**THE PREINCARNATE CHRIST (1)**

 Since we assert that Jesus of Nazareth is the unique God-man, fully God and fully man in one Person forever, we have chosen to describe Him first of all as God by presenting some things which He reveals about Himself in Scripture both “before” creation and subsequent to creation.

 The initial point to make is that God is simple, that is He is One and is not composed of parts, so that, even though attributes may be spoken of individually, God may not be divided up which would mean He changes. (Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!”)

 The preincarnate Christ is the Second Person of the Trinity, God the Son. Along with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit, God the Son shares all the attributes and essence of the singular Godhead. Scripture affirms this many times: (Matthew 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in **the name** of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit…”), (John 16:1-15, esp. vs 15 “All things that the Father has are Mine; therefore I said that He takes of Mine and will disclose it to you.”; John 17:5 “And now Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”)

 God is one Essence (Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!”) Who exists in three Persons (Matthew 28:19 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in **the name** of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit…”).

 As God, the preexistent Christ shares all the attributes of God. (John 10:30 “I and the Father are one,”)

 **SOME ATTRIBUTES GOD HAS REVEALED ABOUT HIMSELF ARE:**

 **GOD IS:**

OMNISCIENT / knows everything (Romans 11:33-34 “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgements and unfathomable His ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord or who became His counselor?”) (Isaiah 55:8 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord.)

 OMNIPOTENT / all powerful – all able (Genesis 18:14a “Is anything too difficult for the Lord?...”); (Job 42:2 “I know that You can do all things, and that no purpose of Yours can be thwarted.”); (Jeremiah 32:27 “Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh; is anything too difficult for Me?”)

 OMNIBENEVOLENT / possessing perfect or unlimited goodness (Psalm 34:8 “O taste and see that the Lord is good; how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!”); Mark 10:18 “And Jesus said to him,’ Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.’ “)

 LOVE / God defines-exhibits what love is (I John 4:7-8 “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love.”); (I John 4:10 “In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation of our sins.”)

 OMNIPRESENT / as spirit, God is everywhere both inside and outside of creation (Psalm 139:7-12 esp. vs. 8 “If I ascend to heaven You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, behold, You are there.”)

 OMNISAPIENT / God is all wise; He knows and chooses the best of all possibilities (Romans 16:27 “…to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, be the glory forever. Amen.”)

 HOLY / set apart from all else, especially all evil (Revelation 4:8b “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”)

 ETERNAL / existing without beginning or limits (Revelation 4:8c “WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”)

 JUST / knowing good from evil – always rewarding good and condemning evil (Revelation19:1b-2a “Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God; because His judgments are true and righteous…”) {see also RIGHTEOUS}

 RIGHTEOUS / always thinking and doing what is right (Deuteronomy 32:3-4 “For I proclaim the name of the Lord; ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.”) {see also JUST}

 SIMPLE / of oneness, indivisible, incapable of being divided into parts which would indicate potential to change (Isaiah 55:8-9”’For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ declares the Lord. ‘For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.’”) (Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear O Israel! The Lord is our God, the Lord is one!”)

 TRUE / absolute accuracy in everything (Psalm19:9 “The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the judgements of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.”),

 PERFECT / possessing everything in completeness, lacking nothing (Deuteronomy 32:4 “The Rock! His work is perfect, for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice, righteous and upright is He.”)

 ETERNAL / always existing and depending on nothing outside of Himself (I Timothy 1:17 “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”)

 UNCREATED / having no beginning (Colossians 1:16-17 “For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”)

 HAPPY / delighted within Himself, lacking no desire for better (Matthew 25:21 “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master’”), (I Timothy 1:11 “…according to the glorious gospel of the blessed God…” & 6:15 “…which He will bring about at the proper time—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords…”))

 COMPLETE / lacking absolutely nothing, the one God (Romans11:36 “For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.”)

 INDEPENDENT / God relies upon no one and nothing (Genesis1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”), (Colossians1:17 “He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”), (Psalm 90:2 “Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”), (Revelation 1:8 “’I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.’”)

 WORTHY / befitting to receive everything of value (II Samuel 22:4 “I call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.”)

 IMMUTABLE / incapable of change (Hebrews 6:17-18 “In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.”)

 BEAUTIFUL / fully exhibiting all that is pleasing (Psalm 27:4 “One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple.”)

 SPIRIT / totally having no corporeal parts or limits (John 4:24 “God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”)

 INVISIBLE / incapable of being perceived with the eyes (I Timothy 1:17 “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.”)

 INCOMPREHENSIBLE / unable to be understood on a 1:1 correspondence (Romans 11:34 “For who has known the mind of the Lord or who became His counselor?”)

 MORAL / always establishing that which is right and good (II Thessalonians 1:5 “This is a plain indication of God’s righteous judgement so that you will be considered worthy of the kingdom of God. For which you indeed are suffering.”)

 ESSENTIAL / absolutely required for things to exist (Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”), (Colossians 1:17 “He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”)

 SELF-SUFFICIENT / having everything in perfect supply, internally (Exodus 3:14 “God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM’; and He said, ‘Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”)

 SOURCE OF MIND / the fountain from which all mental activity flows (Job 38:36 “Who has put wisdom in the innermost being or given understanding to the mind?”)

 NAMES /appellations used to describe nature and character (Genesis1:26a “Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness…”), (Exodus3:14 God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM”; and He said, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’”) & (John 8:58-59 Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am.” Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out from the temple.)

