

Incarnation

God became a Human

Introduction

The mystery and wonder of the Christmas story is actually central to the understanding of the gospel itself. That God – the supreme and transcendent creator – would become part of *his creation* (a baby, no less!) is absolutely incredible. Even more incredible is that he was (and is) 100% God and 100% man. Not half and half. Not a human body that God chose to possess, and not a ghost-like spirit that just looked like a human; but fully God and fully man at the same time.

It is the incarnation that demonstrates that Jesus knows what we are going through and can sympathize with our heartache. It is the incarnation that allows Jesus to sacrifice himself and die for our sins. It is Jesus's real, human body that came to life in the tomb.

It is important to understand that though Jesus was born as a baby at a certain time in our world, Jesus himself was always existed, perhaps with a human body (God is said to have walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden, for example). Jesus is one with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, and our triune God is eternal, having no beginning and no ending. Jesus still has his body today, and someday we will see him, with the scars of the nails in his hands.

Memory Verse:

“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” John 1:14

Scripture References:

- *“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”* Isaiah 9:6
- *“The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.’”* Luke 1:35
- *“For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh.”* Romans 8:3
- *“But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law,”* Galatians 4:4
- *“Who [Jesus], being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.”* Philippians 2:6-7
- *“The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation”* Colossians 1:15
- *“For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him”* Colossians 1:19
- *“Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great: ‘He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.’”* 1 Timothy 3:16

Prayer Focus:

- **Adoration:** Worship Jesus because he is the image of the invisible God – the exact representation of God's being.
- **Confession:** Confess the times you have failed to be amazed by the miracle that is Jesus, God who became man. Recognize our dependence on our mediator, Jesus Christ.

- **Thanksgiving:** Thank Jesus for humbling himself and becoming a man, taking on the role of a servant and being obedient to death on a cross.
- **Supplication:** Ask God to renew our awe in the mystery of the incarnation.

Discussion Questions:

- Why did Jesus come to earth as a baby?
- When Jesus was on earth, could people tell that Jesus was God by looking at him? Why or why not?
- Why is it important for us to understand that Jesus was 100% God and 100% man?
- Think about the attributes of God (omniscience, omnipotence, etc.). When Jesus was on earth, did those apply to him?
- Did Jesus ever make a mistake when he was learning his ABCs? Or was he perfect all the time?