

*- The Everlasting Covenant
and the Pre-existence of Christ -
From when did they Exist?*

A Compilation of Statements from the Spirit of Prophecy through Ellen White

How long has the covent regarding the plan of salavation existed for? Where this all put in place after sin or before? Did Christ have a pre-existence before being born in Bethlehem? How old is Christ? How long has Christ existed for? How does it all relate to our understanding of time and eternity? The following is a brief compilation from the Spirit of Prophecy covering some answers to these questions.

Counsels, Covenants, and Plans of God – Before the World was

When in counsel with the Father before the world was, it was designed that the Lord God should plant a garden for Adam and Eve in Eden, and give them the task of caring for the fruit trees, and cultivating and training the vegetation... {ST August 13, 1896, par. 5}

The great plan of redemption was laid before the foundation of the world. Christ did not stand alone in this wondrous undertaking for the ransom of man. In the councils of heaven, before the world was created, the Father and the Son covenanted together that if man proved disloyal to God, Christ, one with the Father, would take the place of the transgressor, and suffer the penalty of justice that must fall upon him. "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." What a price was this for heaven to pay to ransom the transgressor of the law of Jehovah! {RH November 15, 1898, par. 1}

Before the world was created Christ promised that if man, whom God should create, should fall from his high estate, He Himself would come to earth and bear the penalty of transgression. {Ms129-1899.2}

Counsels, Covenants, and Plans of God – From Eternity

The law of duty [to God] is supreme. It claims authority over reason and conscience, over talents and possessions. It will admit no rival, and will not for one moment abate its high demands. It enters into no compromise with any oppressive power of earth... It crowns the lowliest position in life with the highest honors, bringing man into alliance with God, and binding up his interests with plans and purposes that have existence in the infinite mind from eternity. {Lt21a-1893.8}

...[Ephesians 1:3-5.] Before the foundations of the earth were laid, the covenant was made that all who were obedient, all who should through the abundant grace provided become holy in character, and without blame before God, by appropriating that grace, should be children of God. This covenant, made from eternity, was given to Abraham nineteen hundred years before Christ came. With what interest and what intensity did Christ in humanity study the human race to see if they would avail themselves of the provision offered. {Ms9-1896.19}

That which in the councils of heaven the Father and the Son deemed essential for the salvation of man was defined from eternity by infinite truths which finite beings cannot fail to comprehend... {Ms8-1896.10}

...He was the embodiment of truth and holiness. He who had stood in the councils of God, who had dwelt in the innermost sanctuary of the Eternal, was speaking that whereof he knew. He was presenting truth of the highest order, revealing to men the mind of the Infinite. But the men who claimed to stand high in knowledge and spiritual understanding failed to comprehend his meaning; and that which had been evolved from eternity by the Father and Son, they in their ignorance stood as critics to condemn. {YI September 22, 1898, par. 9}

...The covenant of the grace of Christ commenced before the world was made. It existed from eternity and it is named the everlasting covenant. As there never was a period of time when God was not, so never was there a moment when His grace to man was not the determinate counsel of the object of delight of the eternal mind—the salvation of the human race formed in His image... {Ms198-1899.14}

... We do not regard it in the light in which it is viewed by the universe of Heaven, as **a plan devised from eternity in the mind of God**. The greatness of the theme almost takes my breath away,—the conditions of life or death to the human race. It required the life of God’s only begotten Son as a sacrifice. {BTS September 1, 1908, par. 2}

Counsels, Covenants, and Plans of God – From the Days of Eternity

The words, “Mine hour is not yet come,” point to the fact that every act of Christ’s life on earth was in fulfillment of **the plan that had existed from the days of eternity. Before He came to earth, the plan lay out before Him, perfect in all its details.** But as He walked among men, He was guided, step by step, by the Father’s will. He did not hesitate to act at the appointed time. With the same submission He waited until the time had come. {DA 147.2}

Counsels, Covenants, and Plans of God – From all Eternity

The terms of this oneness between God and man in the great covenant of redemption **were arranged with Christ from all eternity.** The covenant of grace was revealed to the patriarchs. The covenant made with Abraham four hundred and thirty years before the law was spoken on Sinai was a covenant confirmed by God in Christ, the very same gospel which is preached to us... **The covenant of grace is not a new truth, for it existed in the mind of God from all eternity. This is why it is called the everlasting covenant. The plan of redemption was not conceived after the fall of man to cure the dreadful evil;** the apostle Paul speaks of the gospel, the preaching of Jesus Christ, as “the revelation of the mystery, which hath been kept in silence **through times eternal**, but now is manifested, and by the Scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the eternal God, is made known unto all the nations unto obedience of faith.” (Revised Version.) {ST August 24, 1891, par. 10}