 GOOD / / possessing perfect or unlimited goodness (Psalm 34:8), (Mark 10:18,), see OMNIBENOVALENT

CREATION:

CREATED THE UNIVERSE: TIME BEGAN WITH FIRST 360 DEGREE ROTATION OF THE EARTH (Genesis1:5 God called the light day, and the darkness He called night, and there was evening and there was morning, one day.)

 ACCORDING TO PLAN (Job 38:4-39:30 “Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? …….”)

 CREATED IN 6 SEQUENTIAL 24 HOUR DAYS (PER GENESIS 1:31-2:2 And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. And by the seventh day God completed His work which He had done; and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. & EXODUS 20:11 For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.)

 CREATED SENTIENT BEINGS – ANGELS (Colossians1:16 “For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him.” ) AND HUMANS / CREATED HUMANS IN HIS IMAGE AND LIKENESS (Genesis1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”)

 CREATED ORIGINALLY WITHOUT DEATH (Genesis 2:16-17 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.”)

 CREATED WITH AND FOR HIS PLEASURE (Colossians 1:16 “For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him.”)

 CREATED ALONG WITH OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TRINITY (I Corinthians 8:6 “yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.”)

 CREATED LANGUAGE HUMANS CAN USE TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIM (Genesis 2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man saying, “From any tree in the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.”)

CREATED MAN TO BE DEPENDENT UPON HIM, LIFE-GIVER (I Timothy 6:13a “I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things…”)

 ROLES AND APPELATIONS AFTER HE CREATED:

 SUSTAINS EVERYTHING BY THE POWER OF HIS WORD (Colossians1:17 “And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”)

 PLANTED A GARDEN IN EDEN (Genesis 2:8 And the Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.)

 AND TAUGHT MAN HOW TO WORK IN IT (Genesis 2:15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.)

 WAS EMINENT IN HIS CREATION (Genesis 3:8-19 /various verses esp. vs.8-9 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?”)

 WALKED WITH ADAM & EVE IN THE GARDEN (Genesis 3:8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.)

 COVERED THE FIRST COUPLE WITH SKINS (Genesis 3:21 And the Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.)

 PRESENT GEOLOGY IS DUE TO HIS JUDGEMENT IN SENDING A UNIVERSAL FLOOD (Genesis 6-9, especially 7:17-22 “Then the flood came upon the earth for forty days, and the water increased and lifted up the ark, so that it rose above the earth. The water prevailed more and more upon the earth, and the ark floated upon the surface of the water. The water prevailed more and more upon the earth, so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered. The water prevailed fifteen cubits higher, and the mountains were covered. All flesh that moved on the earth perished, birds and cattle and beasts and every swarming thing that swarms upon the earth, and all mankind; of all that was on the dry land, all in whose nostrils was the breath of the spirit of life, died.” )

 CONFUSED THE LANGUAGES AT BABEL AND SCATTERED THE PEOPLE (Genesis 11:5-9 esp. vs.7-8 “Come, let Us go down and there confuse their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.” So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of the whole earth; and they stopped building the city.)

 VISITOR AS THE ANGEL OF GOD (Genesis18:17-19 And the Lord said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed? For I have chosen him {cf. Genesis 12:1ff}, in order that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice; in order that the Lord may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him.”)

 WRESTLED WITH JACOB (Genesis 32:28-30 And he said, “Your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed.” Then Jacob asked him and said, “Please tell me your name.” But he said, “Why is it that you ask my name?” And he blessed him there. So Jacob named the place Peniel, for he said, “I have seen God face to face, yet my life has been preserved.”)

 APPEARED TO MOSES FROM A BURNING BUSH (Exodus 3:1b-6 …and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed. So Moses said, “I must turn aside now, and see this marvelous sight, why the bush is not burned up.” When the Lord saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush, and said, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” Then He said, “Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” He said also, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” Then Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.)

 THE ROCK WHICH FOLLOWED ISRAEL IN THE WILDERNESS AS SOURCE OF WATER (I Corinthians 10:4 …and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.)

 CAPTAIN OF THE ARMIES OF GOD (Joshua 5:13-15 Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us or for our adversaries?” And he said, “No rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the Lord.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, “What has my lord to say to his servant?” And the captain of the Lord’s host said to Joshua, “Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so. )

 SOVEREIGN RULER OVER CREATION (I Timothy 6:14-16 …that you keep the commandment without stain or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which He will bring about at the proper time — He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords; who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light; whom no man has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.)

 RECEIVES ANGELIC WORSHIP (Isaiah 6:1-3 “In the year of King Uzziah’s death, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exhaulted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory.’”)

 CALLED ISAIAH FROM THE THRONE IN THE TEMPLE (Isaiah 6:1-8 esp. vs 8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?” Then I said, “Here am I. Send me!”)

 FOURTH MAN IN THE FIRE WITH THE HEBREW WITNESSES (Daniel 3:24-30, esp. vs.25 He answered and said, “Look! I see four men loosed and walking about in the midst of the fire without harm, and the appearance of the fourth is like a son of the gods!”)

 WILLING TO BE SENT TO EARTH BY THE FATHER (John 16:5 “But now I am going to Him who sent me; and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’”)

 To summarize then, we have seen how Christ as God the Son, the second Person of the Trinity, has existed as God from all eternity. As God, He shares all the divine properties and characteristics as do each of the other Members of the Godhead and in His preincarnate state has played a central role in creation and then in time at times appeared in special ways as God manifesting Himself on earth.

 Next, we will consider specific points of when and how Christ took upon Himself humanity thereby becoming the unique God-man in one Person forever. The most outstanding mystery of all time!