

Chapter 1 : Chapter 2: Preexistence and Foreordination of the Christ

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Questions God Humanists usually do not believe that God even exists. Humanists believe mankind is the highest entity. He is perfect in wisdom, power, might, and love. He is to be worshipped. We love Him because He first loved us. How is my worship life? Do I live day-to-day talking with and praising and serving God? Or do I basically ignore Him, as a humanist would? Do I get as close to the humanist behavior as possible without "crossing a line"? He may have been an interesting teacher, but when he died, he stayed dead like any other man. Jesus Christ is God, come in the flesh. He was born of the Virgin Mary. He lived a perfect, sinless life. He died on the cross to pay for our sins. He rose from the dead to prove He had conquered sin, death, and hell. When we repent of our sins and receive Him as Savior and Lord, He comes to live in our lives, giving us His peace, joy, righteousness, purpose for living, forgiveness of sins, and eternal life. Have I personally received the Lord Jesus Christ into my life? Or do I basically ignore Him as a humanist would do? Creation Acts and talks as if evolution is a scientific fact and that anyone who disagrees is ignorant. Evolution is the only way he knows of to explain the existence of life, since he denies the existence of God. Acts and talks in light of the truly scientific evidence as well as Biblical revelation that God is the Creator. Do I talk about creation freely? The Bible Considers the Bible of little interest. Believes the Bible to be the work of men perhaps with a religious ax to grind. Certainly does not accept it as the Word of God. Reverences the Bible as the Word of God. How much time do I spend reading and studying the Bible? Do I treat it like a humanist? Self-Esteem Sees man as basically good. Thinks that people should feel good about themselves regardless of their behavior. Tries to deal with guilt by positive self-talk. Realizes that man has a sin nature and tends to do evil things. Believes that God has made each person very unique and special and for His glory. Realizes that God has a great purpose for each of us. Believes that through repentance and faith in Christ we can have our sin forgiven and be made into new creatures. Or do I realize that my value is based on Who Christ is and what He has done for me? Sanctity of Life Since man is a merely highly evolved animal, some human life is not so special. Supports abortion, euthanasia, and even infanticide in some cases. Since man is created in the image of God and for the purposes of God, all life is precious. Abortion, euthanasia, and infanticide are considered to be horrific sins. Have I grown complacent about the existence of abortion in our country? Do I take a stand against these evils against human life? Tendency to rationalize that all behavior that I wish to do is acceptable. All of us have sinned. But we can be forgiven and cleansed in Christ. God declares me to be forgiven and gives me His righteousness as a gift when I agree with Him about my sin. When I sin, do I rationalize it away? Or do I confess it to God and receive His forgiveness? Goals Since this physical life is all there is, my goal is to get as much happiness and gain as many things as I can before time runs out and I cease to exist. Lives in light of Eternity. Makes decisions on the basis of what will bring God the most glory. Realizes that this life is ultimately very brief compared to eternity. What do I do differently that proves that I am interested in bringing God glory? What do I do that proves I am thinking in terms of eternity? Realizes that sex is a gift from God, who created us as sexual beings. Realizes that, when used as God intended i. But also realizes that when used in ways God did not intend that it can lead to great harm. Am I absolutely and totally committed to reserving sex for marriage? Have I made arrangements to stay out of situations that could lead to sexual temptations? Do I really believe what God has said about sex? Other sexual behaviors are perversions of that picture. Have humanists gradually persuaded me that some sexual activities are acceptable even though God says they are sinful? There is no absolute right and wrong. Everything depends on the situation. Believes that God has established some things as absolutely right and others as absolutely wrong. If God says that certain behavior is sin, it is wrong for us to convince ourselves that the behavior is really ok. Do I resist the temptation for me to rationalize behavior that God says is wrong? Do I assume that because other people that are supposed to be Christians are doing it that it must be ok? Tolerance Believes that values, morals, and ethics are determined by each person for him or herself. Believes that values, morals, and ethics are determined by God and revealed in

His Word, the Bible and given to us for our benefit. Therefore, to tell someone else that their behavior is wrong may be one of the greatest blessings we can give them. Christians certainly believe that we should all be very tolerant of other people, allowing them the freedom to believe and worship as they see fit. Do I know what the Bible teaches about the major issues of our day? Am I willing to take an unpopular stand because it is right? Many secular humanists would affirm the legitimacy of same-sex marriages or civil unions. Many would deny the importance of fathers, encouraging "single parenting by choice. For example, humanists often support the right of a child to an abortion without parental consent. Christians see the traditional family unit father, mother, and children as created by God to represent our relationship with Him. Christians believe that, with some exceptions e. Christians believe children are to be responsible to and submissive to their parents unless the parent is requiring the child to commit sin. Of course, Christians recognize the importance of foster parents and stepparents in family units. Do I recognize my parents or foster parents as my primary caregivers, supporters, and authorities? Do I try to appeal to others in an attempt to bypass their authority?

