

## Chapter 2

# THE PRE-EXISTENCE OF THE SON

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*Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you,  
Before Abraham was, I am (John 8:58).*

**I**f Jesus Christ is God, then He must be eternal. God has no beginning. There was never a time when He did not exist in all the fullness of who He is. “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God” (Psalm 90:2).

Some heretical cults deny Christ’s eternal existence, claiming that He was a created being. In contrast to this false doctrine, the Bible presents Him as the uncreated Creator: “All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made” (John 1:3). In the beginning, He was not created or made. In the beginning, He already was (John 1:1-2). The apostle Paul declared that “He is before all things” (Colossians 1:17).

The prophet Micah foretold that the Messiah would be born in the little town of Bethlehem. Who is this One who would be born? He is the One “whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting” (Micah 5:2).

John the Baptist clearly pointed to the fact of Christ’s pre-existence: “John bare witness of him, and cried, saying, This was he of whom I spake, He that cometh after me is

preferred before me: for he was before me" (John 1:15). We can only understand this paradoxical statement as we distinguish between the two natures of Christ. When viewed from the standpoint of His humanity, He came after John the Baptist. Mary gave birth to Him six months after Elizabeth gave birth to John (Luke 1:26). But as the eternal Son of God, Christ was before John the Baptist, eternally existing in the bosom of the Father (John 1:18).

Perhaps the Savior Himself made the clearest statement of His pre-existence. Speaking with a group of unbelieving Jewish religious leaders He said, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad." The Jews, understanding Jesus to be saying that He and Abraham existed on earth at the same time, were startled. "Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?" They knew that Abraham had lived and died approximately two thousand years earlier. They were shocked and angered by the Lord's final words: "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am." They considered this to be ultimate blasphemy and "took . . . up stones to cast at him." (See John 8:56-59.)

Only the eternal God could make such a claim. Indeed, Jesus could have said, "Before Adam was, I am." He even could have said, "Before the universe was, I am." In fact, He did make such a statement: "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was. . . . for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world" (John 17:5,24). God the Son basked in the sunlight of the Father's love before the world ever was. From everlasting to everlasting, He is the Son of the Father's love. The eternal Son is worthy of all glory, praise, and adoration!