

The Preeminence and Preexistence of Jesus, the Christ

John 1:15



¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

John 1:15



- (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’ ”)

See the Pattern

v. 1-5	Testimony about the Logos (the Word)
v. 6-8	John the Baptist's Testimony
v. 9-14	Testimony about the Logos (the Word)
v. 15	John the Baptist's Testimony
v. 16-18	Testimony about the Logos (the Word)
v. 19-34	John the Baptist's Testimony



Why John the Baptist's Testimony?

**Was there anyone who had greater
credibility with the people than the
Baptizer?**

**Some thought He was the Christ; others
Elijah—clearly, He was a prophet from God.**

1. (John bore witness about him, and
cried out,
“This was he of whom I said,
2. ‘He who comes after me
3. ranks before me,
4. because he was before me.’ ”)

martyreō



BLUE LETTER BIBLE

Lexicon :: Strong's G3140 - <i>martyreō</i>	
μαρτυρέω	
Transliteration	Pronunciation
<i>martyreō</i> (Key)	mar-too-reh'-o 
Part of Speech	Root Word (Etymology)
verb Verb	From μάρτυς (G3144)

There is also a noun: G3141

John 1:6–8

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

G3140 (v) & G3141 (n)



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Outline of Biblical Usage [?]

- I.* to be a witness, to bear witness, i.e. to affirm that one has seen or heard or experienced something, or that he knows it because taught by divine revelation or inspiration
 - A.* to give (not to keep back) testimony
 - B.* to utter honourable testimony, give a good report

So the question is:

**Was John the Baptist a credible
witness?**

**Was he telling the truth or bearing false
witness?**

1. (John bore witness about him, and cried out,
“This was he of whom I said,
2. ‘He who comes after me
3. ranks before me,
4. because he was before me.’ ”)



Look @

John 1:25-27

John 1:25–27

²⁵ They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”

OT Prophecies of “Coming Ones”

The Christ	Daniel 9:25-26
Elijah	Malachi 4:4-5
The Prophet	Deuteronomy 18:15-18

John 1:25–27

²⁵ They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?”

²⁶ John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.”

Even he who comes after me is a simple
chronological reference to Jesus' public
ministry.

John's mom (Elizabeth) seems to be pregnant
about six months before the conception of the
Christ BUT what we don't know is how much
earlier John begins preaching than Jesus.

Matthew 3:11



- “I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Luke 3:16



John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I **is coming**, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

“Is coming” is pure prophecy.

Once Jesus begins preaching—John will then say the one who “came after me.”

1. (John bore witness about him, and cried out,
“This was he of whom I said,
2. ‘He who comes after me
3. **ranks before me,**
4. **because he was before me.’ ”)**

γίνομαι

Transliteration

ginomai (Key)

Pronunciation

ghin'-om-ahee

**Part of Speech**

verb

Root Word (Etymology)

A prolongation and middle voice form of a primary verb



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Verb

KJV **is preferred** before me: for he was before me.

ESV **ranks before me**, because he was before me.' ")

NASB95 has a **higher rank than I**, for He existed before me.' "

NET **is greater** than I am, because he existed before me.' "

CJB come to **rank ahead of me**, because he existed before me.' "

CSB **ranks ahead of me**, because he existed before me.' ")

LSB has been **ahead of me**, for He existed before me.'"

How is the ESV using the word “ranks”?

transitive verb

1 : to arrange in lines or in a regular formation

2 : to determine the relative position of: rate

3 : to take precedence of

intransitive verb

1 : to form or move in ranks

2 : to take or have a position in relation to others

John would say:

- 1. I don't out rank him.**
- 2. We don't have the same rank.**
- 3. He ranks ahead of me.**

Is it possible for us to comprehend the significance of this statement?



why

does he rank ahead of John?



Turn to

John 1:29

John 1:29–34

²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, ‘After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ ³¹ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” ³² And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. ³³ I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴ And I have seen and have borne witness **that this is the Son of God.**”



What rank does Jesus have?



**What rank does Jesus
have?**

He is the Son of God.

