

# Biblical Precreedal Statements of Belief

NATHANAEL

Thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel

Jn 1:49

PETER

Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God

Mt 16:16

And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God

Jn 6:69

THOMAS

My Lord and my God

Jn 20:28

A EUNUCH

I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God

Acts 8:37

PAUL

God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles,... believed on in the world, received up into glory

1Tm 3:16

[We believe that] by him were all things created ... he is the head of the body, the church ... For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell; and, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself

Col 1:16–20

JOHN

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life

1Jn 5:19–20

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### Explanation

Christians have always declared their faith in Jesus Christ. Nathanael, Peter, Thomas, the eunuch baptized by Philip, Paul, and John each bear testimony that Jesus is the Christ. These statements begin as early individual declarations, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God,” but soon become group affirmations, “We know that the Son of God is come.” Each of these testimonies is unique. They are spontaneous utterances of the Spirit; their wording is flexibly formulated. Out of these biblical, precreedal expressions would eventually grow the much more formal and elaborate creeds of Christianity. But originally, these statements were simple, pure, plain, and precious.