

Back to the Basics

Knowing My Savior (1)

Let's Learn About Your Savior

Memory Verse:
John 1:1-4

Now that you have turned your life to Jesus Christ and have partaken of His life giving gift, it is important that you learn more about your Savior. The only way to truly learn about Jesus Christ is to study the Bible. The Bible tells the wonderful story of Jesus' eternal existence, His life and death on this earth, His resurrection, and His ascension back to Heaven. Are you ready to learn more about Jesus Christ? If so, then let us begin.

Jesus Has Always Been

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." (Genesis 1:1) For the Bible student, this is probably one of the most recognized Bible verses. Genesis 1:1 not only begins the Bible, it is the beginning of the story of everything known to man. This wonderful verse begins by answering the great question of where did it all begin. Who created the heavens and the earth? God did.

Later in Genesis 1, the Bible records the creation of man. *"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; . . .'"* (Genesis 1:26a) This verse introduces the thought that there was more than one Being involved in the creation of the heavens and the earth. Who was present with God the Father in the beginning? The answer to this question can be found in John 1:1-18. (While we will be quoting this passage in segments, it would be helpful if you would take this time to read John 1:1-18 before continuing.) Let us begin by looking at John 1:1-5.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.



"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him

nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” (John 1:1-5)

The apostle John, through inspiration, identifies the Word as being with God and as being God. This Word was present in the beginning, just as God the Father was present. In addition, John also clarifies the fact that the Word played a very important part in the creation of the heavens and the earth, saying, “*All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*” This statement supports Genesis 1:26a where Moses recorded, “*Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; . . .’*”

The next question we come to is this: Who or what was the Word? In order to answer this question, we must continue our reading through John 1:1-18.

“There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.” (John 1:6-10)

In John 1:6-10, we see that John refers to the Word as the Light. John states that He came to bear witness of the Light. He then goes on to say, “*That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.*” John is now saying that the world was made through the Light. From this statement we can understand that the Word and the Light are referring to the same being. This same being existed in the beginning.

Having established that the Word and the Light are the same, let us now consider John 1:14-18:

“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. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, ‘This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ ” And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.” (John 1:14-18)

As we continue through this passage in John 1, we learn that the Word became flesh and dwelt among men on this earth. Now, since we know that the Light and the Word are the same and the Word became flesh, therefore we know that the Light became flesh and dwelt among men. John also states that the Word, which became flesh, was the only begotten of the Father. Who is John

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, . . .



describing? John is describing Jesus Christ. John goes on to say, *“For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.”*

As we pull all this together, here is what we find.

- Q In the beginning was the Word, Jesus Christ.
- Q The Word, Jesus Christ, was with God.
- Q The Word, Jesus Christ, was God.
- Q He, Jesus Christ, was in the beginning with God.
- Q All things were made through Him, Jesus Christ.
- Q In Him, Jesus Christ, was life, and the life was the light of men.

As was taught by the apostle John, Jesus has always existed. He was in the beginning and He will continue to be throughout all eternity. In addition to the Genesis account and John’s record, there are other Bible passages which teach the eternal existence of Jesus Christ.

- Q *“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.”* (Micah 5:2) In Micah 5:2-5a, we read a prophecy recorded by the prophet Micah. In this prophecy, Micah is promising that a time will come when the remnant of Israel would be led by the strength of the Lord. The Lord would give up Israel until *“the time that she who is in labor has given birth; then the remnant of His brethren shall return to the children of Israel.”* (Micah 5:3) According to verse two, the *“One to be Ruler in Israel”* would be born in Bethlehem. Regarding this great Ruler, Micah says that His *“goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.”* This statement is a direct reference to the eternal existence of the Ruler, Jesus Christ.
- Q *“Jesus said to them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.’”* (John 8:58) In explaining a point that the Jews did not understand, Jesus said, *“Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad.”* (John 8:56) This statement confused the Jews and they asked Jesus, *“You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?”* (John 8:57) In answer to their question, we see Jesus’ statement attesting to His own eternal existence. Jesus told the people that before Abraham had lived, Jesus existed.
- Q *“And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”* (John 17:5) In Jesus’ prayer to His Father, as recorded in John 17, we see Jesus acknowledging that He had glorified the Father. Jesus prayed, *“I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.”* (John 17:4) Following this statement, Jesus prayed that the Father would glorify Him with the Father. Jesus referred to the glory which He had had with the Father *“before the world was.”* Here again is another testimony from Jesus as to His eternal existence.
- Q *“Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation*

of the world.” (John 17:24) In the same prayer as referenced in the prior passage discussion, we see Jesus making another statement pertaining to His eternal existence. To the Father, Jesus said, “. . . *for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*” For the Father to have loved Jesus, Jesus had to have existed before the foundation of the world.