Chapter 2 : The Christadelphian Advocate - The Pre-Existence of Christ

The second volume of Paul Tillich's Systematic Theology focuses on Jesus as the Christ and the human condition in terms of estrangement from God and fellow man. He begins from the Fall account in Genesis 3 and contrasts man's essential being from his existential estrangement.

Sites Introduction The pre-existence of Christ is something that you would not expect to be denied as there are so many clear verses throughout the Bible. Without the pre-existence of Christ there can be no incarnation, which is the precursor to the doctrine of salvation and the everlasting covenant of God that is laid out in the Old Testament scriptures. This is why the pre-existence of Jesus Christ is so significant. But what does it mean to pre-exist and does this mean that Christ had no beginning? What does from everlasting or ancient times mean? Many take these to mean without beginning but what did the Bible authors mean and is this understanding consistent with other Scripture? The biblical argument for the pre-existence of Christ is certainly multi-faceted. However, the meaning of these words are certainly applicable to Christ in regards to His incarnation. Here are four definitions from well-known dictionaries for the word pre-existence. It does not however mean to have always existed. When applying for health insurance you are typically asked if you have any pre-existing health conditions. Such a condition is normally something that has come into existence sometime during your life. The word pre-existence in fact implies a beginning. This whole idea of pre-existence is consistent with Scripture which continually reveals Christ to have existed before His incarnation and before all things were created. But to be more precise, they reveal that He existed before all things were created or before the beginning. The question is, the beginning of what? It has to be the beginning of something as God had no beginning! The beginning of something is its origin. We are going to explain Scripture according to its obvious meaning, unless a symbol or figure is employed and not by assumptions or personal ideas or opinions and ask if you will please do the same. These men are false teachers. White, RH, June 28, Proverbs 8: And of course if Christ was brought forth than this also confirms His personality has an origin. Here are some other translations that demonstrate this point. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth When He gave to the sea His decree, that the waters should not pass His commandment; when He appointed the foundations of the earth; then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him. Solomon has also used Hebrew parallelism in verse 23 which expresses a thought one way, and then uses a complementary thought to express it another way. So the last two phrases of this verse are saying the same thing as the first phrase but in a different way. This gives tremendous clarity on when he is referring to and yet most still get it wrong. Bible writers did not understand science as we do and measured time by the spheres in the sky that did not exist until Christ created everything. So Christ was established in the beginning Genesis 1: Thus we know that the beginning was when the Earth was made where there was nothing in existence to measure time by and hence was before time was. Quite simply, before the earth and all things were created. So this passage states Christ pre-existed before He created all things before the beginning of this world. The captives had not kept their lips sealed; they had told the Babylonians of their God. Whenever they had an opportunity, they honoured God. They were not ashamed to give Him glory; and from the very description they had given, the king understood that the One with the three captives was the Son of God. White, BEcho, January 15, Micah 5: He had no beginning. It is assumed by Trinitarians who have the wrong mindset and choose to believe that from everlasting or ancient of times means no beginning. But this is not what is being said at all. If you read Micah 5: Before all things were created. Having no beginning is in total conflict with Him having an origin as this verse also states. It has to be the beginning of something. Was it the beginning of this world? Was it the beginning of the creation of the angels? Whichever beginning you place it at, it has to be the beginning of something. Many Trinitarians use this to say that Christ always was, and had no beginning. But again, that is not what the verse says. Also the Word with has to mean something. They cannot be the same being, or one could not be with the other. It is important to note that the word [the]

exists in the Greek text but was left out by translators as they thought it read wrongly, but it is actually correct and has purpose. Here is the original Greek text for 1b. They are two separate persons. Look at this again with this perspective in mind. So what is the beginning mentioned in John 1: Verse three reveals it was the beginning of all created things. Did you notice that John said that not only were all things made through Him but also that without Him nothing was made. Therefore Jesus could not have been one of the created things. If Jesus created all things then He could not have been one of the created things. Paul adds the following just so there can be no mistake about this fact. From this they draw the conclusion that Christ was alluding to a divine name and thereby telling the Jews that He was God. Trinitarians further try and support their claim by saying this is why the Jews picked up stones to kill Him. But this was due to many things Jesus said to them throughout John chapter 8 that slowly brought them to anger. The final straw being Jesus claiming seniority over Abraham who they said was their father. So Jesus claimed greater authority than the patriarch and hence was also claiming to be greater than them. See the meaning of I am in John 8: In no way does John 8: The following two verses for instance say that God sent His Son into the world. They reveal that the pre-existence of Christ was before the world was or before the foundation of the world. In other words, once again, before the beginning of all things being created. If Jesus had always existed alongside the Father as the Trinity doctrine claims, then God could not have given life to His Son as He would have always had life. But Scripture reveals this is impossible. Some use this verse to say that Christ Himself was a created being. But such an interpretation is contradicted elsewhere in Scripture such as John 1: God had promised to give the First-born of heaven to save the sinner. The evidence on this subject is overwhelming. Christ truly is the literal begotten Son of God who was brought forth from the Father before all creation. The example verses below with the help of the Thayer dictionary reveal that Jesus was born of the Father before the world was, then much later, He came into the world. G - To come from one place to another. But he also reveals that Christ was born from God and hence His personality has a beginning. We know that Christ existed before the beginning of all things being created and that the Bible reveals in many ways that cannot be avoided that Jesus was brought forth from the Father and is the only begotten Son of God. The moment you claim that the personality of Christ had no beginning, then you deny that Jesus is the Son of God. And if you deny the Son of God then you have no means of entering the kingdom of heaven. Hence you deny the Father and Son which John called antichrist. He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son. Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: White, RH, March 8, , p. God is no longer a Father and Jesus is no longer a Son. There is in fact no Scripture that says Christ had no beginning or has always existed. To the contrary, Scripture states He does have a beginning. And to state the obvious one more time, He cannot be the Son of God if He has always existed without beginning. Produce one Scripture that specifically says Christ had no beginning or that Christ has always existed. It simply does not exist. It can only be implied by eisegesis. It says that Christ is the beginning and the end of something. Not only that, but a beginning is the origin of something and an end is the termination of something.

