

**John 17.5, 24** "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was...Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

There is one question we need to answer before we come to understand this: did Jesus literally exist before the foundation of the world? If the answer is "yes" then we would be justified and it would be quite natural to say that Jesus literally had glory with (John 17.5) or experienced love from (John 17.24) the Father before his birth. However, if it is our understanding from the 42 books that precede John that Jesus is in fact a genuine human who had a literal origin in his mother, though his Father was miraculously God, then we see these expressions in terms of predestination. In other words, when Jesus says "Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was" (John 17.5) he means that he had glory stored up with the Father (i.e. in God's plan) and he is now asking for it. And, when Jesus says "you loved me before the foundation of the world" he means that God has always loved his son, even before he existed. This does not mean that Jesus *experienced* the love before he existed, but that God still expressed his love, perhaps by ordering history in such a way that all things would culminate in his son in much the same way expectant parents make preparations before their child is born.