- Q “*yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.*” (1 Corinthians 8:6) One of the challenges faced by the Christians in Corinth was the rampant idol worship. In the course of explaining that meats offered to idols could be consumed because the idols were nothing, Paul explained that there is only one God. The idols are meaningless and without merit or power. Although other people may choose to believe in idols, Paul declares that for Christians, there is only one God, the Father and one “*Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.*” This statement of Paul, written through inspiration is another testimony to the eternal existence of Jesus Christ, acknowledging, as did John, that Jesus was present in the beginning of creation.
- Q “*He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.*” (Ephesians 4:10) This statement written by Paul shows the simple logic that the One, Jesus, who ascended to heaven is the same One who first descended from heaven.
- Q “*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.*” (Philippians 2:5-7) One of the most awe inspiring facts of Jesus is that He left His heavenly abode to take on the form of a servant, coming in the likeness of man. He who was “*in the form of God*” became flesh so that salvation could be delivered to a world full of sinners. Jesus’ having been “*in the form of God*” proves that His existence prior to coming to this world was eternal.
- Q “*He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 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. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*” (Colossians 1:15-17) As with the other passages we have examined, this passage states that Jesus was “*before all things*” and that “*in Him all things consist.*” Paul said that “*by Him (Jesus) all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth.*” However, there is an interesting statement by Paul that we need to discuss. Paul said that Jesus “*is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.*” Now, does this mean that Jesus was “*created*” or “*born into existence*” before the creation of the world? Certainly not. As we have already shown with other passages, Jesus as always been in existence. To understand the phrase “*firstborn over all creation,*” we must remember the fact that we too, are children of God. Although Jesus is the only begotten of the Heavenly Father (cf. John 3:16), Christians are also the Father’s children, but through “*the spirit of adoption.*” (Romans 8:14-17) It is within this context of understanding that Paul referred to Jesus as the “*firstborn over all creation.*” Jesus is the son of God (in that He was born

of a woman) and we are His brethren. Therefore, Jesus holds the special position and rule of being the *“firstborn over all creation.”*

Q *“who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,”* (2 Timothy 1:9) Take notice that Paul refers to God’s own *“purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began.”* This shows that Jesus Christ existed *“before time began.”*

Q *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”* (Hebrews 13:8) This statement is simple and crystal clear. Jesus has always been.

Q *“He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you”* (1 Peter 1:20) Again, another passage showing that before the foundation of the world was laid, Jesus Christ was known.

Q *“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life — the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father*

and was manifested to us — that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.” (1 John 1:1-3) In this passage, John is referring to Jesus. The apostle John was witness to Jesus’ life and teachings. He knew first hand Jesus and all that He was. He knew that Jesus was from the beginning.

Q *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,”* says the Lord, *“who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”* (Revelation 1:8) This is another statement directly from Jesus. About Himself Jesus declared, *“who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”*

Let there be no doubt in any Christians mind that Jesus Christ has always existed. Jesus was not only a man. He was the Son of God. Jesus had existed in the form of God throughout eternity. He then left His heavenly abode and took upon Himself the form of a servant to live and die for man’s salvation. He then ascended up to Heaven to sit at the right side of His Father (Hebrews 12:2), to rule over His kingdom. Jesus will continue to rule until He turns the kingdom over to His Father. (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:20-28)

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible . . .



Ten Questions

1. Who said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness?" _____
2. What part did Jesus have in the creation of all things? _____

