

Bible Questions and Answers

(By Robert C. Veil, Jr.)

Question: Was Jesus a created being, or is he eternal?

Answer: The fact that Jesus is an eternal being, rather than a created being, is clearly shown in the first chapter of the Gospel According to John. In that chapter, John sets forth the history of our Lord's intervention into human affairs, taking us back to the very beginning of the world.

John reports that "in the beginning" Jesus was already here. Of course, he was not known as "Jesus" until much later, when he was born of the virgin. But, he was in existence nonetheless. John refers to him as "the Word." Notice the language: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that hath been made," (Jn. 1:1-3).

Thus, we see that at the beginning of creation, the Word was already there. Jesus, therefore, is one of the eternal Godhead. This sheds light on the statements made by God at the creation, when he said, "Let *us*..." (see Gen. 1:26). We see that Jesus (the Word) was present even then. He was active in the creation of the world, and without him nothing was made.

Jesus did not begin to assume the role of a son until he came to this earth and was born of woman, (Gal. 4:4). It was then that he "emptied himself" and took upon himself the form of a servant, (Phil. 2:5-11). Until that time, Jesus was on "an equality" with God. That is, he was of an equal rank or position with the Father. But he willingly lowered himself to make man's salvation possible.

Therefore, John writes, "And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth," (Jn. 1:14). If there was ever any doubt who the eternal Word is, this verse eliminates it. John makes it clear once and for all that Jesus was in existence prior to coming to this earth.

It is a great disservice to think of Jesus as a created being, who only came into existence upon his birth to Mary. On the contrary, Jesus was one of the eternal Godhead, existing on an equality with the Father. His self-sacrifice is all the more significant in view of who he is, and the position he left in order to come to this earth. Recognizing his eternal nature, we can truly understand that he is the "Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." (Rev. 22:13).

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