*

I just stated a few minutes ago that even the devils and unclean spirits acknowledge that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Holy One of Israel and the “Son of the most high God” (*Mark 5:7*). Yet many apostate and unbelieving modern Bible scholars refuse to acknowledge the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. Perhaps the greatest modern day tragedy has been the infestation of most, if not all, English translation committees with heretics that deny the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ and pervert the doctrine of salvation. The most often perverted doctrine God-ward in the modern professing church and translation committees is the deity of the Lord Jesus Christ. The most often perverted doctrine man-ward in the modern professing church and translation committees is the doctrine of man’s salvation. Can I say this about the King James Bible? The King James Bible is the only English

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Bible that makes a direct distinction between the person of the third person of the Trinity and the work of the third person of the Trinity in a body of flesh. The person of the third person of the trinity is the Holy Ghost. The work of the Holy Ghost in any body of flesh is referred to as the work of the Spirit. That word “Spirit” should always be capitalized. If it is not capitalized, then it is a spelling error; not a translation error.

I want to close today by stating that the greatest obstacle to understanding the Bible is a lack of belief. The first order of belief is to put your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The second order of belief is to believe the Word of God. So, then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God. *1 Corinthians 2:14* says:

¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.

The natural man is the unbelieving (faithless), lost sinner. *Hebrews 4:12* says:

¹² For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 5:12-14 states:

¹² For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. ¹³ For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. ¹⁴ But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. *Hebrews 5:12-14*

What most folks in our American churches are getting today from their teachers, pastors, and preachers is not even skim milk. It is whitewashed water that is laced with spiritual poison. The reason for that is that most of the members, teachers, pastors, and preachers in American churches are unsaved false professors. False professions have become the leprosy in what used to be Bible believing churches. Unbelieving sinner’s prayers have become the Nehushtan of so called fundamentalist churches. Unbelief, carnal saved folk, and unbelieving church members is killing our churches. If you are an unbelieving church member or a doubting Bible believer that does not fully trust your Bible your urgent plea to God must be, “help thou mine unbelief”. If you are a genuine Bible believing Christian, you must yield to the workings of the Holy Ghost in your heart. It is the Holy Ghost that is your teacher. It is the Holy Ghost that gives unction to saved men and women so that they can be Godly, effective teachers for the Lord Jesus Christ. “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (*2 Timothy 2:15*). Outside of intensive study, the key to being an effective Bible teacher and preacher is to be

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in tune with the Holy Ghost that we might receive his unction. Note the following in *John 14:26* and *John 16:13-15*:

²⁶ But the Comforter, *which is* the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. *John 14:26*

¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. ¹⁴ He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew *it* unto you. *John 16:13-15*