Chapter 3 : Christ (title) - Wikipedia

Systematic Theology: Existence and the Christ v.2 by Paul Tillich, , available at Book Depository with free delivery worldwide.

The law of the Spirit of life. It begins by imparting to him the Spirit of Christ; this Spirit creates within him a law; and the result of that law is life--that perfect spiritual vitality which includes within itself the pledge of immortality. From the law of sin and death. Not here the law of Moses, but the power of sin, the corrupt element in our nature, acting upon the soul, and itself erecting a kind of law, saying, "Thou shalt," where the law of God says "Thou shalt not;" and "Thou shalt not," where the law of God says "Thou shalt. Pulpit Commentary Verse 2. Here is a distinct contrast to the state described in vers. In virtue of this new law, introduced into my being, I am now free to give my entire allegiance to the law of God. The Spirit is, in fact, the Divine Spirit, taking possession of what is spiritual now at length brought into view in the inward man, making him partaker in the Divine life, and able to serve God freely. The expressions used bring out strikingly one essential distinction between Law and Gospel, viz. Coercion is the principle of the one; inspiration of the other. An illustration may be found in the treatment of disease - on the one hand by attempted repression of specific ailments, and on the other by imparting a new vitality to the system, which may of itself dispel disease. It is shown next how this new state of freedom has been brought about. First, by what God in Christ has done for us apart from ourselves; the subjective condition in ourselves being introduced at the end of ver. Matthew Henry Commentary 8: By their union with Christ through faith, they are thus secured. What is the principle of their walk; the flesh or the Spirit, the old or the new nature, corruption or grace? For which of these do we make provision, by which are we governed? The unrenewed will is unable to keep any commandment fully. And the law, besides outward duties, requires inward obedience. Thus satisfaction was made to Divine justice, and the way of salvation opened for the sinner. By the Spirit the law of love is written upon the heart, and though the righteousness of the law is not fulfilled by us, yet, blessed be God, it is fulfilled in us; there is that in all true believers, which answers the intention of the law. The favour of God, the welfare of the soul, the concerns of eternity, are the things of the Spirit, which those that are after the Spirit do mind. Which way do our thoughts move with most pleasure? Which way go our plans and contrivances? Are we most wise for the world, or for our souls? Those that live in pleasure are dead, 1Ti 5: A sanctified soul is a living soul; and that life is peace. The carnal mind is not only an enemy to God, but enmity itself. The carnal man may, by the power of Divine grace, be made subject to the law of God, but the carnal mind never can; that must be broken and driven out. We may know our real state and character by inquiring whether we have the Spirit of God and Christ, or not, ver. Ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit. Having the Spirit of Christ, means having a turn of mind in some degree like the mind that was in Christ Jesus, and is to be shown by a life and conversation suitable to his precepts and example.

Chapter 4 : Does the Bible support the pre-existence of Jesus?

Old Testament scriptures, while abounding in promises relating to the actuality of Christ's advent in the flesh, are less specific in information concerning His antemortal existence.

