

BREAD

FOR HUNGRY CHRISTIANS



BREAD: FOR HUNGRY CHRISTIANS—TEACHER'S MANUAL
Written by Frank Hamrick

Copyright 1993, 2009, 2013 by Positive Action for Christ, Inc., P.O. Box 700, Whitakers, NC 27891.

www.positiveaction.org

All rights reserved. No part may be reproduced in any manner without permission in writing from the publisher.

Third Edition

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN: 978-1-59557-174-8

Edited by Jim Lord and CJ Harris
Designed by Shannon Brown

Published by



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	1	Christ: His Pre-Existence.....	5
	2	Christ: His Virgin Birth	11
	3	Christ: His Purpose in Coming.....	17
	4	Christ: His Character	27
	5	Christ: His Sinless Life	33
	6	Christ: His Death	39
	7	Christ: His Resurrection	47
	8	Christ: His Ascension and Exaltation	55
		Examination Questions.....	61

PREFACE

Bread: For Hungry Christians is an individual or group Bible study designed to cover the basics in the person and life of our Lord Jesus Christ. In John 6:35, Jesus declared Himself to be the Bread of Life. If anyone eats of this Bread, he will never hunger. Sadly, many Christians spend very little time studying the life of Christ and enjoying the rich banquet that is spread before them. As you lead your group through this study, each of you will once again be brought face to face with Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Bread is the third book in the Christian Growth Series. This four-book series was first designed as a self-guided study through the basic truths of the Bible. Because of the importance of the material's content and its user-friendly format, many pastors and youth leaders began using the books in Sunday School classes and small group Bible studies. To accommodate this new venue, Positive Action for Christ began producing a series of teacher's manuals to go along with the student books.

To make teaching and review easier, the teacher's manuals feature the same divisions and headings as the student's manual. Lesson and discussion content is provided, along with facsimiles of the student manual pages with the answers filled in. For each section, the teacher should first review the answers to the student manual, and then present any material in the teacher's lesson.

Read through the teacher's lesson ahead of time, choosing the number of discussion questions you feel comfortable covering in a single setting. Depending on how much time you allow for review or discussion, some lessons may require more than one week.

We trust that God will use this study to show you and your students the majesty He revealed through His Son, Jesus Christ.

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? **the plural** _____
What do you think that means? **It shows that the Trinity were all involved in Creation.** _____

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. **Jesus Christ** _____
- Now look at verse 3. What did He do? **made all things** _____
- Turn to Hebrews 1:2. According to this verse, by whom did God create the world? **Jesus Christ** _____
- Now read Colossians 1:15–17. What does this passage state about Christ? **He is the image of God. All things were made by Him, and all things are held together by Him.** _____

6

It may seem logical to begin this study in Bethlehem with Mary giving birth to the baby Jesus. Isn't that where most biographies of great people begin? However, Jesus Christ is much more than a great man. He is the Son of God and has existed forever. This chapter looks at what it means to say that Christ is our Eternal God, and what His role was before coming to this world as our Savior.

CREATOR AND SUSTAINER

What difference does it make that Christ existed before He was born in Bethlehem? What good does it do us to believe this truth?

The doctrine of the pre-existence of Christ is important for the following reasons:

First, the doctrine of the deity of Christ rests on this doctrine. If Christ is not eternal, He is not God. If He is not God, He is not able to save our souls.

Second, the doctrine of eternal security rests on this doctrine. If Christ is eternal, so is our salvation. How so? Notice the following verses of Scripture which plainly teach that the kind of life Christ has is the same kind of life the believer has, because Christ Himself is our life (Col. 3:4, Gal. 2:20, 1 John 5:11.)

Third, the only way a believer can go to hell is for Christ to die—which He will not do—or for Him to leave us, and He has told us that He will never leave us or forsake us (Heb. 13:5). The Word has made it plain that Christ will not go to hell. Since He who cannot go to hell lives

in our hearts, we cannot go to hell unless one of two things happens: (1) He leaves us, or (2) He dies.

Will Christ ever die or leave a believer?

