

"The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his ways"

The Church always talks about Jesus as God and Man

Circumcision of the Lord, January 1

The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his ways, before he made any thing from the beginning. ²³ **I was set up from eternity, and of old before the earth was made.** Proverbs 8:22-23, part of the first reading for Vespers for the Circumcision, Proverbs 8:22-30

The Circumcision of Jesus Christ is remembered on Jan 1, alongside the memory of St Basil the Great.

Whenever the church considers something regarding Jesus Christ *the man*, she always juxtaposes this, in ecstatic wonder, with Jesus Christ *Who is God*. The human mind cannot comprehend God and man, in one person, God uncreated, the creator, beginningless, and man the created, the servant. Look closely, and you will see this conundrum presented in many services and prayers, especially Feasts of the Lord, such as Nativity., Theophany and Pascha.

We see this juxtaposition in the first reading for Vespers. Does this remind you of anything that you should be praying EVERY DAY (it is in the morning prayers, the Midnight office, Compline, the Liturgy)?

How about:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten, **begotten of the Father before all ages**, light of light, true God of true God, begotten not made, of one essence with Father, by whom all things were made...

The Symbol of Faith is merely restating what is taught in many places in the scriptures, including this excerpt from Proverbs. The language "**possessed me in the beginning of his ways**" means "**begotten of the Father before all ages**", and in typical Jewish fashion, the thought is repeated as a couplet by adding "**before he made any thing from the beginning**".

We cannot meditate on this divine and life giving dogma enough. Every matins is a golden opportunity to do so. The One above all things, uncreated, became created and lowered Himself. As we meditate upon His daring self-abasement, let us strive to imitate it and acquire perfection and peace of soul.

With Thee is dominion in the day of Thy power, in the splendor of Thy saints. From the womb before the morning star have I begotten Thee. The Lord hath sworn and will not repent: Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchisedek. (Psalm 109:3-4, Septuagint, Boston Psalter)

This article is at:

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