

BREAD

FOR HUNGRY CHRISTIANS

Frank Hamrick & Jerry Dean

BREAD: FOR HUNGRY CHRISTIANS

written by Frank Hamrick and Jerry Dean

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And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst.

John 6:35

Bread is a nearly universal staple. From the dawn of time, almost every human civilization has depended on bread as an efficient, reliable way to sustain life in communities big or small.

It's significant that Jesus Christ presented Himself as bread that came down from heaven (John 6:51). As the children of Israel hungered in the wilderness and found manna sent from the Father, so also is a person's soul satisfied by Jesus Christ, the true and living Bread. The world searches for that which can bring peace and contentment, and still there is restlessness within. They seek and find not. They thirst and find no refreshment for their parched, dry souls. Only Christ Jesus, the Bread of Life, can quench the thirst and fill the heart of an unregenerate person. Only He can fill the void caused by sin.

This booklet is a study of our Savior. It is written for those who are hungry for the things of God. In Matthew 5 we read that blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, because they will be filled. As you read and study the life of Christ, it is our desire that you will see Him in a new light and that He will become dearer and more precious to you. Christ has done more than our mortal minds can ever comprehend, yet the Word provides us with a beautiful picture of His life, death, and present work. To the Christian, He truly is Bread, the daily sustenance.

Before you begin your study, however, why not pause and ask God to give you a fresh look at His Son and His finished work. Ask Him to thrill your heart anew with the wonderful salvation and joyous, abundant life He has provided in Himself. May God bless you as you study His infallible Word.

1

CHRIST: HIS PRE-EXISTENCE

In this chapter we will study the preincarnate Christ.

What does preincarnate mean?

The word *preincarnate* is really two words put together. *Pre* means before. *Incarnate* means in the flesh. Thus, the preincarnation of Christ speaks of the time before Christ came in the flesh to Earth.

*Since Christ is called the Son of God,
wasn't He created by God?*

Let's see what the Bible says about Christ's pre-existence—that is, before He came to Earth.

CREATOR AND SUSTAINER

- We have already studied this verse in the *Meat* booklet, but look again at Genesis 1:26. Does God refer to Himself in the singular, or in the plural? _____
What do you think that means? _____

We have seen in our study of the Trinity and the Holy Spirit that God's Spirit aided in creation.

But that doesn't mean Christ helped, as well.

- Turn to John 1:1–2. Who is the Word mentioned in these verses? See also verse 14. _____
- Now look at verse 3. What did He do? _____

- Turn to Hebrews 1:2. According to this verse, by whom did God create the world? _____
- Now read Colossians 1:15–17. What does this passage state about Christ? _____

- Notice especially verse 17. What two things are said about Christ?

1. _____

2. _____

- All things are held together, or consist, by Christ. What does this fact teach us about Him? _____

Christ is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

*But couldn't Christ have been created before
the world was created?*

FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING

- Turn to John 1:1–2. In your own words, what do these verses plainly state about Christ? _____

- Now look at Micah 5:2. Though Christ was born in Bethlehem, did He begin there? _____

- How long has He existed? _____

- See also John 17:5. How does Christ ask God to glorify Him? _____

Jesus also claimed His own pre-existence.

- Look at Exodus 3:14. God is giving Moses instructions so that he will be accepted by the Israelites as their leader. Who did God tell Moses to say sent him? _____

The Hebrew word for “I am” is a name for God that was so revered and holy that the Jews would not even speak it!

- Now look at John 8:58. What did Jesus say here?

- What did He mean by that? _____

- In verses 58–59, how did the people respond when Jesus equated Himself with God? _____

- Turn to Revelation 1:8. What did Christ say regarding Himself in this verse? _____

The Scriptures plainly teach that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has existed with and in the Father in eternity past and in the present, and He will continue to do so in the future. He is equal with God in every respect. He merely lowered Himself, taking the form of a human being so that you and I might be redeemed. What a great God and Savior we have!