First, Christ cannot die, for He has stated that He would never suffer in the grave (Acts 2:24–27).

Second, He has plainly stated that He would never leave us (Heb. 13:5). What do we then conclude? If Christ cannot die, He cannot leave us; He cannot suffer in hell. If He lives in us, then we are bound to go to heaven.

FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING

When did Christ begin?

According to Scripture, God is eternal—without beginning or ending. Thus, if Christ is God, He never had a beginning. Notice Proverbs 8:22–31. Wisdom is described in these verses. Many Bible scholars agree that the wisdom in this passage is actually a picture of Christ. Thus, when the passage says that this wisdom always existed, it is saying that Christ never had a beginning (vv. 23–27).

What is the significance of the name of God in Exodus 3:14 and John 8:58?

The phrase *I am* is in the present tense. Christ has just stated, that “before Abraham was (past tense), I am (present tense).” When we consider that Abraham lived two thousand years before Christ was on Earth, we realize that Christ was saying, “Two thousand years ago, I am right now.” In other words, Christ was claiming eternal existence. He was claiming that time did not bind Him. He lives above time, and He was at once two thousand years in the past and two thousand years in the future.

How can God never have a beginning or an ending?

Everything that exists had to come from something. Nothing can bring itself into existence out of nothing. Something else has to exist to either make it or out of which it can be made.

If we follow this to its logical conclusion,

we finally realize that somewhere there had to be a first cause. This first cause had to have existed on its own without beginning, in order to start everything else. Thus, God is the first cause. Since something had to exist without beginning, it only makes sense to assume that this eternally existing one is God.

What should be our reaction to the eternity of Christ?

It should cause us to adore Him. It should produce a deep awe and respect for such a God and Savior. In fact, one of the major reasons for studying about Christ is to see His astounding attributes, so as to fall more deeply in love with Him. If we only learn facts about Him, but do not see beyond the facts to this awesome Being, we will have missed the whole point of this study. We should be left in wonder, staggering with amazement at His character and splendor.

Like physical bread, which is to be enjoyed, not just studied, Christ is not simply to be studied as other historical characters. Rather, He is to be “eaten,” digested, and enjoyed! We study about George Washington, but we experience Christ.

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

1. He existed before all things.

2. All things are held together by Him.

- All things are held together, or consist, by Christ. What does this fact teach us about Him? He has the power to hold the universe together.

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? Christ was with God from the beginning, and He is God.

- Now look at Micah 5:2. Though Christ was born in Bethlehem, did He begin there? no

- How long has He existed? from the very beginning, from the eternity before the beginning

- See also John 17:5. How does Christ ask God to glorify Him? with the same glory Christ had with the Father before they created the world

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? I Am

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?
Before Abraham was, I Am.
- What did He mean by that? He meant that He existed before Abraham and that He was the “I Am,” God.
- In verses 58–59, how did the people respond when Jesus equated Himself with God? They took up stones to throw at Him.
- Turn to Revelation 1:8. What did Christ say regarding Himself in this verse? He is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the past, present, and future.

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. Preincarnation speaks of Christ's existence and activity before He came to Earth in the flesh.
2. What does John 1:1–3 teach concerning Christ?
Before creation, Jesus Christ was in the beginning with God. He was God. He made all things.

Think of the magnificence of Christ compared to all other people who have lived on Earth:

- He has no earthly father and no heavenly mother.
- He did not begin His life at birth but has always existed.
- He died and then raised Himself from the dead, proving that death held no power over Him.
- He ascended alive into heaven and 2,000 years later is still alive.

What other historical figure can compare? What an amazing Savior! What magnificence; what splendor; what glory! The eternity of Christ should produce wonder, awe, amazement, and praise from our lips. If it doesn't, we are blind (2 Pet. 1:8–9, 16–17), for we have not truly seen His majesty. It is one thing to learn the facts; it is another to see the glory.

