



CWRm

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*“If Christ was born, does that mean he was a created being?”*

**Q**uestion: What do you believe the Bible says about the birth of Jesus? Some of the biblical terms seem to indicate that he was a created being and that he had a beginning when he was born to Mary.

**R**esponse: The New Testament at large offers conclusive proof that Jesus was and is the God-man, that God became incarnate in the person of Jesus, and that God is one—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. A few words within any given passage(s) that seem to teach otherwise do not contradict the over-whelming New Testament evidence of the deity of Jesus. Any search to disprove the greater weight of emphasis by alleged minority discrepancies is a fool’s errand.

When reading about the birth of Jesus, specific words are used to describe and define his human birth, but that does not mean Jesus was only human. Scripture speaks of the birth of Jesus as a never-before-or-since event—the Incarnation of God.

God’s Spirit “overshadowed” Mary, so that God the Son became flesh. Jesus Christ, “Incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary” assumed human nature in the flesh, but at no time did God the eternal

Son have a beginning as humans do. He has always eternally existed with his Father and the Holy Spirit. Jesus remained divine while being enfleshed, so that Jesus is and was “very man and very God.”

I have no quarrel with the fact that Jesus was *conceived* or *begotten*, for indeed he was, *in his humanity*. But the meaning of one word cannot completely describe the totality of who Jesus was and is, especially if that word is isolated from other words that further explain and define his nature.

**Jesus’ birth was unlike any other baby before or since. He was not just a human baby, but he was and is God.**

The totality of the New Testament is clear—Jesus’ birth was unlike any other baby before or since. He was not only a human baby, but he was and is the living God.

While one word may describe his humanity, it does not summarily describe his totality.

The Bible is a written revelation of God using human language to accommodate our limited human understanding—perhaps similar to when a parent calls a train a “choo-choo” to a young child. Language is human, and our limited human symbols communicate the highest level of meaning that finite human

minds are capable of grasping.

With that said, a hermeneutic (the methods we use to interpret the Bible) that emphasizes individual meanings of specific words apart from their broader biblical context and theological meaning is flawed. Word meanings have merit of course, but they have limited hermeneutical application on their own.

Any given word must be understood in relation to other words in the immediate context, and beyond that, each word must be understood within the greater body of work of that

author and the themes the author intends to address.

Words have meaning, but they are also fallible symbols, never greater than the revealed intent conveyed by God, who is alone infallible.

Humanly, Jesus of Nazareth had a beginning. But in his divinity, he is without beginning or end. He is the Alpha and Omega. Jesus Christ was and is the incarnate Son of God, the eternal Word of God, who both became one of us in the flesh and was also with God in the beginning.

This one Person indeed was and is both God and man (John 1:1, 14). □