Jesus Is
The Son of God
The Prophet
The Messiah (king & deliverer)
The Savior of the World
The LORD and the King
Visible Yahweh

1. (John bore witness about him, and
cried out,
“This was he of whom I said,
2. ‘He who comes after me
3. ranks before me,
4. **because he was before me.’ ”)**

KJV is preferred before me: for he was before me.

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Look Back Up @

John 1:1-3

John 1:1–3

¹ In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,

and **the Word was God.**

² He was in the beginning with God.

³ All things were made through him,
and without him was not any thing made that
was made.

The WORD became FLESH

BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

**Jesus was born after John,
and his ministry came after
John's preaching ministry,
YET He existed before John
was born.**



Where is the first hint as to Jesus's pre-existence in the Torah?

Where is the first hint as to Jesus's pre-existence in the Torah?

Genesis 1:1



• In the beginning, **God** created the heavens and the earth.

Elohim: Plural Masculine Noun



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Lexicon :: Strong's H430 - 'ēlōhîm

Aa

אֱלֹהִים

Transliteration

'ēlōhîm

Pronunciation

el-o-heem'



Part of Speech

masculine noun

Root Word (Etymology)

Plural of אֱלֹהִי (H433)

Genesis 1:26



- Then God said, “Let **us** make man in **our** image, after **our** likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”



Turn Back to Genesis 22

Genesis 22:11–12



- But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹² He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

Genesis 22:11 (LSB)



• But **the angel of Yahweh**
called to him  heaven and said,
“Abraham, A  m!” And he said,
“Here I am.

malak

מַלְאָךְ

Transliteration

mal'āk

Pronunciation

mal-awk'



Part of Speech

masculine noun

Root Word (Etymology)

From an unused root meaning to despatch as a deputy



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KJV Translation Count — Total: 214x

The KJV translates Strong's H4397 in the following manner: **angel** (111x), **messenger** (98x), **ambassadors** (4x), **variant** (1x).

Genesis 22:11–12



- But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹² He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”

Genesis 31:11–13



- Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am!' ¹² And he said, 'Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that mate with the flock are striped, spotted, and mottled, for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. ¹³ I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.' "



Turn Over to

Genesis 32:24ff

- ²⁴ And Jacob was left alone. And a man wrestled with him until the breaking of the day. ²⁵ When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he touched his hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. ²⁶ Then he said, "Let me go, for the day has broken." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." ²⁷ And he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." ²⁸ Then he said, "Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with men, and have prevailed." ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. ³⁰ So Jacob called the name of the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life has been delivered."

John 1:18



- **No one has ever seen God;**
the only God, who is at the Father's side,
he has made him known.



Turn Over to

Genesis 48:14-16

¹⁴ And Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on the head of Ephraim, who was the younger, and his left hand on the head of Manasseh, crossing his hands (for Manasseh was the firstborn). ¹⁵ And he blessed Joseph and said, “The God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life long to this day, ¹⁶ the angel who has redeemed me from all evil, bless the boys; and in them let my name be carried on, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth.”



Turn to

Exodus 3:1-6

¹ Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ² And **the angel of the LORD appeared to him** in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³ And Moses said, “I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.” ⁴ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, **God called to him out of the bush**, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵ Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, **for he was afraid to look at God**.

Acts 7:30, 35



- ³⁰ “Now when forty years had passed, an angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai, in a flame of fire in a bush.
- ³⁵ “This Moses, whom they rejected, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’—this man God sent as both ruler and redeemer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush.

1 Corinthians 10:1–4



- For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

Isaiah 40 (LSB)

A voice is calling, “Prepare **the way for Yahweh** in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.

Matthew 3:3 (LSB)

For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet, saying, “THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, ‘MAKE READY **THE WAY OF THE LORD**, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!’”

1. When you think of the pre-existence of Christ from eternity past don't think nebulous—think roles and responsibilities.



**How many roles and responsibilities did
the Son of God have in the OT **BEFORE**
He took on flesh in the womb of Mary?**

**How many roles and responsibilities did
the Son of God have in the OT **BEFORE**
He took on flesh in the womb of Mary?**

**creator, messenger, redeemer,
deliverer, provider, protector,
guide, mediator**