Feb 17, Zach Christensen rated it it was amazing A stunning successor to volume one. This volume is much shorter and more concerned with Christology. Jun 13, Corbin rated it really liked it This is a great follow up to the first volume of Systematic Theology. I can see why Tillich might be unpopular with typical Evangelical Fundamentalists. While the first volume pushed the line toward Process Theology and Open Theism, Tillich continues to be controversial by advocating an Adoptionist Christology and a symbolic resurrection. His arguments are compelling and thought provoking, and if they are valid then the merging of Christianity with modern society will be uncontroversial at all. This is a great follow up to the first volume of Systematic Theology. Tillich may seem to be a liberal theologian from a fundamentalist perspective, but it would be a mistake to classify him as such. Tillich has just as much conviction and respect for authority as any fundamentalist might have, but his penetrating intellect has given him a perspective that should not be ignored. He provides a thought provoking historical analysis to back up his claims and of course communicates everything in existential terms which is a challenge to accept because it almost completely redefines what most people think Christianity is. Tillich has provided a shocking update to the Christian faith. This is done in every generation, but Tillich has gone farther perhaps then any other mainstream theologian. Whether or not he has lost Christianity along the way will be left for smarter people then myself to decide, but he should not be forgotten. I recommend this book for anyone interested in theology, as theology. The contrast is applied to his theology of Jesus as the Christ later. It would be helpful if the reader is somewhat versed in the major landmarks of existential philosophy. Tillich takes many points of departure from a good number of its concepts. I read the first volume and liked it. I will need at least one more read to formulate any coherent thoughts on this thrilling yet puzzling volume. Normally I like to write a semi-substantial review after reading books such as this. My initial impression is that I commend Tillich for this effort and I laud his attempt to re-orient talk of sin. I am curious about his take on the historical AND symbolic nature of the Christ event. I am appreciative of his efforts to speak of the atonement in a broader way. However, I am a bit suspicious of what seems like an adoptionist Christology and often, as in the example of history vs. I am looking forward to reading this again, hopefully soon. At any rate it has given me much food for thought.

Chapter 5 : Booko: Comparing prices for Systematic Theology: Existence and the Christ v.2

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Foreordination implies and comprizes preexistence as an essential condition; therefore scriptures bearing upon the one are germane to the other; and consequently in this presentation no segregation of evidence as applying specifically to the preexistence of Christ or to His foreordination will be attempted. John the Revelator beheld in vision some of the scenes that had been enacted in the spirit-world before the beginning of human history. He witnessed strife and contention between loyalty and rebellion, with the hosts defending the former led by Michael the archangel, and the rebellious forces captained by Satan, who is also called the devil, the serpent, and the dragon. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels. For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. It is plain from the words of Isaiah that Lucifer, already of exalted rank, sought to aggrandize himself without regard to the rights and agency of others. The matter is set forth, in words that none may misapprehend, in a revelation given to Moses and repeated through the first prophet of the present dispensation: That Satan, whom thou hast commanded in the name of mine Only Begotten, is the same which was from the beginning, and he came before me, sayingâ€”Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will redeem all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely I will do it; wherefore give me thine honor. But, behold, my Beloved Son, which was my Beloved and Chosen from the beginning, said unto meâ€”Father, thy will be done, and the glory be thine forever. Wherefore, because that Satan rebelled against me, and sought to destroy the agency of man, which I, the Lord God, had given him, and also, that I should give unto him mine own power; by the power of mine Only Begotten, I caused that he should be cast down; and he became Satan, yea, even the devil, the father of all lies, to deceive and to blind men, and to lead them captive at his will, even as many as would not hearken unto my voice. The opportunity so placed within the reach of the spirits who were to be privileged to take bodies upon the earth was so transcendently glorious that those heavenly multitudes burst forth into song and shouted for joy. The decision brought war, which resulted in the vanquishment of Satan and his angels, who were cast out and deprived of the boundless privileges incident to the mortal or second estate. As to time, the term being used in the sense of all duration past, this is our earliest record of the Firstborn among the sons of God; to us who read, it marks the beginning of the written history of Jesus the Christ. By the children of Israel, while living under the law and still unprepared to receive the gospel, the Messiah was looked for as one to be born in the lineage of Abraham and David, empowered to deliver them from personal and national burdens, and to vanquish their enemies. Nevertheless the testimony of the evangelists and the apostles, the attestation of the Christ Himself while in the flesh, and the revelations given in the present dispensation leave us without dearth of scriptural proof. In the opening lines of the Gospel book written by John the apostle, we read: The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. That the Word is Jesus Christ, who was with the Father in that beginning and who was Himself invested with the powers and rank of Godship, and that He came into the world and dwelt among men, are definitely affirmed. These statements are corroborated through a revelation given to Moses, in which he was permitted to see many of the creations of God, and to hear the voice of the Father with respect to the things that had been made: No one who accepts Jesus as the Messiah can consistently reject these evidences of His eternal nature. When, on a certain occasion, the Jews in the synagog disputed among themselves and murmured because of their failure to understand aright His doctrine concerning Himself, especially as touching His relationship with the Father, Jesus said unto them: What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before? When the hour of His betrayal was near, in the last interview with the apostles prior to His agonizing experience in Gethsemane, Jesus comforted them saying: I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world: I have glorified thee on the earth: I have

finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. One only of the many evidences therein found will be cited here. An ancient prophet, designated in the record as the brother of Jared, v once pleaded with the Lord in special supplication: And he answered, Yea, Lord, I know that thou speakest the truth, for thou art a God of truth, and canst not lie. And when he had said these words, behold, the Lord shewed himself unto him, and said, Because thou knowest these things, ye are redeemed from the fall; therefore ye are brought back into my presence; therefore I shew myself unto you. Behold, I am he who was prepared from the foundation of the world to redeem my people. Behold, I am Jesus Christ. I am the Father and the Son. In me shall all mankind have light, and that eternally, even they who shall believe on my name; and they shall become my sons and my daughters. And never have I shewed myself unto man whom I have created, for never has man believed in me as thou hast. Seest thou that ye are created after mine own image? Yea, even all men were created in the beginning, after mine own image. Behold, this body, which ye now behold, is the body of my spirit; and man have I created after the body of my spirit; and even as I appear unto thee to be in the spirit, will I appear unto my people in the flesh. The following instances are particularly in point. These I will make my rulers; for he stood among those that were spirits, and he saw that they were good; and he said unto me: That both Christ and Satan were among those exalted intelligences, and that Christ was chosen while Satan was rejected as the future Savior of mankind, are shown by the portions of the revelation immediately following that above quoted: We will go down, for there is space there, and we will take of these materials, and we will make an earth whereon these may dwell; and we will prove them herewith, to see if they will do all things whatsoever the Lord their God shall command them; and they who keep their first estate shall be added upon, and they who keep not their first estate shall not have glory in the same kingdom with those who keep their first estate; and they who keep their second estate shall have glory added upon their heads forever and ever. And the Lord said: Whom shall I send? And one answered like unto the Son of Man: Here am I, send me. And another answered and said: I will send the first. The Primeval Council in the Heavens. And for this reason, though there were others engaged in the creation of the worlds, it is given to us in the Bible in the shape that it is; for the fulness of these truths is only revealed to highly favored persons for certain reasons known to God; as we are told in the scriptures: He also wished the glory to be given to His Father, who, as God the Father, and the originator and designer of the plan, had a right to all the honor and glory. But Lucifer wanted to introduce a plan contrary to the will of his Father, and then wanted His honor, and said: Their history was written on twenty-four plates of gold by Ether, the last of their prophets, who, foreseeing the destruction of his people because of their wickedness, hid away the historical plates. They were afterward found, B. The record engraved on these plates was subsequently abridged by Moroni, and the condensed account was attached by him to the Book of Mormon record; it appears in the modern translation under the name of the Book of Ether. Of the people, we learn that, amid the confusion of Babel, Jared and his brother importuned the Lord that He would spare them and their associates from the impending disruption. Their prayer was heard, and the Lord led them with a considerable company, who, like themselves, were free from the taint of idolatry, away from their homes, promising to conduct them to a land choice above all other lands. Their course of travel is not given with exactness; we learn only that they reached the ocean, and there constructed eight vessels, called barges, in which they set out upon the waters. These vessels were small and dark within; but the Lord made luminous certain stones, which gave light to the imprisoned voyagers. After a passage of three hundred and forty-four days, the colony landed on the western shore of North America, probably at a place south of the Gulf of California, and north of the Isthmus of Panama.

Chapter 6 : The Pre-Existence Of Jesus Christ

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Series 3 - Getting to Really Know God Hi, friends, and welcome to this lesson! Any retelling of the life of Jesus Christ—especially a short one like this—falls far short of doing it justice. It may also help prepare you to know how to explain to others our purpose in life and what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ. The Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ To be a true disciple of Christ means not only to be an admirer and follower, but also to obey and imitate Him. May this lesson help you toward that goal. The following account from John

Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Do not be unbelieving, but believing. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. Other sources are the many prophecies in the Old Testament about the future Messiah and the New Testament books in which the apostles explain many things about Christ and His teachings. Why are there four Gospels instead of just one? First, the Gospels are not purely biographies. Of course, each author was inspired by God through His Holy Spirit. There are no real contradictions among the four accounts. The four different perspectives complement each other and help to fill out the whole picture of His perfect life. Therefore, there is harmony, continuity and unity among the four accounts. Summarizing the particular focus of each author can be challenging, but here is one simplified approach: Jesus is our perfect model in each of those roles. Jesus truly was and is "God with us. He was God in the flesh Luke 1: Messiah from Hebrew *mashiach* means "anointed" or "anointed one. Jesus came to earth the first time to deliver us from our sins and will come the second time to deliver us from mortality to immortality. The Greek for Messiah is *Christos*, from which we get Christ. Yet sadly, most who called Him Master would not obey Him as their master. Jesus usually referred to Himself as "the Son of Man. Jesus used the definite article—He was the [unique] Son of Man, not a son of man. Jesus wanted all to know that He was human, but a very special human. This idiomatic designation sounded reverential, but it was ambiguous in meaning. That may pinpoint why Jesus used it, because for most of His ministry, Jesus avoided referring to Himself as the Son of God or the Messiah or the son of David. Perhaps Paul was elaborating on this title when he referred to Jesus as "the last Adam," since *adam* is a Hebrew word for man 1 Corinthians

