



JESUS BEFORE THE MANGER

GENESIS 1:1-2; COLOSSIANS 1:16-17;
EXODUS 3:1-2; MATTHEW 1:20-21

LEARN THE WORD

Luke 2:10-11

And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."

- Jesus is the eternal Son of God, so He has always existed even before the creation of time and the universe, and He will always exist forever in the future.
- Jesus appeared as a man to people in the Old Testament before He left heaven to be born as a baby on earth. He was fully God and fully man, which is why only He could save us from our sins by dying on the cross in our place.

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

OUTWORD FOR FAMILY DISCUSSION

What if your friend says that Jesus is only in the New Testament, she doesn't see Him anywhere in the Old Testament?

What could you say?

It's true that we only see the name Jesus in the New Testament when God's Son came to earth to be our Savior. But Jesus is God, so He is eternal. That means He never had a beginning and He'll have no end. The Bible tells us that Jesus was there at the beginning, at creation! The creation of the universe and of time itself is recorded in Genesis Chapter 1, which is the first book and chapter in the Old Testament. It's hard for us to understand how God has always existed, but that's what the Bible says, so I believe it.

Activity: Read each clue and decide if it's true or false. In the grid, put an O by the number of each true statement and an X by the number of each false statement. When you finish, you should find three in a row!

- 1. The Son of God is eternal.
- 2. Time began millions of years ago.
- 3. Jesus has no beginning or end.
- 4. Jesus didn't exist at creation.
- 5. The name of Jesus is used in the New Testament.
- 6. The Son of God did not appear to anyone in the Old Testament.
- 7. Jesus' birth was ordinary.
- 8. Jesus was half man and half God while on earth.
- 9. Jesus fulfilled God's plan to save us from our sins.

1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.
7.	8.	9.

Answers: 1) O, 2) X, 3) O, 4) X, 5) O, 6) X, 7) X, 8) X, 9) X.

HOMEWORD

FOR PARENTS

Jesus was the Creator, the God-Man, the one who came to save His people from their sins, fulfilling the promises God had made since the beginning of time. In fact, He is the creator of time itself and exists outside of time from all eternity. He didn't begin as a babe in a manger—He has existed from all eternity, calling the worlds into being, fashioning the planets and stars, speaking life into a lump of dust, and planning His entrance into time and His subsequent death from the very beginning (Genesis 1-3; Colossians 1:16-20). We also see the three persons of the Trinity at creation: God the Father and the Holy Spirit in Genesis 1:1-2 and God the Son (Jesus, the Word) in John 1:1-3. As God sovereignly worked throughout history to fulfill His plan to bring a Savior, He appeared to people in Old Testament times in human form. These appearances of God on earth are called *Christophanies*. We see the angel of the Lord (Jesus, Son of God) appearing to Moses, giving him his calling to lead the Israelites out of slavery (Exodus 3), and to Gideon, emboldening him for battle against the Midianites (Judges 6). God fulfilled His promises to these men as they were obedient to Him. Finally, the time came for God the Son to come to earth. He would be the promised Messiah sent to save us from sin. Before Jesus' birth, God sent an angel to Mary and Joseph to tell them to name the baby Jesus, which means "God our Savior." When Jesus was born, He was fully God and fully man, which is why He's the only one to ever live a perfect life without sin. He became the final, perfect sacrifice for our sin when He willingly died on the cross. He then conquered death by rising on the third day. Now, He is preparing a place in heaven for His children, who will get to dwell with Him for all eternity.