

Incarnation: The Word Made Flesh

Main Scripture: John 1:1-18

I. Introduction

Incarnation is normally something that we think about at Christmas time, and then it is specifically in conjunction with the birth of Christ. However, the concept of God taking the form of humanity is a concept that should inform our entire concept of Christianity. Isaiah prophesied about this event when he wrote the words, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14) The name “Immanuel” means “God With Us”, and the concept of Immanuel was realized through His incarnation.

Through the incarnation, God has been revealed to us in a way that supersedes all other revelations. We will begin by looking at some key phrases in this passage from John. Then, we will consider why the incarnation took place and what it means for us today.

II. Exegesis

A. John 1:1

1. Logos

- a. An expression of personality in communication.
- b. Logos has creative power. Psalm 33:6—“By the word of the LORD were the heavens made . . .”
- c. To the Hebrew “the word of God” was the self-assertion of the divine personality.

- d. To the Greek Logos referred to the rational mind that ruled the universe.
2. This verse tells us three attributes of Logos:
 - a. Existed before time and creation
 - b. Existed as a distinct personality
 - c. Existed as one with God
- B. John 1:3-4
 1. All of creation derives with The Word.
 2. Logos is the source of life.
 - a. "Life" can refer to both physical life and spiritual life.
 3. The life provided by Logos is the source of light.
 - a. "Light" is used metaphorically representing goodness.
 4. Thus, Logos is the source of goodness.
- C. John 1:5
- D. John 1:14
 1. Incarnation—Embodied in flesh.
 2. Lived among us—Pitched his tent.

III. Application

- A. The incarnation provides a common frame of reference between God and man.
 1. Common Frame of Reference or Starting Point of Agreement
 - a. Use example of explaining sight to a blind person. (4 slides)
 - b. Use example of describing an airplane to an ancient person. (4 slides)

2. Throughout the Old Testament, God revealed Himself to the Hebrew people in a variety of different ways.
 - a. Hebrews 1:1
 - b. God's Old Testament revelations never seemed to sink in, though.
3. Through the incarnation, humankind was given a common frame of reference with God.
 - a. Hebrews 1:2
 - b. John 1:18
 - c. John 14:7
 - d. Hebrews 1:3

B. Through the incarnation, Christ is able to sympathize with us.

1. Hebrews 4:15
2. Matthew 4:2
3. John 1:11
4. John 8:59

C. Through the incarnation, a better system of faith was provided.

1. John 1:17
2. Hebrews 3:3
3. Romans 8:3

D. Through the incarnation, the opportunity for atonement was offered.

1. Atonement—At-one-ment

2. Philippians 2:6-8

3. Romans 5:6-8

E. The incarnation represents God taking the initiative to bring about our salvation.

1. Paraphrase Genesis 15. Describe the Suzerain Treaty.

a. Genesis 15:8

b. The Elements: A heifer, a goat, and a ram, each three years old, and a dove and young pigeon.

c. Genesis 15:17

2. Like the covenant with Abraham, God took the initiative to become incarnate and offer Himself on the cross in order to save us.

IV. Conclusion

A. Play “Deliver Us”. Describe setting prior to playing.

B. As Jesus was coming up to the moment of His crucifixion, he lamented over the state of the Jews, saying, “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing” (Matthew 23:37).

C. We have a Savior through whom we can know God. We have a Savior who can sympathize with everything we've ever experienced. We have a Savior who offered Himself up as a sacrifice for our salvation.

D. **John 1:12**