

God Manifest In the Flesh

1) The Incarnation and our Salvation

- ✓ **Before God could save us, two things were essential - the incarnation and the atonement**
- ✓ **Our salvation requires not only Calvary, but also Bethlehem**
- ✓ **We cannot separate what Jesus did from who He is**
- ✓ **He is God, who at Bethlehem came in the flesh**
- ✓ **He could not have saved us if He isn't God. But in order to save us He needed to identify with us**
- ✓ **A man brought sin into the world, only a man could take it out**

The deity of Christ

'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made'

(John 1:1-3)

'And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth'

(John 1:14)

**The seed of the eternal Logos was placed
into the womb of Mary by the Holy Spirit
and the God-man Jesus was born**

***'Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this
be, since I do not know a man?" And the
angel answered and said to her, "The Holy
Spirit will come upon you, and the power of
the Highest will overshadow you; therefore,
also, that Holy One who is to be born will be
called the Son of God'
(Lk.1:34-35)***

'Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit"'

(Matt.1:19-20)

So Jesus is God incarnate; the Word made flesh:

- ✓ **He is called God. Divine works are credited to Him**
- ✓ **He claimed to be God, *'Therefore the Jews sought all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath, but also said that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God'* (Jn.5:18)**
- ✓ **He possessed divine attributes *eternity, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty"* (Rev.1:8); *omnipresence, Mt.18:20; 28:20; *omniscience, Jn.21:17; *omnipotence, *immutability, Heb.1:10-12; 13:8**

- ✓ **The 'I am' statements of Jesus also identify Him with God** *Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon Him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?" They answered Him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "I am He." And Judas, who betrayed Him, also stood with them. Now when He said to them, "I am He," they drew back and fell to the ground'* **(Jn.18:4-6)**

- ✓ **He was worshipped as God, 'And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"' (John 20:28).** 'And as they went to tell His disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, "Rejoice!" So they came and held Him by the feet and worshiped Him' **(Matt.28:9)**
- ✓ **This does not diminish the Father, but honours Him (Phil.2:9-11)**
- ✓ **He is worshipped in heaven, 'And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!"' (Rev.5:13)**

**But the wonder of the incarnation is that
God was manifest in the flesh**

- ✓ **In creation, man was made in God's image; in the incarnation God was made in man's image!**
- ✓ **Through the incarnation He had a body like ours**
- ✓ **He was '*made of a woman...*' Thomas Watson said: 'As bread is made of wheat, and wine is made of grapes so He was made of a woman. His body was part of the flesh and substance of Mary'**

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- ✓ **He had a human body and soul like ours. He came in the likeness of sinful flesh (Rom.8:3)**
- ✓ **He went through the normal processes of human development, 'And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him... And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men' (Lk.2:40,52)**
- ✓ **He experienced normal human experiences and emotions known to us. He was hungry, thirsty, rested, slept. He knew compassion, sorrow, agony, weeping, temptation and death**
- ✓ **He prayed because He could do nothing without the Father**

***'Great is the mystery of godliness: God was
manifested in the flesh...'
(1 Tim.3:16)***

He is unlike any other being, human or divine

One Person, two natures

**yet the natures not comingled and confused,
but separate and distinct**

'Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father'

(Phil.2:5-11)

- ✓ **He remained fully God, yet He lived as a man, relying upon the Holy Spirit to do what He did**
- ✓ **He didn't empty Himself of deity but of His glory. His glory was hidden by His humanity**
- ✓ **He didn't use His deity to shirk from His humanity with all its lowliness, shame and suffering. He gave up His right to do this. His humility is seen in His servanthood, His taking humanity and finally the shameful and substitutionary death by becoming sin for us**
- ✓ **Now, the Father has exalted Him so that every knee in heaven and on earth shall bow to Him**

'And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit...The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven'

(1 Cor.15:45&47)

'Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous'

(Rom.5:18-19)

- ✓ **He became poor so that we might be made rich**
- ✓ **He was born of a virgin so that we might be born of God**
- ✓ **He took our flesh so that we might partake of His Spirit**
- ✓ **He was made in the likeness of sinful flesh, so that we might have a body like unto His glorious body**
- ✓ **He came to earth that we might go to heaven**
- ✓ **The Son of God became the Son of Man, so that sons of men might become sons of God!**

***'Great is the mystery of godliness: God was
manifested in the flesh'
(1 Tim.3:16)***

He did it all for us

The gospel is a message from God to the world

**It asks us to respond to what happened to the
world historically through Jesus Christ**

**If the eternal, infinite, Almighty God sent His
Son into the world to speak to us... we must
listen to Him!**