

Pre-existence of Christ

The traditional, orthodox view is that Jesus existed and interacted with humanity long before His incarnation. In fact we are taught that He existed prior to the creation of the universe!

1. Many believe that the teaching of Christ's pre-existence is foundational to the Christian faith. Why would that be so?
2. What does the Bible have to say about the existence of the Son of God before He came as Jesus of Nazareth?
John 1:1-3, 14

Colossians 1:15-17

Philippians 2:5-7
3. Where was Jesus Christ before the world began? (John 17:5)
4. In the Gospel of John, the Jewish leaders questioned Jesus on who He was. In response He said, "*prin Abraam genesthai ego eimi.*" (John 8:58) Literally, "Before Abraham was existing, I am." "*Ego eimi*" is plainly "I am." Why is that significant?
5. Read Hebrews 1:5-13. Look up the Psalms the author refers to (using your Bible's cross reference tools) and determine what light is shed on Jesus' pre-existence.
6. What does Hebrews 5:5-10 teach on the issue of Jesus' pre-existence?

7. One of the strongest opponents of the pre-existence was John Knox. Knox argued the doctrine of pre-existence made Christ less human. He argued that we can either have the humanity of Christ or the pre-existence, but there is no way of having both.¹ However, Knox believed in the Trinity. In what way does this demonstrate a breakdown of his logic?

8. In order to understand pre-existence, we need to also examine how Christ viewed His own self-consciousness. What powers of God did Jesus claim in Mark 12:1-12?

9. How did Jesus view Himself in Matthew 25:31-46?

10. How does Jesus' statements concerning the Tanakh support Jesus' argument that He was the Messiah? (John 5:39-40; Luke 24:44)

¹ Knox, John, *The Humanity and Divinity of Christ, A study of Patten in Christology*, Cambridge Publishing: Cambridge, 1967 p. 10-11