

Is Christ A Created Being?

Part 1

Introduction.

1. I would like for us to discuss the question, "Is Christ A Created Being?"
 - a. The very statement of this question should alarm sincere Christian people, for it suggests that Christ is not co-eternal with the Father, but is a mere created being and not Deity.
 - b. My reason for desiring to study this particular question is that the Jehovah's Witnesses affirm that Christ is created and not eternal.
 - c. They contend God created Jesus prior to material creation as Michael the archangel and God through Him created the universe.
 - d. They argue Jesus then is not Deity and should never be worshiped. (Matt. 4:10).

Matt 4:10 Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.'"

- 1) The statement is used to prove Jesus recognized God as Deity - not the devil nor Himself.
 - 2) It is a misuse of this verse to teach Christ was not Deity and it is sinful to worship Him.
 - 3) They seek to explain away passages such as these that record the worship of Jesus. (Matt. 2:2, 8; 14:33; 28:9; Lk. 24:52; Jn. 9:38).
 - e. In one of their tracts entitled, **What Do Jehovah's Witnesses Believe**, they warn that reviewers of their doctrines often misrepresent their position.
2. For this reason let us study the statement of this doctrine from their own official publications.
 3. We do not wish to misrepresent or attack them, but to learn the truth on this most important matter.

1. Doctrine Stated From Official Publications

- a. In this same tract, **What Do Jehovah's Witnesses Believe**, it states:

"Jehovah's first creation was his Son." (p. 2)

- b. In the Revised Edition of **Let God Be True**, it asserts:

"He is not the author of the creation of God; but after God created him as his first-born Son, then God used him as his working Partner in the creating of all the rest of creation." (p. 43).

c. In another publication **The New World**, it asks:

“Who was the first son of God created?”

It answers with these words:

“The very one who is the ‘the beginning of the creation of God’ identifies himself to us. He is the same one that later was born a man by the miracle of God and called Jesus Christ.” (p. 16).

d. In their book, **Creation**, under the sub-heading, “Beginning of creation,” they insist that:

“...long before the creation of the earth, when there was no sea, when there were no springs and lakes, before there were any mountains or hills, yea, before the sun and the moon and the stars were made, God began his creation; and that beginning was his beloved One, known in the Holy Record as the Logos. The word Logos is one of the names or titles given to the beloved Son of God, and carries with it deep meaning.” (p. 15).

e. In **The Truth Shall Make You Free**, it states:

“Jehovah God had now set out of the purpose of endless creation. He now had beside him a ‘master workman’ endowed with wisdom. This had received life from God. This made him the Son of God. In begetting this Son or bringing him forth to life Jehovah was the only Producer or Creator, unassisted. His first living creature was therefore the ‘only begotten of God’.” (p. 43).

f. In **Studies in the Scriptures**, it states:

“Our Redeemer existed as a spirit before he was made flesh and dwelt amongst men. At that time, as well as subsequently, he was properly known as ‘a god’ - a mighty one. As chief of the angels and next to the Father He was known as the Archangel (highest angel messenger), Whose name Michael, signifies, ‘who is God,’ or God’s representative. As he was the highest of all Jehovah’s creation, so also he was the first, the direct creation of God...” (Series 5, p. 84).

g. In **The Truth Shall Make You Free**, it says concerning Jesus:

“Being the only begotten Son of God and the ‘first born of every creature,’ the Word would be the prince among other creatures. In this office he bore another name in heaven, which name is ‘Michael.’”

(1943 Edition, p. 48).

h. In **Let God Be True**, it says:

“The Justice of God would permit that Jesus as a ransom, be no more than a perfect man and certainly not the supreme God Almighty in the flesh.” (1946 Edition, p. 87).

i. These quotations, taken verbatim from their own publications, reveal that the Jehovah’s Witnesses believe and teach the following concerning Christ.

- 1) Christ is not eternal, but he was created prior to the creation of the heavens and the earth.
- 2) He was used as God’s “working partner” in creating the rest of creation.
- 3) He was Michael the Archangel from His creation until He came to earth and was endowed with flesh.
- 4) While on earth He was no more than a perfect man, not God in the flesh.
- 5) In other words they deny the Eternity and the Deity of Christ.

