

When Were You Born?

by Ernest O'Neill

We were created inside the Son of God before birth and our life was planned and foreseen by our Maker before the creation of the world.

Scripture: Psalm 139:16, Jeremiah 1:5, Matthew 25:34, Romans 8:29, Ephesians 1:4, Ephesians 2:10, Colossians 1:15, 2 Timothy 1:9, Revelation 13:8

Topics: "Predestination", "Eternal Life"

Description

Ernest O'Neill delves into the profound truth that each of us was originally created inside the Son of our Creator before being born into this world, emphasizing the infinite capacities of God. The Bible reveals that before creation, God existed above time and space in timeless eternity, with Jesus Christ being the first-born of all creation. Our lives were foreseen by God before the foundation of the world, indicating that we are not products of chance but integral parts of His Son's body, designed for eternity.

Transcript

We've been looking at the reality that each of us was originally created inside the son of our Creator long before we were born into this world as our mother's baby. This startling fact is stated in several places in the Bible (the best series of histories we have of the unique human being, Jesus Christ). However, we need to look more closely at this "original creation" because it involves taking seriously the infinite capacities of the Maker of the universe.

What Did God Do Before Creation?

Our present knowledge of space has made it clear that space and time are related. The most obvious example is that many of the stars in our sky died years ago but their light is just getting to us now. So, if you could get far enough out in space to where they used to be, you'd see them when they were young. Even this crude example helps us to see that our Maker must be able to see everything everywhere, so he must exist above time and space - in timeless eternity. This is the reality we find in the Bible in Colossians 1:15-17: "He (Jesus Christ) is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; for in him all things were created.....He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." In eternity, before earth existed, you were made inside God's Son who was not only the divine, only-begotten son of our Creator but was also the "first-born of all creation" i.e. the first (and in a sense the only) human being. Inside him all of us were made !

How Far Can The Creator See?

However, just as we could see a star's early years if we could get far enough out in space, so also our Creator is obviously able to see all of time at once - and did see it the moment we were made in his Son. This means he saw all our lives from beginning to end, saw their autonomous independence, destroyed that in his Son, and made us alive again in him so that we could live out our old life or our new life in time on earth. This is why the Bible has statements like "in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them" (Psalm 139:16) and "the lamb that was slain before the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:8). In other words, we were not only created in our Maker's son before we were born from our mother's body, but we were made and foreseen by our Maker before the creation of the world.

Are We a Product of Chance?

This means that we were not an after-thought of God. We are not just "tack-ons" or little toys that He made to play with. We are an integral part of his son's body - part of the humanity that is him. We usually think of the little baby in the manger at Christmas-time as God's Son becoming a temporary human-being and then leaving his humanity in the tomb and returning to divinity. But the Bible knows nothing of this kind of idea and talks about Jesus as the "son of man" even after he left the earth and ascended to his father, our Maker. The truth is that he took us with him in eternity and where he goes we go because we are part of him ! This is why we often have feelings that we were made for eternity and not just for 70 short years. It's also why some human beings do remarkable things - things that you wouldn't expect them to be able to do. At times the music they make or the poetry they write seems almost divine. This is because the one great human being, Christ, gives them gifts of his own ability so that people feel like Einstein that "all ideas come from God".

Your life, then, has been long in the planning - and it is not just your life - it is part of the life that has been lived in eternity (because foreseen in eternity) by our Creator. It stands to reason that he not only saw what we would do to him and his son because of our desire to be our own gods, but that he lived that life in the reality of his son and bore its consequences. Only in this way could he responsibly give us the freedom to make our choice between him and ourselves; only thus could he face all the consequences of his children's actions and the effects of his own creation of free-will agents. We, of course, always require some time to see that an infinite mind can work out all possible permutations of the attitudes each of us would take and can work with those while preserving our free wills and his own plan. But that's what the creator did with your life!

Your Life's Plan

There is not a word that you have spoken or a deed that you have done that your creator has not foreseen, done in his son, and worked into his plan for you. Why ? There can be only one reason for this kind of care - because he loves you and thinks of you as his dear child. Even now - with all the independent wilfulness that we have shown up to this moment - even now, you are the recipient of a lot of care and infinite love - and will be until you die. What then can we do in the light of this reality ? Let's discuss that next.

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