3. What two things does Colossians 1:17 teach us about Christ? **He existed before all things. By Him all things consist/ are held together.**

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

5. What did Jesus mean when He said, "I am"?
He meant that He was God, that He was the One who spoke to Abraham.

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? the serpent
- Who is the serpent? Satan
- Who is the woman in verse 15? Eve
- What would be the attitude of the devil and the woman toward each other from this point on? hatred
- 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? Satan's seed and the woman's seed
- Who do you think is the woman's offspring, or seed, mentioned in verse 15? Jesus Christ
- So there would also be conflict between whom? Satan and Christ

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.

Why do people reject the virgin birth of Christ? Is it because there is no evidence?

As our lesson will show, there is plenty of evidence supporting the virgin birth of Christ. Why then do people reject the evidence? (a) They are unsaved. Unbelievers cannot understand the things of God. They are blind to truth. Therefore, anything that is beyond the realm of the natural is unacceptable to them. (b) They are anxious to destroy the foundations of Christianity. They know that the heart of Christianity rests on the deity of Christ. If they can make Christ nothing more than a mortal man like the rest of us, they have destroyed Christianity.

What makes it easy to believe in the virgin birth?

A person's belief in God's power makes it easy to believe in the virgin birth. If I believe that there is a God who made heaven and Earth, it doesn't take much faith to also believe that He can cause a baby to be born without a father.

Therefore, those who say they cannot believe in the virgin birth because that miracle contradicts all known laws of nature, are in essence saying that they don't believe in God.

What should be our reaction to the virgin birth of Christ?

It should fill us with wonder and adoration. It should cause us to realize that this Jesus is not a mere man, but the eternal God Himself. We should be in wonder that the

God who created the universe walked personally on Earth with other people.

It should produce respect and worship. He is not a man like others. He is not even a "great man." He is the God-Man—perfect man, yet perfect God.

It should convince us of the compassion of Christ for people on Earth. God cares for us (1 Pet. 5:7). He is involved in our lives. Yet He is not like us—He took our sins upon Himself, but he did not become a sinner like us (2 Cor. 5:21; 1 Pet. 2:21–24).

DOOM PRONOUNCED ON MANKIND

How did God show His mercy even in judging mankind's sin?

Even as God was punishing mankind's first sin, He promised to send Christ to fix the disaster of the fall. In judgment, God remembers mercy (Hab. 3:2).

A DELIVERER PROMISED

Since Mary is the mother of Christ, and Christ is God, can we then say that Mary is the mother of God?

Elizabeth called Mary the mother of her Lord (Luke 1:43), but she did not call her the mother of God. A human mother must exist before her offspring. Did Mary exist before God? As we learned in our previous chapter, God never had a beginning. Therefore, it is not possible that He could have a mother. Mary mothered the humanity of Jesus, but not His deity. God did not come into being in her womb. As Dr. Robert Gromacki states, “Mary did not produce the person of Jesus Christ; rather, she produced the human nature that God the Son took to Himself in His incarnation” (*The Virgin Birth, Doctrine of Deity*, p. 88).

What was Mary’s first question when the angel told her about Christ’s birth? (Luke 1:28–34)

Mary wondered how Christ was going to be born without a human father. These verses indicate that she was engaged to Joseph, but they had not yet been married or sexually involved. In the words of Scripture, she had not known a man.

What was the angel’s answer when Mary asked about Christ’s father? (Luke 1:34–35)

The angel told Mary that the Holy Ghost would come upon her (v. 39), conceive a child (v. 31), and produce that holy thing—the Son of God (v. 35). The angel told her that the child would be male and His name would be Jesus (v. 31). The angel Gabriel prophesied that Jesus would be given the throne of David and reign over the house of Jacob forever.

- What pronoun is used in each verse? his
- 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? Satan’s
- 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? bruise/strike at His heel

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 the woman. 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? Immanuel
- Now turn to Matthew 1:23–25. Who is this prophesied virgin-born child? Jesus Christ
- Notice also what Luke, a very competent physician, says in Luke 1:30–38. What does the key verse (37) say? With God nothing is impossible.

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? They wouldn't be reliable; they would be in error.

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? Answers will vary.

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

- Since Christ was not of the seed, or offspring, of Adam, does Romans 5:12 apply to Him? no

- Why or why not? Jesus did not have an earthly father, so He did not inherit mankind's sinful nature.