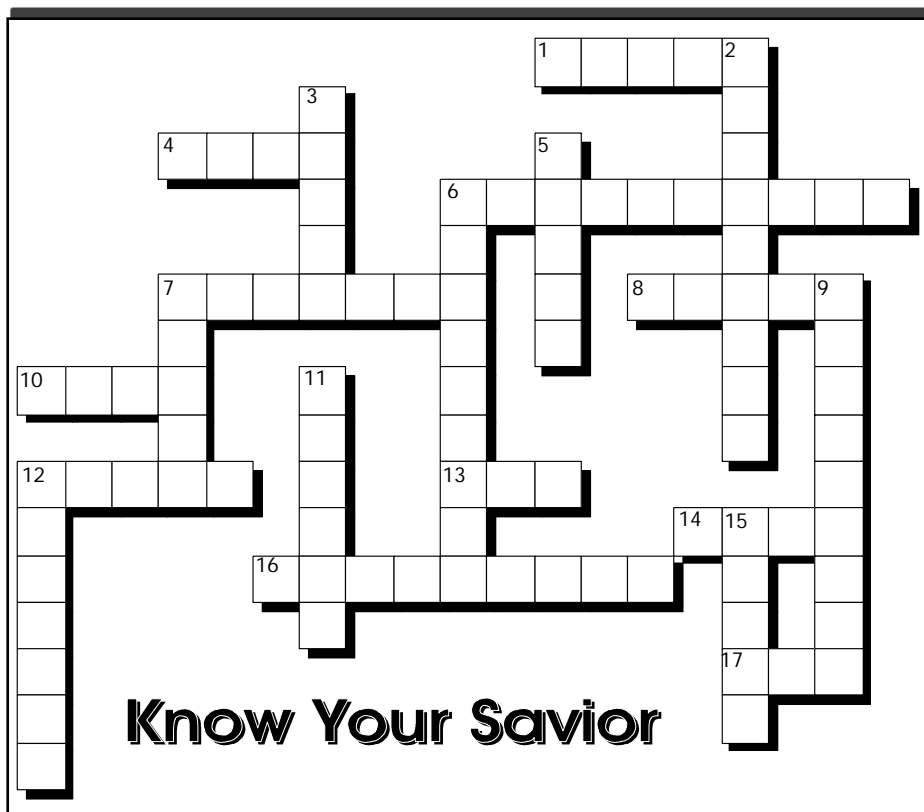
3. Who was the Word or Light? _____
4. What did the Word become? _____
5. Who wrote, "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, . . ." _____
6. "And now, O _____, glorify Me together with _____, with the _____ which I had with You before the _____ was."
7. "Jesus Christ, who being in the form of _____, did not consider it robbery to be equal with _____."
8. Paul wrote that Jesus is "the _____ over all _____."
9. "Jesus Christ is the same _____, _____, and _____."
10. "I am the Alpha and the _____, the _____, and the _____," says the Lord."

True or False

1. T or F : "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."
2. T or F : Matthew wrote, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."
3. T or F : The Word and the Light both refer to Jesus Christ.
4. T or F : Micah prophesied that Jesus would be born in Jerusalem.
5. T or F : Jesus said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."
6. T or F : Peter wrote, "He who descended is also the One who ascended . . ."
7. T or F : Jesus did not consider it robbery to be equal with God.
8. T or F : Jesus was "the firstborn overall creation."
9. T or F : Jesus was not "foreordained" before the foundation of the world.
10. T or F : John said, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End."

A Little Fun

(Use the lesson text to answer these questions.)



Across

1. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, _____, and forever."
4. ". . . Christ Jesus, who, being in the _____ of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, . . ."
6. ". . . For You loved Me before the _____ of the world."
7. "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and _____."
8. Jesus "was foreordained before the foundation of the _____."
10. "In Him was _____, and the life was the light of men."
12. "I am the _____ and the Omega, the Beginning and the End."
13. "Let Us make man in _____ image, . . ."
14. "There was a man sent from God, whose name was _____."
16. "In the _____ God created the heavens and the earth."

17. "yet for us there is one _____, the Father, of whom are all things, . . ."

Down

2. "Jesus Christ is the same _____, today and forever."
3. "He is the _____ of the invisible God, . . ."
5. "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among thousands of _____, . . ."
6. Paul referred to Jesus as "the _____ over all creation."
7. "And the Word became _____ and dwelt among us, . . ."
9. "He who _____ is also the One who ascended for above all the heavens, . . ."
11. "And now, O _____, glorify Me together with Yourself . . ."
12. ". . . Most assuredly, I say to you, before _____ was, I AM . . ."
15. "I am the Alpha and the _____, the Beginning and the End."

Passages in this Lesson

Genesis 1:1	pg 3	John 17:5	pg 5
Genesis 1:26	pg 3,4	John 17:24	pg 6
Micah 5:2	pg 5	Romans 8:14-17	pg 6
Micah 5:3	pg 5	1 Corinthians 8:6	pg 6
Micah 5:2-5a.....	pg 5	1 Corinthians 15:20-28	pg 7
John 1:1-18	pg 3,4	Ephesians 4:10	pg 6
John 1:1-5	pg 3	Philippians 2:5-7	pg 6
John 1:6-10	pg 4	Colossians 1:15-17	pg 6
John 1:14-18	pg 4	2 Timothy 1:9	pg 7
John 3:16	pg 6	Hebrews 12:2	pg 7
John 8:56	pg 5	Hebrews 13:8	pg 7
John 8:57	pg 5	1 Peter 1:20	pg 7
John 8:58	pg 5	1 John 1:1-3	pg 7
John 17:4	pg 5	Revelation 1:8	pg 7