The plan of salvation had its place in the counsels of the Infinite from all eternity. The gospel is the revelation of God’s love to men, and means everything that is essential to the happiness and well-being of humanity... {RH December 1, 1891, par. 2}

The purpose and plan of grace existed from all eternity. Before the foundation of the world it was according to the determinate counsel of God that man should be created, endowed with power to do the divine will... {ST April 25, 1892, par. 1}

...All our thoughts and imaginations will not alter in the least any part of **the plan of redemption devised from all eternity.** God loved the world to such an extent that he gave full and complete evidence of the fact... {ST February 5, 1894, par. 6}

...The salvation of the human race has ever been the object of the councils of heaven. **The covenant of mercy was made before the foundation of the world. It has existed from all eternity,** and is called the everlasting covenant.... {ST June 12, 1901, par. 7}

The Mystery kept in Silence from Times Eternal

But known unto God are all his works, and **from eternal ages** the covenant of grace (unmerited favor) **existed in the mind of God.** It is called the everlasting covenant; for the plan of salvation **was not conceived after the fall of man,** but it was that which was “**kept in silence through times eternal**, but now is manifested and by the Scriptures of the prophets according to the commandment of the eternal God, is made known unto all the nations unto obedience of faith.” {ST February 13, 1893, par. 2}

God is love, God is life. It is the prerogative of God to redeem, reconstruct, and restore. **Before the foundation of the world** the Son of God was given to die, and redemption is the mystery that was “kept in silence **from times eternal.**” Yet sin is unexplainable, and no reason can be found for its existence... {RH February 26, 1895, par. 1}

The plan for our redemption **was not an afterthought, a plan formulated after the fall** of Adam. It was a revelation of “the mystery which hath been **kept in silence through times eternal.**” Romans 16:25, R. V. It was an unfolding of the principles that from eternal ages have been the foundation of God’s throne. From the beginning, God and Christ knew of the apostasy of Satan, and of the fall of man through the deceptive power of the apostate. God did not ordain that sin should exist, but He foresaw its existence, and **made provision** to meet the terrible emergency. So great was His love for the world, that He covenanted to give His only-begotten Son, “that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16. {DA 22.2}

Christ Existed from and was with the Father from the Beginning

I spoke from Matthew 11:25-27. My mind was led out to dwell particularly upon the mission of Christ, which was to reveal the Father. The office work of revealing the Father and representing the character of God was reserved for **Him who had been with the Father from the beginning**. The knowledge of the only true God had become indistinct, and His attributes were falsified by Satan. Satan's special work was to clothe the character of God with his own attributes, and he hid his satanic character and agency that he might be the more successful. The knowledge of God must be made known, His divine character represented... {Ms51-1890.4}

Christ was one with the Father from the beginning; he shared the glory of the Father; and yet he consented to become fallen man's substitute and surety, to stand in man's place, that he might bring hope and salvation to every soul who would receive him as a sin-pardoning Saviour... {ST June 15, 1891, par. 5}

...There are many who deny **the preexistence of Christ**, and therefore deny his divinity; they do not accept him as a personal Saviour. This is a total denial of Christ. **He was the only-begotten Son of God, who was one with the Father from the beginning**. By him the worlds were made. {Ms92-1894.1}

Christ alone was able to represent the Deity. **He who had been in the presence of the Father from the beginning, He who was the express image of the invisible God**, was alone sufficient to accomplish this work... {Ms44-1895.3} {RH June 25, 1895, par. 3}

Taking humanity upon Him, Christ came to be one with humanity, and at the same time to reveal our heavenly Father to sinful human beings. **He who had been in the presence of the Father from the beginning, He who was the express image of the invisible God**, was alone able to reveal the character of the Deity to mankind... {MH 422.2}

...**He who was with the Father from the beginning, the only begotten Son of God**, has paid the redemption price for the ransom of a sinful world... {Lt38-1907.14}

...Here we may hold converse with patriarchs and prophets; here we may learn what our redemption has cost **the One who was equal with the Father from the beginning**, and who sacrificed His life that a people might stand before Him redeemed from every common, earthly thing and renewed in the image of God. {Lt64-1909.5} {Lt84-1909.11} {RH November 11, 1909, par. 13}

