

John 3:13

"And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven."

Problem:

Since Christ is said to have come down from heaven, he must have had an existence in heaven prior to his birth as a human on the earth.

Solution:

1. This passage proves too much. It is argued that "God the Son" pre-existed as a spirit creature in heaven prior to his "incarnation", but the passage in John reads, "even the Son of *man* which is in heaven". Did the Son of *man* literally come down from heaven?
2. This passage is one of the many in John's gospel which employs the Old Testament language of theophany (God appearing). A manifestation of divine power is referred to as "God coming down". The completion of the theophany is God "going up" or ascending. (See Genesis 11:5; 18:21; Exod. 3:7, 8; 19:11, 18, 20; 34:5; Psa. 18:9, 10; Isa. 64:1.)
3. Christ did not literally come down from heaven. His origin was heavenly, (as the context states - John 3:31), in-so-far as he was conceived by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven and his teaching was not his own but his Father's. (Luke 1:35; John 7:16; 17:14).
4. "Even the Son of man which is in heaven" is likely the comment of John and not part of the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus.

From [Wrested Scripture](#)