Did Jesus exist before His human birth? After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. God the Father used the Holy Spirit to bring about the conception of Jesus in the womb of the Jewish virgin named Mary. For further description, see Matthew 1: And for a description of the Word voluntarily giving up His divine power and glory to temporarily become a human being, see Philippians 2: So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. To understand why and for thorough proof that most of the traditions involved in Christmas celebrations are not from the Bible, see our free booklet *Holidays or Holy Days: And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. Is not His mother called Mary? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things? Jesus certainly was precocious, being able at 12 years old to discuss Scripture with scholars at the temple Luke 2: And in order to later be the perfect sacrifice and Savior, He never sinned Hebrews 4: When, where and how did Jesus begin His ministry? Galilee is the area around the Sea of Galilee, north of Jerusalem. What was the message that Jesus preached? Repent, and believe in the gospel. Jesus healed people everywhere He went, which reveals several important things. His miracles proved that He was sent by God Acts 2: They showed that He cares for our physical needs as well as our spiritual needs. He loved and respected all people, regardless of gender, race, age or status, demonstrating a degree of love the world had never seen and which serves as a role model for all His future followers John He also used miracles to prove that He had the authority to forgive sins and to heal us of our spiritual problems Matthew 9: Is Jesus the foundation and Head of the Church? Did Jesus die and rise from the dead exactly as He foretold? That was precisely fulfilled! Careful study of all the accounts shows He was crucified on a Wednesday afternoon and was put in the tomb before sundown. He rose*

from the dead and then left the tomb exactly three full days later, in the afternoon of the weekly Sabbath Saturday. After His resurrection Jesus ascended to heaven and returned to appear to His followers several times. Then 40 days after His resurrection, He again ascended to heaven to be at the right hand of God the Father Acts 1: As Jesus repeatedly promised, He will one day return to earth verse And this next time, it will be "with great power and glory" Mark What was the main reason for the life and death of Jesus Christ? Christ lived His earthly life to set us an example and to build His Church. He died for each and every one of us to pay the penalty of our sins so we can be forgiven of those sins. So what shall we do? He told the assembled people, "You crucified" Jesus verse Of course, most of that crowd had no direct part in getting Jesus condemned to death. But we all are guilty indirectly because "all have sinned" and "Christ died for our sins" Romans 3: When the people were convinced that Jesus was "both Lord and Christ" verse 36 and that the guilt for His death lay on everyone, many of them asked, "What shall we do? This is explained in more detail in our booklet Transforming Your Life: The Process of Conversion. The Process of Conversion and write down a plan of personal action in response to the perfect life and sacrifice of our Savior. Questions about this lesson? Feedback about this lesson?

Chapter 7 : Systematic Theology: Existence and the Christ v.2 : Paul Tillich :

2 the incarnation is an expression of God's love for fallen humanity.1 The Jesus Christ existed before he entered into this world through the incarnation. Our understanding and.

In the natural order of things, this would be a silly question. How could anyone exist before they were born? Unfortunately, when it comes to religious superstition, there are many who teach falsely that Jesus was first God, and then he became a man. This doctrine is referred to as "the pre-existence of Christ. The verse in the box at the top presents us with important Bible information that has a bearing on this subject. This anointing of Jesus took place right after he was baptized. We read the story of the baptism of Jesus in Matthew 3: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. If Jesus were God, how could he anoint himself, and continue to be "with him"? If the Holy Spirit was a person as some erroneously teach, how could one person anoint another with a third person? The name Christ means "anointed"; Jesus of Nazareth did not become Jesus the Christ the anointed, -until after the anointing occurred. How then could Christ pre-exist? How could a son be alive before his mother and still be her offspring? How could Jesus be the descendent of Abraham and David if he was born before they were? These "elohim" are what we call the angels. We read, for example, in Genesis 1: The words "us" and "our" in this verse demonstrate clearly that the one true God, the Creator of heaven and earth, was not speaking. This information is somewhat incidental to our theme, that Christ did not pre-exist before his birth in about 4 BC. The verse from Hebrews 1: In fact, we find evidence that this actually came to pass in the Gospel of Luke: For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. If Christ existed in the beginning with God, he would have been alive before the angels. They would not have been able to worship him at his birth. The evidence shows otherwise, years after the Creation, they did sing praises when Jesus was born. The angels of God were alive and working, long before Jesus was born or anointed as the Christ. We learn from this evidence that our Bible teachings must be always consistent with the Bible record. This is a classic example of how important it is for us to consider the entire context as we study the Bible on any important subject. Too often, people read isolated verses and they fail to consider who is speaking, who they are speaking to and what the circumstances are. In this case, the Apostle Paul is writing to the saints in the church of the Colossians. He is reminding them how blessed they are to be in Christ Jesus and to be "partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. In particular, we should look at verses 17 and 18 in this first chapter. And he is the head of the body, the church: This tells about an event that was still future when the Psalms were recorded. We read also, "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. This is also called a new heaven and a new earth in Revelation Christ is the "head of the body, the church". Consequently, it can also be said of him that he is the creator of this new and living way. He is also said to be the "author and finisher of our faith" in Hebrews Jesus is the author, the Lord, the creator of this new order of things. We can only conclude that Christ was the firstborn in a new creation; he was not born before the foundation of the world in Eden. Verse 1 and 14 shown above are the key verses on this subject. It means reasoning or motive and indicates that God had a plan in His mind from the beginning, that He would have a son who would become the savior of the human race. This plan was first introduced as words of promise. The first formal promise of the future savior is found in Genesis 3: We also learn that Jesus would be the promised descendent of Eve, that was destined to destroy the effects of sin. See also Hebrews 2: As recorded in John 1: This purpose was so important that it became His entire purpose and being it was God. He revealed His purpose first through the inspired word, and then when it was time, the plan became a reality when Jesus was born.