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? Answers will vary.

14

THE BIBLE'S CREDIBILITY HINGES ON IT

Note the language of Matthew 1:15. What difference do you see between verses 15 and 16? Does the Scripture say that Joseph begat Jesus? Why not?

The Greek word *gennaō* occurs more than thirty times in Matthew 1:1–16. This verb is often translated *begat* or “was the father of.” Therefore, since Eliud begat Eleazar, Eliud is the father of Eleazar.

In verse 16, we see that Jacob is the father of Joseph. But this verse indicates that Joseph was not only a son to Jacob but also a husband to Mary. Then the verse changes the previous pattern—it does not say that Joseph begat Jesus, but rather that Jesus was born of Mary. Verse 18 elaborates on this. Before Mary and Joseph came together, Mary was with child through a miracle of the Holy Spirit.

Joseph served as the earthly father of Jesus, but he was not Christ's biological father.

CHRIST'S SINLESSNESS IS A FACTOR

Does the virgin birth make Mary any greater than other Christians?

Gabriel told Mary she was highly favored and blessed among women in Luke 1:28, but these commendations seem pale in comparison with the glories of Christ (Luke 1:31–35). Note Mary's view in Luke 1:48–49. She recognizes her low position in verse 48, as well as the fact that future

generations would call her blessed. Then in verses 49–55, she magnifies the power and grace of the Lord.

An interesting footnote to this is found in Luke 11:27 and 28. In the presence of Jesus, a woman lifted up her voice to praise Mary. Note Christ's response in verse 28. Blessed rather are those that hear the Word of God and keep it. Christ said this to counter the praise of His mother. When someone sought to praise Mary, Christ immediately pointed out that, on the contrary, believers who hear and keep the Word of God are just as blessed.

Here, then, we see that both Jesus and Mary saw her as any other believer—overshadowed by the magnificent glory of God.

What does the term *immaculate conception* mean?

Immaculate conception is a term used by Roman Catholic teachers which means that Mary was herself sinlessly conceived. That is, she did not receive a sinful nature from her parents, she lived a sinless life, free from sinful deeds and thoughts, and she mothered Jesus apart from any sin. Catholic theologians came to this conclusion because of one nagging question—how could a sinful woman give birth to a sinless son? How do we answer that question?

Catholicism, rather than solving the question, makes it even more difficult. If a parent had to be sinless to produce a sinless child, then if Mary had two parents, they both had to be sinless to produce her if she were sinless. And, for them to be sinless, their parents had to be sinless, and so on all the way back to Adam.

Mary was a sinner like the rest of us. In fact, she admitted it herself when she said that her spirit had rejoiced in God, her Savior (Luke 1:47). If she had been sinless, she would not have needed a Savior.

How, then, was the sinless Savior born of a sinful woman? The Bible states that the Holy Spirit *overshadowed* Mary (Luke 1:35). That is, He superintended Christ's conception, miraculously ensuring that the Son of God would have no sin nature.

Does Scripture teach that Christians should pray to or in the name of Mary?

Absolutely not. John 16:23 teaches us to ask our requests directly to God the Father in the name of Christ.

Mary, a woman who needed salvation (Luke 1:47), helps no one's prayers. Throughout Scripture we see that prayer is to be directed to the Father, in the name of the Son, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

- State what 1 Peter 3:18 means to those who are God's children. Christ, though sinless, suffered once for our sins, so that He could bring us to God. If He hadn't, there would have been no way for our sins to be forgiven.

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. born of a woman but having no earthly father
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? There would be conflict between Satan's seed and the seed of the woman (Christ). Satan would bruise/strike His heel, but Christ would bruise/crush Satan's head.
3. What did God mean when He said that Christ would bruise Satan's head? Jesus would die on Calvary and rise again the third day.
4. Why is it necessary that Christ was born of a virgin? The Bible's credibility hinges on it. Christ's sinlessness is a factor because He had to be a perfect sacrifice.

Verses to Memorize

- Genesis 3:15
- Isaiah 7:14

