Creekside EFC, Merced December 6, 2020

**The Hope of Christmas**

**“The Prequel: Jesus Before the Manger”** John 8:58-59, Exodus 3:14-15

**Prequel** – prelude, forerunner, the yet untold beginning of a previously told story, what you haven’t yet seen or heard

1. **Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **about his own preexistence and divine nature.**

(John 8:58–59) Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I am**!” So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.

* Jesus’ claimed to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ before Abraham.
* Jesus’ claimed to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with God (cf. Exodus 3:14-15).

**Yahweh** (translated **lord/**Adonai) – God’s personal name; absolute being, One who is, whose presence works on our behalf (Warren Wiersbe, “Jesus, In the Present Tense”)

* Jesus claimed to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in God’s eternal glory before creation (Genesis) ever took place. (cf. John 17:5, Philippians 2:6-7)

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1. **John** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **about Jesus’ preexistence and divine nature.**

John 1:1, 14

* Jesus **was** in the beginning; he **was** with God, and he

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ God!

* Jesus glory \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his true identity (cf. Hebrews 1:3).
1. **Paul** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **about Jesus role in creation.**

Colossians 1:16–17

* Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of all things! (cf. John 1:3, Hebrews 1:2)
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1. **Jesus’** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **in the Old Testament.**

Jesus is clearly seen in the prophetic writings that point directly to him (i.e. Isaiah 7:14-16, 53, Psalm 100), in the names and titles that refer/apply to Jesus (i.e. Shepherd, Savior, Lord, Redeemer, Light, Rock, Son of Man) and in possible appearances known as, Christophanies; where he is referred to as the “Angel of the Lord” or the “LORD”.

**Next Sunday!** *“The Arrival: Right on Time!”* (Galatians 4:4-5)

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