



LESSON 1

CHRIST IN CREATION

Scripture Texts: Genesis 1:1, 26; John 1:1-4; Colossians 1:16-17; Hebrews 1:1-3; Revelation 1:8

Today we begin a series of lessons on the life of Christ. He is the beginning and the ending, the first and the last. He is that which is and which was and which is to come, the Almighty.

Although this study will be an attempt to cover the life of Christ, in reality it is of but a small portion of His life. It is impossible to see in its entirety anything that is eternal. Christ's life is eternal. It always was and always will continue. To make this more real to us, we are including more than Jesus' life on earth. The life of man begins with his birth and ends with his death. Not so of Christ. He lived before His birth; He lives after His death. Read Psalm 104 before personally studying this lesson.

MEMORY VERSE: *I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.*

Proverbs 8:23

Let Us Make Man

Genesis 1:1 The first act of Christ of which we know is creation. **In the beginning God**—before there was anything else there was God. The universe had a beginning and will have an ending. God was first before creation and must hold that place in all of His creation. Man is a combination of human and divine, of the earthly and the heavenly. We are all part of God; we are like Him; His stamp is upon us. This lays a serious responsibility upon each of us every day to keep from marring that image by sin and to confine ourselves within the holy purposes of God.

God created—The Creator is three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. **Let us make man in our image . . . our likeness**—The Creator here speaks of Himself in the plural, these Who plan together to make man. This proves Jesus Christ to have been with the Father before the world was. (Read John 17:5.)

Christ Lived Before His Birth

John 1:1-3 **In the beginning was the Word . . . with God . . . was God.** Here we see both the eternity (since He existed as long as God) and the deity (Godhood, state of being God) of Jesus Christ. We can see that Jesus is the One spoken of by reading verse 14. **All things**—He took part in all of creation.

Scientists are continually trying to discover the secret of life. They have never been able to do so. They have made flowers that look and smell like a living flower but have never been able to put life into them. They have made many things that appear to be real, but they remain artificial because that is just what they are—no life in them. God alone holds life. He gave life at creation, and He still is the only One who can give it. Best of all He has the will to give it.

Colossians 1:16-17 Everything was created by Christ, not only material things but those of mind and spirit also—**visible and invisible . . . thrones . . . dominions . . . principalities . . . powers.** All the laws of physics and nature, of right and wrong, all thought and emotion, all the powers and possibilities wrapped up in a human being, were set there by Jesus Christ. **He is before all things, and by him all things consist**—Christ is greater than all His

creation. He was here first. He has power over all of it. He holds all things together and moves them in their ordered courses, all things subject under Him. In John 8:56-58 Jesus made it clear by His Own testimony that He was here in Abraham's day. The Jews then, as many do today, refused to believe Him.

Christ, the Revelation of God

Hebrews 1:1-3 Christ is this Son by Whom God hath **spoken unto us** in these last days, **by whom also he made the worlds. Who being the brightness of his glory**—of the Father's glory—**express image of his person**—the Father's person. The Son is like the Father, one with Him—**upholding all things by the word of his power**—the Father's power. His Word is enough to control the universes in vast space, plus all things down through microscopic smallness. **Himself purged our sins**—He is the lowly Jesus Who died for us—now sitting **on the right hand of the Majesty on high**—at the right hand of the Father. Here is a beautiful picture of Christ's creatorship, deity, glory, power, saving work, and rulership. Oh, praise God! Does not this move you to worship Him? God speaks to us by this lovely One. Listen and hear Him.

The Voice

Revelation 1:8 **I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending . . . is . . . was . . . to come**—The eternity, both past and future, of Jesus Christ is stated here. Who is speaking? Jesus Himself, for the statement begins, "I am . . ." (Read Revelation 2:8; 21:6; Isaiah 48:12.) He knows and is revealing this truth to us. Also, He is **the Almighty**—the all-powerful One. He can do anything and everything.

John 1:4 You may have noticed that the writer left out verse 4 of the earlier study. Go back to it now. **In him was life**--God the Father gave **to the Son to have life in himself** (John 5:26). We have our life granted to us by God. We do not have the power over it. Christ must give us life or we are left dead. Christ gives life that is of a more abundant type—eternal life, as He and the Father have. It comes from Christ the Creator and from no other source. This life becomes light to men. With this light comes knowledge of things that cannot be known, understanding that cannot be understood, a vision of things that cannot be seen, hope in a hopeless world, joy and love. Have you been re-created by the Creator? You may be. Think about it.

JUST A THOUGHT

The standard is the Bible. Take every doctrine and opinion back to it for measuring.