Principle Proof Texts

1. In support of these affirmations about Christ, Jehovah’s Witnesses cite several proof texts that I would like for us to consider.
2. The first scripture they use to prove Christ was created is **Revelation 3:14**. In this verse Jesus called Himself, “the beginning of the creation of God.”
 - a. These words are interpreted by them to mean that Jesus was created by God prior to material creation.
 - b. The words “the beginning of the creation of God” do not mean, however, that Christ was created.
 - c. The word “beginning” means that Christ was the “cause” [Source, Agent] in creation.
 - d. The word “beginning” is rendered in some translations like this to convey the meaning of “beginning” in this verse.
 - 1) “Source” - New English Bible and “Ruler” - New International Version
 - 2) “Origin” - Good News Bible and “the Source of God’s creation” - IEB
 - 3) “The Beginning of the creation of God” - New Kings James Version
 - e. According to Scriptures God created the heavens and the earth through Christ. (Jn. 1:1-3; 1 Cor. 8:6; Heb. 1:2).

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:2 He was in the beginning with God.

John 1:3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

- “All things” in verse 3 reveals that the word “beginning” in verse 2 means Christ was not created, but He was before creation.
- God created everything that has ever been created through His Son.
- Christ was not created, but He was with God prior to material creation.

1 Cor 8:6 yet for us there is {but} one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we {exist} for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, **by whom are all things**, and we {exist} through Him.

Heb 1:2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, **through whom also He made the world.**

3. A second scripture used to prove Christ was created is **Colossians 1:15**.

- a. Paul said, “Who is the image of the invisible God, the first born of all creation.”
- b. Jehovah’s Witnesses affirm that the words “the firstborn of all creation” means that Christ was the first creature in the creation of God. **This verse does not teach this.**
- c. The word “firstborn” in the scriptures frequently carries with it the idea of pre-eminence.
- d. In context Paul is exalting Christ, and showing He is pre-eminent over creation.
- e. The Greek word translated “firstborn” literally means “born before” or to “exist before”.
 - 1) Paul affirms here that Christ was “before” creation.
 - 2) What is before all creation [what was brought into existence] must be regarded as eternal.
- f. Furthermore, Paul said. (Col. 1:15-17).

Col 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

Col 1:16 For by Him all things were created, {both} in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities--all things have been created through Him and for Him.

Col 1:17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

- 1) Paul declares that “all things” that have been created have been created by Jesus.
- 2) Since “all things” that have been created have been created by Christ, Christ Himself could not have been created.
- 3) Everything “created” has been created by Jesus. (1 Cor. 8:6).

1 Cor 8:6 yet for us there is {but} one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we {exist} for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, **by whom are all things**, and we {exist} through Him.

4) Jehovah's Witnesses, being aware of the force of this argument, translate these verses as follows:

“By means of him all *other* things were created in the heavens and upon the earth, the things visible and the things invisible, no matter whether they are thrones or lordships or governments or authorities. All *other* things have been created through him and for him. Also he is before all *other* things and by means of him all *other* things were made to exist.”

4) Notice the word *other* has been inserted several times in the text and they have altered the word of God in order to prove Christ was created.

5) What they have done is a serious thing. We are not to add or take away from the word of God. (Deut. 4:2; 1 Cor. 8:6; Rev. 22:18, 19).

3. A third scripture used to prove that Christ is created in **Proverbs 8:22-30**.

PRO 8:22 "The Lord possessed me [wisdom] at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old.

PRO 8:23 "From everlasting I [wisdom] was established, From the beginning, from the earliest times of the earth.

PRO 8:24 "When there were no depths I [wisdom] was brought forth, When there were no springs abounding with water.

PRO 8:25 "Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills I [wisdom] was brought forth;

PRO 8:26 While He had not yet made the earth and the fields, Nor the first dust of the world.