Christ existed Before the World Was

But the Son of God, who was with the Father before the world was, took pity upon us in our lost condition, and offered to step in between us and the wrath of an offended God. Said Jesus, I will give my life for them. I will take the burden of the sins of the world upon men, and will make a way possible for these transgressors to find pardon and enjoy thy favor again, that they may repent and keep thy commandments, and again have access to the tree of life. God consented to give his only Son to die for lost man. {YI August 1, 1852, par. 6}

Oh, eagerly the men watched to catch something from my lips they could take advantage of. **Some deny the divinity of Christ and refuse to believe His pre-existence before the world was made**. We walked a short distance to Brother and Sister Jones' and became acquainted a little with their family. We were much pleased with the family. We took dinner with them, and then stepped into a hack provided for us that took us to the station. We were obliged to wait three quarters of an hour for the cars, for they were behind time, but we got on board the train and were soon comfortably seated. We reached Washington about four o'clock. Friends were glad to see us. {Ms53-1890.63}

Every one of us is upon probation, in school, where we are required to be diligent students. It is enjoined upon us to walk in the light, as Christ is in the light. It is by walking in the light that we learn of God, and "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." [John 17:3.] **These are the words of Him who was with the Father before the world was**, and He uttered these words while praying for all those who should believe in God through the words of His disciples. To know God in His works is true science. Let us follow on to know the Lord till we shall know that His goings forth are prepared as the morning. {Ms38-1895.5}

All heaven was given to us in Christ Jesus, and the Lord loves you notwithstanding you have dishonored Him. He has received you back again and given you His confidence and His love. Oh, honor Jesus by giving to Him the heart's best and holiest services! He has given His life for you. **Who is He that hath done this? The only begotten Son of God, He that was One with the Father before the world was.** Lift up your banner, lift it up higher. Never, never let it trail in the dust of the earth. Exalt Jesus. Lift Him up, the Man of Calvary, higher and still higher. {Lt147-1896.8}

Jesus Christ "counted it not a thing to be grasped to be equal with God." Because divinity alone could be efficacious in the restoration of man from the poisonous bruise of the serpent, God himself, in his only begotten Son, assumed human nature, and in the weakness of human nature sustained the character of God, vindicated his holy law in every particular, and accepted the sentence of wrath and death for the sons of men. What a thought is this! **He who was one with the Father before the world was made**, had such compassion for a world lost and ruined by transgression, that he gave his life a ransom for it. He who was the brightness of the Father's glory, the express image of his person, bore our sins in his own body on the tree, suffering the penalty of man's transgression until justice was satisfied, and required no more. How great is the redemption that has been worked out for us! So great that the Son of God died the cruel death of the cross, to bring to us life and immortality through faith in him. {YI February 11, 1897, par. 2}

Nearly two thousand years ago, a voice of mysterious import was heard in heaven, from the throne of God, "Lo, I come." "Sacrifice and offering Thou wouldest not, but a body hast Thou prepared Me.... Lo, I come (in the volume of the Book it is written of Me,) **to do Thy will, O God.**" Hebrews 10:5-7. In these words is announced the fulfillment of the purpose that had been hidden from eternal ages. **Christ was about to visit our world**, and to become incarnate. He says, "A body hast Thou prepared Me." Had He appeared with **the glory that was His with the Father before the world was**, we could not have endured the light of His presence. That we might behold it and not be destroyed, the manifestation of His glory was shrouded. His divinity was veiled with humanity,—the invisible glory in the visible human form. {DA 23.1}

The Highest, **who was with the Father before the world was**, submitted to humiliation; He clothed His divinity with humanity that He might lift up the lowly. Prophecy lifts the veil that may behold the throne of heaven, that we may see upon that throne, high and lifted up, One who in human form came to our world, to suffer, to be lacerated with stripes and bruised for our iniquities... {Lt71-1898.18}

The humiliation of the man Christ Jesus is incomprehensible to the human mind; **but his divinity and his existence before the world was formed can never be doubted by those who believe the word of God.** The apostle Paul speaks of our Mediator, the only begotten Son of God, who in a state of glory was in the form of God, the Commander of all the heavenly hosts, and who, when he clothed his divinity with humanity, took upon him the form of a servant... {YI October 13, 1898, par. 4}