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Christ alive – Robert Powell as Jesus of Nazareth in The historical evidence for Jesus of Nazareth is both long-established and widespread. Within a few decades of his supposed lifetime, he is mentioned by Jewish and Roman historians, as well as by dozens of Christian writings. Compare that with, for example, King Arthur, who supposedly lived around AD The major historical source for events of that time does not even mention Arthur, and he is first referred to or years after he is supposed to have lived. The evidence for Jesus is not limited to later folklore, as are accounts of Arthur. What do Christian writings tell us? The value of this evidence is that it is both early and detailed. These all appeared within the lifetimes of numerous eyewitnesses, and provide descriptions that comport with the culture and geography of first-century Palestine. It is also difficult to imagine why Christian writers would invent such a thoroughly Jewish saviour figure in a time and place – under the aegis of the Roman empire – where there was strong suspicion of Judaism. What did non-Christian authors say about Jesus? As far as we know, the first author outside the church to mention Jesus is the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus, who wrote a history of Judaism around AD He has two references to Jesus. About 20 years after Josephus we have the Roman politicians Pliny and Tacitus, who held some of the highest offices of state at the beginning of the second century AD. From Tacitus we learn that Jesus was executed while Pontius Pilate was the Roman prefect in charge of Judaea AD and Tiberius was emperor AD – reports that fit with the timeframe of the gospels. Pliny contributes the information that, where he was governor in northern Turkey, Christians worshipped Christ as a god. Did ancient writers discuss the existence of Jesus? Strikingly, there was never any debate in the ancient world about whether Jesus of Nazareth was a historical figure. In the earliest literature of the Jewish Rabbis, Jesus was denounced as the illegitimate child of Mary and a sorcerer. Among pagans, the satirist Lucian and philosopher Celsus dismissed Jesus as a scoundrel, but we know of no one in the ancient world who questioned whether Jesus lived. How controversial is the existence of Jesus now? In a recent book, the French philosopher Michel Onfray talks of Jesus as a mere hypothesis, his existence as an idea rather than as a historical figure. About 10 years ago, The Jesus Project was set up in the US; one of its main questions for discussion was that of whether or not Jesus existed. Some authors have even argued that Jesus of Nazareth was doubly non-existent, contending that both Jesus and Nazareth are Christian inventions. It is worth noting, though, that the two mainstream historians who have written most against these hypersceptical arguments are atheists: Jesus was on the side of the poor and exploited. Christian politicians should remember that Brad Chilcott Read more Is there any archaeological evidence for Jesus? Part of the popular confusion around the historicity of Jesus may be caused by peculiar archaeological arguments raised in relation to him. Recently there have been claims that Jesus was a great-grandson of Cleopatra, complete with ancient coins allegedly showing Jesus wearing his crown of thorns. It is hard to find historians who regard this material as serious archaeological data, however. The documents produced by Christian, Jewish and Roman writers form the most significant evidence. These abundant historical references leave us with little reasonable doubt that Jesus lived and died. The more interesting question – which goes beyond history and objective fact – is whether Jesus died and lived.

Chapter 9 : Systematic Theology, Vol 2: Existence and the Christ by Paul Tillich

The Meaning of Pre-Existence. The words pre-exist or pre-existence are not found in the Bible. However, the meaning of these words are certainly applicable to Christ in regards to His incarnation.

