

The Preexistent Christ Notes

John 1:1-5

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Advent – “Coming” the incarnation of Christ

Historical Jesus

1. “What advantage did the Jews gain by killing their wise king? – Mara bar Serapion (c. AD 73).
2. “Christ had been executed in the reign of Tiberius by the procurator Pontius Pilate.” (see Luke 3:1) -Cornelius Tacitus [AD 56-120]
3. “And so he (Ananus, the high priest) convened the judges of the Sanhedrin and brought before them a man named James, the brother of Jesus who was called the Christ, and certain others. He accused them of having transgressed the law and delivered them up to be stoned.” (see Matt. 13:55) -Josephus Flavius [AD 37-105]
4. “At this time there was a wise man who was called Jesus. And his conduct was good, and he was known to be virtuous. And many people from among the Jews and other nations became his disciples. Pilate condemned him to be crucified and to die. And those who had become his disciples did not abandon his discipleship. They reported that he appeared to them three days after his crucifixion and that he was alive. Accordingly, he was perhaps the Messiah concerning whom the prophets have recounted wonders.” -Josephus Flavius
5. “Jesus escaped to Egypt and a teacher has said Jesus the Nazarene practiced magic and led Israel astray.” –Babylonian Talmud (Sanhedrin 107b)
6. Jews never denied the miracles but questioned where his power came from...have only named a few, but other writings from the first century

Why is Jesus so well received in other religions?

1. (Islam, Hinduism, Ba’hai, Mormonism, Jehovah’s Witnesses, etc.
2. People always _____ Jesus’ love and teaching, perhaps even His miracles.

What kind of Jesus do you believe in?

1. A Jesus who is only worthy of your worship at _____ (or Easter)?
2. A Jesus who _____ disagrees with you or your lifestyle?
3. A Jesus of your own _____? (only love, only judgment, my Jesus this, my Jesus that.) Can’t pick and choose what parts we like and don’t like.

Manuscripts

1. Jesus - disciples began 30 years after, still had _____ to account for details.
2. Over 300 years, _____ ancient Biblical manuscripts.

3. There are greater quantity and quality of manuscript evidence for the NT than any other ancient book.
 - The more you have the less likely it is that they could have been _____, or taken from legend.

Archaeology

1. The archaeological record helps establish the _____ of Scripture.
2. It helps us to make reasonable claims as to whether a certain event happened or not.
3. The Bible is not just an ancient text but a _____ record (think genealogies, laws, numbers, places, people, etc.)
4. "House of David" inscription found in 1993 (9th century B.C.)
5. Hezekiah - royal seal found in 2009.
6. Pontius Pilate - inscription found "prefect of Judea."

Jesus' Genealogy

1. Matthew 1 (42 generations) back to _____.
2. Luke 3 - all the way back to _____.

Who He is: Personhood (vs. 1-2)

1. Jesus has always _____ (Genesis 1:1, Psalm 33:6).
 - *Logos* - God's spoken word, the principle of reason, order, and _____ in the universe.
 - Greek - the rational mind that _____ the universe.
 - "*Was with God*" differentiates the Word _____ God.
 - "*Word was God*" shows that He _____ God.
2. Jesus is _____ (vs. 2).
 - His preexistence.
 - His _____.
 - His _____.
 - John 8:58 - ...before Abraham was, I AM.
 - John 10:30 - I and the Father are One.
 - Ancient of Days (Revelation 1:8).
 - False Teaching
 - Jesus was a _____ being.
 - Anyone who teaches a contrary gospel is _____ (Galatians 1:6-9).
 - Satan disguises himself as an "_____ of light" (2 Corinthians 11:4).
3. Jesus is the _____ and sustainer of all things.
 - Created everything "ex nihilo" out of _____.
 - Father was initiator of creation and Jesus the direct _____ of it (Colossians 1:15-20, Hebrews 1:1-3, 1 Corinthians 8:6, Acts 17:28, Romans 11:36).
4. Jesus has the right to _____ eternal life.
 - All life is _____ from and given by Jesus.
 - Light represents _____, revelation, and truth.

- God's word _____ life (Genesis 1:11, 20, 26) and Jesus has the right to give eternal life (John 6:27, 10:28).
5. Jesus is the _____ of the world.
- Light vs. darkness.
 - There is an ongoing spiritual, unseen _____ between good and evil (Isaiah 9:2, John 8:12).

Prophecy: The Incarnation of Christ (the coming Messiah)

1. Scripture - Isaiah 7:14, 9:6, Luke 24:25-27
2. Theophany/Christophany - 1 Corinthians 10:4, Joshua 5, Daniel 3:24-25.
3. It was prophesied the Messiah would _____ (Psalms Isaiah, etc.)
4. The disciples gave their _____ for it.

Action Steps

1. Dive deeper into God's Word this Advent season.
2. Invite someone to church this Christmas.
3. Prayerfully consider your role in fulfilling the Great Commission.
4. "But who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16).