



## The DAILY JESUS NEWS #002 Jesus' Eternal Preexistence as God

### Jesus Creates the Universe JN 1.3-5; Gen 1.1-2.4

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Genesis 1.1 In the beginning God the Word created the heavens and the earth.

1 All things came into existence through Him (Jesus), and apart from Him nothing came into existence--this is true of everything that was created. (JN 1.3)

2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

3 And God the Word said, *"Let there be light,"* and there was light.

6 And God the Word said, *"Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water."* 7 So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so.

9 And God the Word said, *"Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear."* And it was so.

11 Then God the Word said, *"Let the land produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds."* And it was so.

14 And God the Word said, *"Let there be lights in the vault of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them serve as signs to mark sacred times, and days and years,"* 15 *and let them be lights in the vault of the sky to give light on the earth."* And it was so.

20 And God the Word said, *"Let the water teem with living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the vault of the sky."* 22 God the Word blessed them and said, *"Be fruitful and increase in number and fill the water in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth."*

24 And God the Word said, *"Let the land produce living creatures according to their kinds: the livestock, the creatures that move along the ground, and the wild animals, each according to its kind."* And it was so.

25 Then God the Word said, *"Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."*

27 So God the Word created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

28 God the Word blessed them and said to them, *“Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”*

29 Then God the Word said, *“I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. 30 And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food.”* And it was so. 2

31A God the Word saw all that he had made, and it was very good. 2.1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

4 <sup>1</sup>In Him--the Word-- God's unique quality of eternal life always existed, and that life has continued to be the light (of revelation) to all people. 5 The light continues to shine in the darkness, and the darkness has never extinguished it.

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NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This “superscript ID” is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*. Old Testament quotations are CAPITALIZED.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	The Birthplace of the Universe, and the Earth
Time	At Creation
Stage of Jesus' Life	Stage I: His Eternal Pre-Existence As God
Chapter	The Eternal Preexistence of Jesus
Section #002	Jesus Creates the Universe

This is one of the longest readings in the DAILY JESUS NEWS series. It describes Jesus' role as the primary agent of creation.

John wrote that *“all things came into existence through him.”* The apostle was identifying Jesus as the agent, or means of creation. Just to be clear, he added: *“apart from Him nothing came into existence--this is true of everything that was created (JN 1.3).* Genesis Chapters 1 and 2 describe the process of creation. In each place where Moses wrote that *“God said,”* we know from John 1.3 and other New Testament passages that it was Jesus, the Word, who did the speaking.

Therefore, we have inserted “the Word” into the text of Genesis where God speaks, and used the format that indicates the words of Jesus in the DAILY JESUS NEWS--*red color; italicized font*. Reading the creation account in this manner as the words of the pre-existent, pre-incarnate Jesus may seem a bit shocking, but this is the crystal clear witness of the New Testament. Here is Paul's testimony:

*“For all things were created by him, both in the heavens and on earth; visible and invisible; whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things have been created by him, and for him.” Col. 1.16*

Later in his Letter to the Colossians, Paul applied the Genesis text of the creation of the human race (1.26-27) directly to Jesus:

*“Do not lie to each other, since you have laid aside your old self with its sinful practices, and have put on the new self, who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him—a renewal in which there is no difference between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free person—but Christ is all, and in all.” Col. 3.9-11*

Here, Christ is the One who created us, and we are being renewed in his image or likeness by the knowledge of the truth about him, and ourselves in him. We were created by him, in his image, to live for him. As Jesus said at the creation of the human race: **“Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness...”**

It is obvious that the creation account in Gen 1 and 2 was the background for John’s use of the phrase *“in the beginning”* in John 1.1-3. Genesis begins with God creating the universe. John began his gospel before creation, with the pre-existence of the Father and the Son as God, and the further information that it was the Word (Jesus) who was the acting agent through whom the universe was made. Jesus is God the Creator.

Why does this all matter? Three crucial truths about the life and ministry of Jesus develop from the twin facts of his pre-existence as God, and creation of the universe.

1. Since all things have been created by Jesus, everything in the universe has a built-in relationship to him as its Creator. All things exist “for” him, according to his creative intention. We exist for his pleasure, whether we know it, or choose to live “for” him or not.
2. Since all things have been created by Jesus, for him, we all have a direct responsibility to answer TO him. We are not our own. We belong to him, and are therefore accountable to him. This is the truth about our created nature that modern and post-modern minds have delighted in rejecting, by using the tool of the version of evolutionary theory that relies upon “chance” to explain the origins of the universe. If the universe suddenly appeared out of nothing for no reason at all, then we would have no responsibility to a Creator. Humans would be free of all obligations to anything. However, the universe appeared by the creative intent, design and power of Jesus. We ARE responsible to him.
3. Since all things have been created by Jesus, it makes perfect sense that if Jesus were to be incarnated on earth, he would have power over all his creation, as demonstrated by the ability to perform miracles. Supernatural and miraculous power is a necessary consequence of God being the Creator and Ruler of his universe. Therefore, especially in the gospel of John, miracles are “signs” of the pre-existent, eternal Deity of Jesus, and his role as the Creator.

Returning to John’s Prologue, we also see how he stated that Jesus’ life has continued to be the light of revelation for all people. Jesus’ glory and power as the Creator of the universe has continued to shine his revelation to all people through all that he has made. Ps. 19.1-6, and Rom. 1.18-20 are prime Biblical examples of the revelation (light) of Jesus through nature. We all live in the world that Jesus made, as part of his creation.

The twin truths of the Pre-Existent Deity of Jesus, and his role as the Creator of all things start off the Scriptural narrative of his life with a real bang! John introduced these truths with just 36 simple Greek words, in three verses, with the background of Genesis 1 and 2 for context. These three verses contain the logical pre-suppositions that make the rest of the narrative of Jesus life make sense.

#### APPLICATION:

We live in a universe that is intimately related to Jesus. Everything we see and experience exists because of him, is sustained by him, and fulfills a purpose in his plan. There is nothing unrelated to Jesus in all of his creation.

Narrowing the focus down to our individual lives, we too exist for him. Our life is all about him, from the tiniest particle in the nucleus of every atom out of which we are made, to the biggest thoughts and actions of our lives.

It is the true knowledge of Jesus that transforms us into his likeness. First we come to know him as he really is, because his Word accurately describes him. Then he shows us how we live in him, and he in us, so that he changes us to become like what we see in him. This is the purpose of the true story of his eternal life as the God-man.

This is why we are making our way through the DAILY JESUS NEWS--every Scriptural text regarding the life and ministry of Jesus, from Genesis to Revelation. Our goal is to follow him so that we can become like him, for his pleasure.

*How can you recommit yourself today to Jesus' purpose of revealing himself to you through his Word by the power of his Spirit, in order to transform you into HIS likeness?*

*What lesser purposes and pursuits in your life do you need to let go of, in order to pursue Jesus with all of your heart?*

*When will you do this? How will you rely on the power of the Holy Spirit in these commitments?*