This is a plain statement of the pre-existence of Christ. Had He not had an existence before He assumed human nature, how could He possess glory with the Father before the world was? This is a grand theme for all to contemplate who are searching for truth. The Holy Spirit will be beside all such, to present to them the glory of this wonderful truth. O, that the human mind might be strengthened that it might comprehend the glory of the Redeemer! {ST May 10, 1899, par. 2}

Christ is not praying for the manifestation of the glory of human nature; for that human nature never had an existence in His pre-existence. He is praying to His Father in regard to a glory possessed in His oneness with God. His prayer is that of a mediator; the favor He entreats is the manifestation of that divine glory which was possessed by Him when He was one with God. Let the veil be removed, He says, and let My glory shine forth,—the glory which I had with Thee **before the world was.** {ST May 10, 1899, par. 3}

After the ordination of the disciples, Christ gave the sermon on the mount. This discourse was given to mankind to be to them the law of duty and the light of heaven, their hope and consolation in despondency. It is heaven's benediction to the world—a voice from the throne of God. Here the Prince of preachers, the Master-teacher, utters the words that the Father gave Him to speak. **He is the Eternal Wisdom, who was with the Father before the world was created. He knows the Father; for He is one with Him.** {Lt96-1902.8}

The One here referred to as the Word is the Son of God, who was the Commander in the heavenly courts, and who came to this world to open heavenly things to fallen human beings. He is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the Word that was with God before the world was. In clothing His divinity with humanity, He became possessed of two natures, the divine and the human. And because of this, He was fully able to accomplish for the human race their complete redemption and their restoration to the privileges of the higher life. {Ms161-1903.4}

Christ existed from and was with the Father - From the Days of Eternity / From Everlasting

“His name shall be called Immanuel, ... God with us.” “The light of the knowledge of the glory of God” is seen “in the face of Jesus Christ.” From the days of eternity the Lord Jesus Christ was one with the Father; He was “the image of God,” the image of His greatness and majesty, “the outshining of His glory.” It was to manifest this glory that He came to our world. To this sin-darkened earth He came to reveal the light of God’s love,—to be “God with us.” Therefore it was prophesied of Him, “His name shall be called Immanuel.” {DA 19.1}

...He is to come with His own glory, and with the glory of the Father, and of the holy angels. He will come clad in the robe of light which He has worn from the days of eternity... {PrT June 8, 1899, par. 6}

You do not recognize Him whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting. {Lt4-1889.17}

Christ’s love is matchless, and is exhibited in doing and enduring. It is not possible to trace this love back to the beginning. For ages his eye has been upon us. To all intents and purposes, he was slain for us. He had a kingdom prepared for us before the foundation of the world. His love has been of old, even from everlasting... {YI May 20, 1897, par. 12}

“Before Abraham was, I am.” Christ is the pre-existent, self-existent Son of God. The message He gave to Moses to give to the children of Israel was, “Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.” The prophet Micah writes of Him, “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, tho thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of Thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” {ST August 29, 1900, par. 13}

Through Solomon Christ declared: “The Lord possessed Me in the beginning of His way, before His works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth.... When He gave to the sea His decree, that the waters should not pass His commandment; when He appointed the foundations of the earth; then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him; and I was daily His delight, rejoicing always before Him.” {ST August 29, 1900, par. 14}

Christ existed from and was with the Father from Eternity

As the disciples comprehended it, as their perception took hold of God’s divine compassion, they realized that there is a sense in which the sufferings of the Son were the sufferings of the Father. From eternity there was a complete unity between the Father and the Son. They were two, yet little short of being identical; two in individuality, yet one in spirit, and heart, and character. {YI December 16, 1897, par. 5}

When man’s redemption was to be worked out, God gave the commandment that the sword should awake against His only begotten Son, who had been one with Him from eternity. “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed.” [Isaiah 53:5.] Think of the Father subjecting Himself to sorrow, sparing not His own Son, but freely delivering Him up for us all. God had to do a strange work; for He says, Fury is not in Me. O that we had a better understanding of His love! {Ms76-1903.25}

...He was before John; for He existed from eternity with the Father. {Ms187-1903.13}

From eternity Christ has been man’s Redeemer. Ever since the Fall there has come to those uniting with Him in His great work the word: “Be not weary in well-doing.” 2 Thessalonians 3:13. Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58. {9T 220.2}

