

8 – JESUS CHRIST: THE INCARNATION

I. What is the Incarnation?

- The incarnation is a term to indicate that Jesus, the Son of God, took on human flesh.

Scripture John 1:14 (ESV)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- The incarnation also refers to the humiliation of Jesus Christ.

II. Reasons for the Incarnation

A. Confirmation of God's Promises

- Jesus Christ became a man in order to fulfill the promises made to fathers and to show mercy to the Gentiles.

Scripture Romans 15:8-12 (ESV)

⁸ For I tell you that Christ became a servant to the circumcised to show God's truthfulness, in order to confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, ⁹ and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles, and sing to your name." ¹⁰ And again it is said, "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people." ¹¹ And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples extol him." ¹² And again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse will come, even he who arises to rule the Gentiles; in him will the Gentiles hope."

- Throughout the Old Testament, God promised to send his son into the world.

Scripture Isaiah 7:14 (ESV)

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Scripture Isaiah 9:6 (ESV)

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

B. To Reveal the Father

- Jesus Christ completed the revelation of God by adding the reality of God as Father.

Scripture John 14:9 (ESV)

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

C. To Become a Faithful High Priest

- In order to become a qualified faithful High Priest, Jesus Christ had to enter every human

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experience, apart from sin.

Scripture Hebrews 4:15 (ESV)

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

D. To Put Away Sin

- Jesus Christ came to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Scripture Hebrews 9:26 (ESV)

for then he would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

Scripture Mark 10:45 (ESV)

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

E. To Destroy the Works of the Devil

- Jesus Christ appeared to destroy the works of the Devil.

Scripture 1 John 3:8 (ESV)

Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

F. Preparation for the Second Coming

- Jesus Christ’s incarnation was necessary in order to prepare for his second coming.

Scripture Hebrews 9:28 (ESV)

so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

III. The Nature of Incarnation

A. Christ Emptied Himself

- Jesus Christ’s emptied himself by giving up the independent exercise of some of his attributes.

Scripture Philippians 2:7 (ESV)

but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.

B. Made in the Likeness of Men

- Though Jesus Christ existed in the form of and by nature God, he became man.

Scripture Colossians 2:9 (ESV)

For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,