

The Preexistent Self-Existent Jesus



THE SON

“God the eternal Son became incarnate in Jesus Christ. Through Him all things were created, the character of God is revealed, the salvation of humanity is accomplished, and the world is judged. Forever truly God, He became also truly human, Jesus the Christ. He was conceived of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He lived and experienced temptation as a human being, but perfectly exemplified the righteousness and love of God. By His miracles He manifested God’s power and was attested as God’s promised Messiah. He suffered and died voluntarily on the cross for our sins and in our place, was raised from the dead, and ascended to heaven to minister in the heavenly sanctuary in our behalf. He will come again in glory for the final deliverance of His people and the restoration of all things.”

Seventh-day Adventist Biblical Belief #4

DECODING THE DECEPTION

The Preexistent Self-Existent Jesus



FOCUS SCRIPTURE: John 8:58 (NKJV) “Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

If Jesus is not the eternal, pre-existent, self-existent God, then our entire faith crumbles. The foundation of Christianity rests on who Jesus is – not merely a prophet, teacher, or created being – but God in the flesh.

This topic is the threshold of one of the most profound truths in all of Scripture - the divine nature of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This isn't merely an academic exercise or theological debate. This is the foundation upon which the entire Christian faith rests.

THE GREAT QUESTION

The **question before us today is not simply “Who is Jesus?”** but rather **“Is Jesus truly God?”** If we **get this wrong**, we **get everything wrong**.

I declare with absolute confidence that Jesus *is* God! He is the pre-existent, self-existent, eternal Son of God who stepped out of eternity into time, clothed Himself in human flesh, and dwelt among us.

Matthew 1:23 (NKJV) “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”

We will explore the overwhelming Scriptural evidence that Jesus Christ is not merely a good teacher, not simply a prophet, not a created being - but He is the eternal God who became man to redeem us from our sins.

JOIN ME IN THIS DISCOVERY OF WHO JESUS IS IF:

- You are ready to strengthen your faith.
- You are prepared to worship Him with greater understanding.
- You are willing to allow the Written Word to reveal the Living Word.

1. Jesus is Eternal and has no beginning and no end:

John 8:58 (NKJV) “Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’”

- Jesus uses the **divine name “I AM” (Exodus 3:14)**
- Jesus claims existence before Abraham.

The Bible compares the priest Melchizedek to Jesus’ Eternal Priesthood:

Hebrews 7:3 (NIV) “Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever.”

The Bible makes it abundantly clear Jesus is pre-existent:

Psalms 90:2 (NKJV) “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”

The prophecy of Jesus condescending into the world:

Micah 5:2 (NKJV) “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.”

Habakkuk 1:12 (NKJV) “Are You not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O LORD, You have appointed them for judgment; O Rock, You have marked them for correction.”

Who is the Rock? 1 Corinthians 10:4 (NKJV) “For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.”

Isaiah 44:8 (NKJV) “Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.”

Psalm 106:48 (NKJV) “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting! And let all the people say, “Amen!” Praise the LORD!”

2. Jesus is called the Creator of all things:

John 1:3 (NKJV) “All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

Colossians 1:16 (NKJV) “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.”

3. Jesus is Called “The First and the Last”

Revelation 1:17-18 (NKJV) “And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, ‘Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. (18) I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.’”

Revelation 22:13 (NKJV) “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”

POINT #1: Jesus is not a created being, He is the eternal Creator who spoke all things into existence and sustains them by the power of His word.

4. Jesus Accepts Worship as God:

Matthew 28:9 (NKJV) “And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, “Rejoice!” So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him.”

Matthew 14:33 (NKJV) “Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.”

John 20:28 (NKJV) “And Thomas answered and said to Him, ‘My Lord and my God!’”

- **If Jesus is not God, when Thomas declared “My Lord and my God” Jesus should have rebuked him for blasphemy, but instead He accepted his worship.**

Isaiah 43:10 (NKJV) “You are My witnesses,” says the LORD, “And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, and understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, nor shall there be after Me.”

- **If Jesus is not God, we are worshipping a created being, making us guilty of idolatry.**

5. Jesus Claims Equality with the Father:

John 10:30 (NKJV) “I and My Father are one.”

John 14:9 (NKJV) “Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’”

Philippians 2:6 (NKJV) “Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God...”