Christ existed from and was with the Father from All Eternity

I say in the name of the Lord, Give your attention to this Word. **The Lord has ever existed in perfection from all eternity.** He has been ever what He now is, “I am that I am;” “The high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity.” [Exodus 3:14; Isaiah 57:15.] This is His title. “Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.” Psalm 90:2. “I am the Lord, I change not.” Malachi 3:6. With Him is no variableness or shadow of turning. {Ms180-1897.2}

After His inauguration, the Spirit came and Christ was indeed glorified, even with **the glory which He had from all eternity with the Father.** During His humiliation upon this earth, the Spirit had not descended with all its efficacy; and Christ declared that if He went not away, it would not come, but that if He went away, He would send it. It was a representation of Himself, and after He was glorified it was manifest. {ST May 17, 1899, par. 3}

Christ is declared in the Scriptures to be the Son of God. From all eternity He has sustained this relation to Jehovah. Before the foundations of the world were laid, He, the only begotten Son of God, pledged Himself to become the Redeemer of the human race should men sin... {Ms22-1905.4}

From all eternity Christ was united with the Father, and when He took upon Himself human nature, He was still one with God. He is the link that unites God with humanity... {ST August 2, 1905, par. 10}

Christ with the Father from Eternal Ages

Christ should be uplifted as the first Great Teacher, the only begotten Son of God, who was with the Father from eternal ages. The Son of God was the Great Teacher sent into the world as the Light of the world. “The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.” [John 1:14.] The Father was represented in Christ, and the attention in education must be of that character that they will look to Him and believe in Him as the likeness of God. He had a most wonderful mission to our world, and his work was not in a line to give a full relation of His personal claims to deity, but His humiliation was a concealment of His claims. This is why the Jewish nation did not acknowledge Christ as the Prince of life, because He did not come with display in outward appearance, for He hid under the garb of humanity His glorious character. {Lt67-1895.4}

Christ was with God from all Eternity yet Existed from Eternity ??

But while God’s Word speaks of the humanity of Christ when upon this earth, **it also speaks decidedly regarding his pre-existence.** The Word existed as a divine being, **even as the eternal Son of God,** in union and oneness with his Father. **From everlasting he was the Mediator** of the covenant, the one in whom all nations of the earth, both Jews and Gentiles, if they accepted him, were to be blessed. “The Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Before men or angels were created, the Word was with God, and was God. {RH April 5, 1906, par. 5}

The world was made by him, “and without him was not anything made that was made.” If Christ made all things, **he existed before all things.** The words spoken in regard to this are so decisive that no one need be left in doubt. He was God essentially, and in the highest sense. **He was with God from all eternity,** God over all, blessed forevermore. {RH April 5, 1906, par. 6}

The Lord Jesus Christ, **the divine Son of God, existed from eternity, a distinct person,** yet one with the Father. He was the surpassing glory of heaven. He was the commander of the heavenly intelligences, and the adoring homage of the angels was received by him as his right. This was no robbery of God. “The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way,” he declares, “before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth; while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth.” {RH April 5, 1906, par. 7}

There are light and glory in the truth that Christ was one with the Father before the foundation of the world was laid. This is the light shining in a dark place, making it resplendent with divine, original glory. This truth, infinitely mysterious in itself, explains other mysterious and otherwise unexplainable truths, while it is enshrined in light, unapproachable and incomprehensible. {RH April 5, 1906, par. 8}

Time and Eternity

When the **vail shall be removed which separates time from eternity**, then will come to many minds the clear perception of the policy of human wisdom in comparison with the sure word of prophecy. All true science leads to harmony with and obedience to God. When that which has seemed incomprehensible is seen in the light shining from the throne of God, it will fill the soul with the greatest astonishment that it was never seen and comprehended before. {Ms4-1882.7}

Then will be opened before him the course of the great conflict that **had its birth before time began**, and that **ends only when time shall cease**... {Ed 304.3}

How long has Christ Existed?

And although we may try to reason in regard to our Creator how long He has had existence, where evil first entered into our world, and all these things, we may begin to reason about them until we fall down faint and exhausted with the research when there is yet an infinity beyond. **We cannot grasp it**. {Ms13-1888.16}

Here Christ shows them that, altho they might reckon His life to be less than fifty years, yet **His divine life could not be reckoned by human computation**. The existence of Christ before His incarnation is not measured by figures. {ST May 3, 1899, par. 4}

In speaking of His pre-existence, Christ carries the mind back through dateless ages. He assures us that **there never was a time when He was not in close fellowship with the eternal God**. He to whose voice the Jews were then listening **had been with God as one brought up with Him**. {ST August 29, 1900, par. 15}