Complete This Section Without Looking Back at the Lesson

1. Define preincarnation. _____

2. What does John 1:1–3 teach concerning Christ?

3. What two things does Colossians 1:17 teach us about Christ? _____

4. According to John 17:5, what did Christ share with the Father in eternity past? _____

5. What did Jesus mean when He said, “I am”?

Verses to Memorize

- Colossians 1:16–17
- John 8:58

2

CHRIST:
HIS VIRGIN BIRTH

What is the virgin birth?

When we say that Christ was born of a virgin, we mean that He was born of a woman, but He had no human father.

Does the Bible really teach the virgin birth?

First, let's look at prophetic Scripture.

DOOM PRONOUNCED ON MANKIND

Turn to Genesis 3:14–15. Here we read the very first prophecy in the Bible.

- To whom is the Lord God speaking? _____
- Who is the serpent? _____
- Who is the woman in verse 15? _____
- What would be the attitude of the devil and the woman toward each other from this point on? _____

- But notice the latter part of verse 15. The verse says that there will not only be conflict between the serpent and the woman but also between whom? _____

- Who do you think is the woman's offspring, or seed, mentioned in verse 15? _____

- So there would also be conflict between whom? _____

A DELIVERER PROMISED

Now notice the pronoun "her" in verse 15. This is a key word. Everywhere else in the Bible a different pronoun is used when speaking of descendants. Look up these verses: Genesis 46:6, Psalm 18:50, Isaiah 53:10.

- What pronoun is used in each verse? _____
- We can see by these verses that there was to be a future descendant of Eve who would be different from all other humans. He would be of the seed, or offspring, of woman and not of man. The rest of Genesis 3:15 tells us what this unique individual would do. First, whose head would be bruised, or crushed? _____
- Now, notice again the personal pronoun in the last phrase of verse 15. What will Satan do to the seed, or offspring, of the woman? _____

So, we see here that the seed of the woman is a person who will bruise the head of Satan.

What does it mean to bruise someone's head?

- Christ mortally bruised Satan when He died on Calvary and rose again the third day. Christ has brought victory over the devil. But the key point to keep in mind is that Christ is the seed, or offspring, of _____. This prophesies the virgin birth.
- Turn to another prophetic Scripture, Isaiah 7:14. In this passage it is plainly stated that a virgin shall conceive and bear a son. What is the child's name? _____
- Now turn to Matthew 1:23–25. Who is this prophesied virgin-born child? _____
- Notice also what Luke, a very competent physician, says in Luke 1:30–38. What does the key verse (37) say?

What difference does it make? Christ could be the Savior and not be virgin-born, couldn't He?

THE BIBLE'S CREDIBILITY HINGES ON IT

- If Christ were not born of a virgin, how would that affect the reliability of the Scriptures? _____

CHRIST'S SINLESSNESS IS A FACTOR

- You may remember that we studied the doctrine of anthropology, or mankind, in the *Meat* booklet. Briefly, in your own words, what does Romans 5:12–14 mean?

- Every descendant of Adam has sinned. We've already seen that another word for descendant is what (Gen. 3:15)?

- Since Christ was not of the seed, or offspring, of Adam, does Romans 5:12 apply to Him? _____

- Why or why not? _____

Since Christ wasn't born of the seed of man, He didn't inherit Adam's sinful nature. Therefore, Christ is the only human ever who wasn't a sinner!

- In your own words, what does 2 Corinthians 5:21 tell us about Christ? _____

- State what 1 Peter 3:18 means to those who are God's children. _____

If Christ had been born naturally, He would have been a sinner, and He couldn't have died for anyone else's sins.

Christ's virgin birth makes it possible for us to have a sinless, perfect Savior who could die in our place for our sins.

Complete This Section Without Looking Back at the Lesson

1. Define virgin birth. _____

2. What does Genesis 3:15 tell us about the relationship between the seed, or offspring, of the woman and the seed of the serpent? _____

3. What did God mean when He said that Christ would bruise Satan's head? _____

4. Why is it necessary that Christ was born of a virgin?

Verses to Memorize

- Genesis 3:15
- Isaiah 7:14