6. Jesus is Called “The Word” Who Was God

John 1:1-2 (NKJV) “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was in the beginning with God.”

John 1:14 (NKJV) “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.”

The phrase “**the only begotten of the Father**” (Greek: *monogenēs para Patros*) appears most notably in **John 1:14**.

This phrase is rich in theological meaning and has been misunderstood or misused—especially by groups that deny the full deity of Christ.

Let’s break it down clearly and biblically:

Greek Word: *Monogenēs* “mono-gen-ace” Meaning:

- **Mono** = Only, unique, one
- **Genēs** = Kind, type, class (not necessarily “born”)

“**Only Begotten**” is the same phrase in **Hebrews 11:17** referring to Isaac as being Abraham’s only son. We know Isaac was Abraham’s second son. Ishmael was the oldest son.

Hebrews 11:17 (NKJV) “By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son.”

Monogenēs places the focus on uniqueness, special relationship, and one-of-a-kind status, not a literal chronological order of birth.

QUEST: Why use the Greek word ***Monogenēs*** to refer to Jesus?

Jesus is **eternal**, Jesus **has no origin**, Jesus **created all things: *Monogenēs*!**

1. Without Jesus we can’t have true peace with God, for He alone is the mediator who reconciles us to the Father through His precious blood.

2. Without Jesus we can't overcome sin and death, for He is the only One who has conquered the grave and offers us victory over our fallen nature.
3. Without Jesus we can't receive eternal life, for He alone can say "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
4. Without Jesus we can't produce spiritual fruit, for He said "without me ye can do nothing" - we are dependent on Jesus for all spiritual growth and effectiveness.
5. Without Jesus we can't have hope for the future, for He alone holds the future in His hands and He alone is preparing an eternal home for us.

Jesus is the core of Salvation, without Him it is impossible:

Acts 4:12 (NKJV) "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

7. Jesus Claims Divine Attributes:

Matthew 28:18 (NKJV) "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.'" (Omnipotence)

Matthew 18:20 (NKJV) "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." (Omnipresence)

8. Jesus is Called "Mighty God" and "Everlasting Father"

Isaiah 9:6 (NKJV) "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

In Hebrew, the phrase "**A-vi-ad**" means "**Father of Eternity**."

- It emphasizes Christ's eternal nature, not that He is the same person as God the Father in the Godhead.
- It assigns Him as the originator, source, and sustainer of eternal life – not a confusion of persons within the Godhead.

In His earthly life, Jesus distinguished himself from the Father in personhood but identified Himself with the Father in Deity.

Distinguished Role: John 14:28 (NKJV) "You have heard Me say to you, 'I am going away and coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, 'I am going to the Father,' for My Father is greater than I."

Deity Role: John 10:30 (NKJV) "I and My Father are one."

- **Jesus bears the Father's Image:** Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV) "Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person."

- **Jesus shares the Father's Divine Nature:** Colossians 2:9 (NKJV) "For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."
- **Jesus Possesses Eternal Life:** John 1:4 (NKJV) "In Him was life, and the life was the light of men."
- **Jesus Reveals the Father's Character:** John 14:9 (NKJV) "He who has seen Me has seen the Father..."
- **Jesus forgives sin like the Father:** Mark 2:7 (NKJV) "Who can forgive sins but God alone?"
- **Jesus loves like the Father:** John 15:9 (NKJV) "As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you; abide in My love."
- **Jesus sustains all things like the Father:** Hebrews 1:3 (NKJV) "Upholding all things by the word of His power..."
- **Jesus speaks the Father's Words:** John 12:49-50 (NKJV) "For I have not spoken on My own authority...just as the Father has told Me, so I speak."

9. Jesus Claims to Give Eternal Life:

John 10:28 (NKJV) "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand."

John 11:25 (NKJV) "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life."

10. Jesus is Called "The True God"

1 John 5:20 (NKJV) "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life."

Hebrews 1:8 (NKJV) "But to the Son He says: 'Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.'"