That original Church had Jesus Christ as its head and twelve Apostles that had the oversight of the Church organization on the earth. The ancient New Testament Church taught the pure, simple gospel of Christ. This included faith in Christ as our Savior, repentance from sins, baptism by immersion, laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost, for the healing of the sick, for the blessing of children, and for ordination to the ministry, resurrection of the dead and an eternal judgment according to our works in this life Hebrews 6: The original Church grew and continued under the authority of the ministry and the doctrines taught originally by Jesus Christ. There was to be only twelve Apostles at any given time in history, therefore as the original Apostles died, others were called by God to serve as Apostles in their place Acts These included the consolidation of authority into one man the bishop and alternative modes of baptism. These and other doctrines continued and grew until there was a complete falling away or apostasy from the pure gospel of Christ see 2nd Thess. The apostasy was complete in AD when the Lombard invaders destroyed the last vestige of the Roman Empire and allowed the rise of the power of the Bishop of Rome, the Pope. During this long period there was not found upon the earth a church which stood in the true order and power of the original church of Christ Amos 8: While there were good people in every church, they did not convert those churches into churches of Christ any more than a few flakes of gold in a mountain would convert it into a mountain of gold. There were efforts to reform the church with some degree of success, but none of these restored the original doctrines and organization of the New Testament Church. What was required was a complete restoration of these things along with the authority of the priesthood. How did the Restoration come about? This time was the fulfillment of the yrs of apostasy prophesied by John Rev An angel sent from God revealed to Joseph Smith, Jr. This record became known as the Book of Mormon. While translating the record, the holy priesthood was imparted by an angel upon Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery. The Church of Christ was organized according to a commandment from God on April 6, Thus the restoration of the Church was accompanied by the miraculous appearing of angels, the bringing forth of the Book of Mormon as an added witness to the truth of the Gospel, and the restoration on earth of the authority of the priesthood in the human ministers of Jesus Christ. False Doctrines Again The Church of Christ grew rapidly as the gospel was spread and was accompanied by the power of the Holy Ghost and with miracles. Unfortunately the devil was also hard at work at this time, trying to destroy the Church from without and within. The tempter used the same lies, appeals to pride and temptations of power that had worked in the past and in short order there were ideas and doctrines introduced which were not a part of the Gospel of Christ. Some of these ideas and doctrines caused the Church a great deal of difficulty and divisions. Some members of the Church were confused because they knew the truth of the Gospel; but confused by the new doctrines introduced by ministers they trusted, that were not found in the Bible or Book of Mormon. Persecution of the Church The Church had been directed by God to go to Independence, Missouri, as a headquarters and a gathering place for a New Jerusalem with a Temple to be built in the future. Many members made the journey to Independence and the Church continued to grow; however in a short time the members were violently driven out of Independence, and eventually all of Missouri they were ordered to be exterminated by the Governor of Missouri. This was likely a result of the pride of some members of the Church. God would not allow the Church as it was to remain in a place that He had set aside for a special purpose. This pride and the persecution by unbelievers caused the members of the Church to suffer great trials, but the humble followers held on to the truth of the Gospel that they knew. After being forced out of Missouri, the Church went to Illinois and built the city of Nauvoo. When the Church was first organized in , God had directed that there should be 12 Apostles called to have the oversight of the Church, just as in New Testament times. Instead, Joseph Smith had allowed himself to be set up as the head of the Church and as a result, when he was removed there were many who vied for the leadership of the Church. The Church was split into a large number of factions each with someone claiming to

be the rightful successor. One group went west with Brigham Young. After their journey they were all re-baptized and their ministers were re-ordained as if into a different church. Others followed different leaders to Pennsylvania or to Michigan or to other places. These congregations were perturbed by the incorrect practices found in some of the divisions of the Church. In the spring of these congregations joined in a conference and vowed to continue in the original teachings of the Church of Christ. Many of the members had been baptized during the first days of the Restoration and the ministers had received their authority from Jesus Christ through Joseph Smith, Jr. In the several conferences conducted during the years , , and , these congregations spoke out strongly against many of the errors that had previously entered into the Church. They were adamantly opposed to 1 polygamy, 2 baptism for the dead, 3 lineal priesthood a presidency passed from father to son 4 celestial marriage and other false doctrines. Throughout the years since the death of Joseph Smith, Jr. The Church Of Christ is organized with Jesus Christ as its head and twelve Apostles that have the oversight of the Church on the earth. The principles of the Gospel of the Church of Christ remain the same; faith in Christ as our Savior, repentance from sins, baptism by immersion, laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost, for the healing of the sick, for the blessing of children, and for ordination to the ministry, resurrection of the dead and an eternal judgment according to our works in this life, and are in harmony with the Bible and Book of Mormon. Each member of the ministry of the Church of Christ has been called by Divine revelation, and does not receive a salary from the Church, but labors in various occupations to support themselves and their families. For this reason we do not see ourselves as a faction of the original; we are the remnant of that original Church restored by the power, and according to the prophecy of God. We believe that the word of God is contained in the authorized King James translation of the Bible published in in England, insofar as it is translated correctly, with all other versions or translations left to stand on their own merit and the Independence edition of the Book of Mormon which is the nearest available to the original Palmyra edition. While this is a brief overview of the history of the Church of Christ, more detailed information is available on our Downloads page, or by clicking here to request for more information or to ask a question. Contact Us Have a question? Contact Us and we will be happy to answer any question you may have.