PRO 8:27 "When He established the heavens, I [wisdom] was there, When He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep,

PRO 8:28 When He made firm the skies above, When the springs of the deep became fixed,

PRO 8:29 When He set for the sea its boundary, So that the water should not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth;

PRO 8:30 Then I [wisdom] was beside Him, as a master workman; And I [wisdom] was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him,

- a. This text begins with the words “The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way.”
- b. The word Hebrew word “kaw-naw” is best translated “possessed me, though a footnote in the margin of the ASV has “Jehovah formed me” as a possible rendering.
- c. The IEB has “I, Wisdom, was with the Always-Present One when He began His creative work.”
- d. Jehovah's Witnesses contend that this passage refers to Jesus and that it proves Christ was “formed” by God in the beginning.
- e. The Greek Septuagint mistranslated the Hebrew word “kaw-naw” meaning “possessed.” It used the Greek “ktizo” [**ktee** zoh] meaning “to create” rather than “ektesato” meaning “to possess.”

- f. “Wisdom” was not created by the always wise God, but He always “possessed” wisdom.
- g. It was with God when He created the universe, but God’s wisdom was not created. It is eternal having no beginning or end.
- h. There is not any evidence that this passage refers to Jesus.
- i. He is never mentioned in this chapter and no Old or New Testament writer ever used it in reference to Christ.
- j. In this highly figurative portion of the scripture Wisdom is personified, that is represented as a person by the inspired writer and declared to be before creation. (Prov. 8:1, 12; 22).

PRO 8:1 “Does not wisdom call, And understanding lift up her voice?”

PRO 8:12 "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And I find knowledge and discretion.”

- 1) Observe that the subject of the chapter is wisdom and wisdom is speaking.

PRO 8:22 "The Lord possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old.”

- 2) Wisdom declares that it was “possessed” by Jehovah “at the beginning of His way.”

- k. This passage simply proves that Wisdom was with God from the beginning.

- 1) In fact wisdom is eternal.
- 2) There has never been a time when wisdom did not exist.
- 3) God is Omniscient and has always been all-knowing and has always had unlimited, infinite wisdom.
- 4) His wisdom and knowledge have not evolved, but they have always been infinite.

- 4. Another scripture used to prove that Christ was created is **John 1:1**.

- a. **The New World Translation of the Greek Scriptures**, published by the Jehovah’s Witnesses, renders this verse like this:

“Originally the word was, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god.”

- b. In their translation the word “God” has a lower case “g” instead of the capitalized “G” as in the King James Version and other common versions of the Scriptures.
- c. They have also inserted the indefinite article “a”.
- d. Thus translated they interpret this to mean that Christ was a god, a mighty one, but not God in the flesh. (**Let God Be True**, Rev. ed., pp. 33, 34).
- c. In order to prove that Christ is no more than an incarnate angel Jehovah’s Witnesses have greatly mishandled this passage.

- 1) It should be rendered “and the Word was God,” not “the Word was a god.”
- 2) It is a **recognized principle** of Greek grammar that when the subject takes the article that the predicate nominative omits it.
- 3) This means in simple language that since the subject the “Word” has the article that the article should be omitted before the word “God.” KJV, NKJV, ASV, NASB, RSV, NRSV, NIV, NEB.
- 4) The meaning of these words is that Christ was “God” or “Deity.”
- 5) This accords with the rest of the word of God. (Matt. 1:23; Jn. 10:30; 14:9; Col. 2:9; Heb. 1:3, 8).

Matt 1:23 "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

John 10:30 "I and the Father are one."

John 14:9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and {yet} you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how {can} you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Col 2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

Heb 1:3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

Heb 1:8 But of the Son {He says,} "YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM.

Conclusion.

1. In part 2 of this study we will carefully study the above Scriptures and other Scriptures that boldly affirm the Deity of Christ.
2. Christ came into this world as a fleshly being, but He was more than flesh!
3. Paul declared that “all the fullness of Deity” dwelt “in Him” “in bodily form.” (Col. 2:9).

Col 2:9 For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

4. Christ is not now flesh, but He was Deity in the flesh during His time on the earth. (1 Cor. 15:50).

1 Cor 15:50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
 © Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation
 Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)