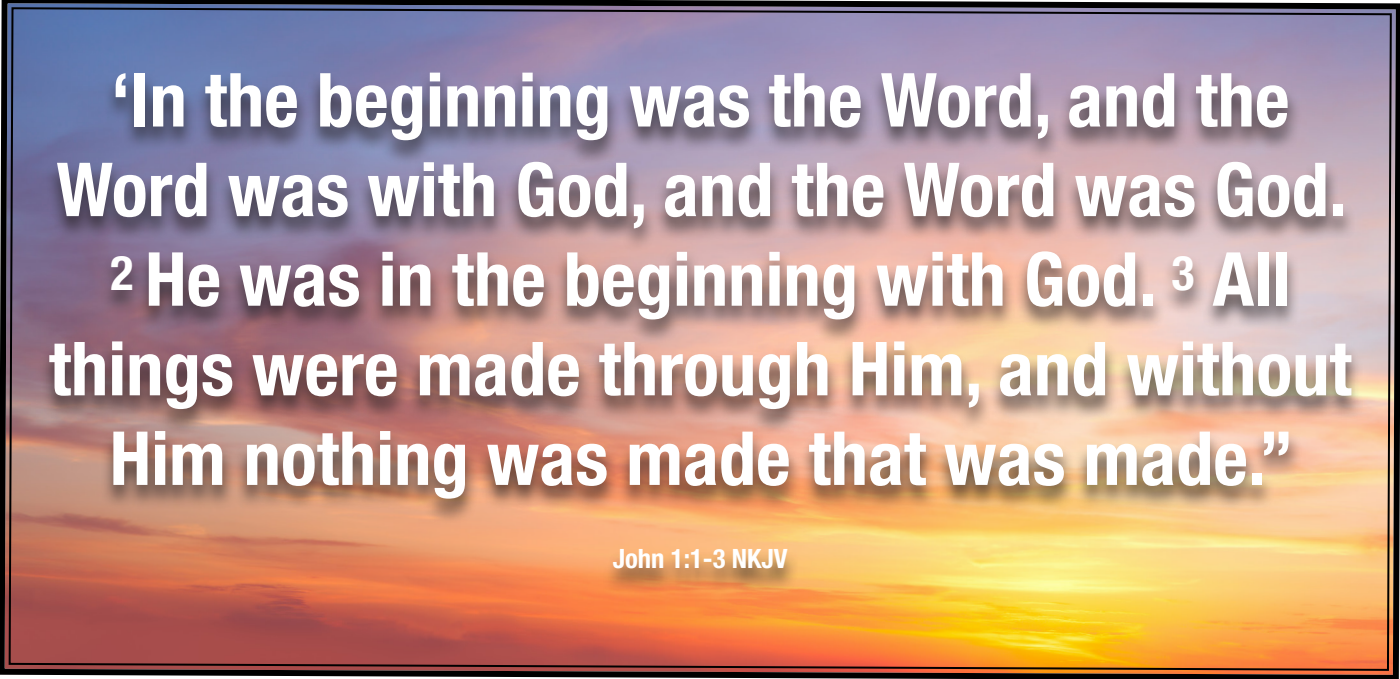
If Jesus is not God, there is a series of sobering realities that confront us.

- **If Jesus is not God, then His sacrifice on the cross was insufficient to pay for our sins, for only an infinite being can pay an infinite debt.**
- **If Jesus is not God, then He was a liar when He said "Before Abraham was, I AM" - using the sacred name of Jehovah from Exodus 3:14.**
- **If Jesus is not God, then we have no mediator between God and man, for only One who is both fully God and fully man can bridge that infinite gap.**
- **If Jesus is not God, then our prayers offered in His name are meaningless, for we would be praying to a mere creature.**
- **If Jesus is not God, then He had no authority to forgive sins. However, by forgiving sins, Jesus exercised a prerogative that belongs to God alone.**
- **If Jesus is not God, then the apostle John was dishonest when he wrote "the Word was God" and "the Word became flesh."**

- **If Jesus is not God, then Paul was deceptive when he called Him “The great God and our Savior Jesus Christ” in Titus 2:13.**
- **If Jesus is not God, then we are dead in our sins, for no created being can conquer death and grant eternal life.**
- **If Jesus is not God, then Christianity is the greatest deception ever perpetrated upon humanity.**

However, Jesus is the eternal pre-existent, self-existent God, and He is Coming Again:
Isaiah 25:9 (NKJV) “And it will be said in that day: ‘Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the LORD; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.’”

The **Written Word of God** clearly establishes the **Living Word of God** as the **pre-existent, self-existent God who became the incarnate Son of God to save us.**



**‘In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.’**

John 1:1-3 NKJV