



“Glimpses in the Gospels: Why Did Jesus Come?”

As we are in the early days of our “Gospel Glimpses” series, I thought it might be a good idea as we look at the life of Jesus in the Gospels...to first look at why He came as well as what He did here.

As God, He could have come to earth in total power and majesty...but instead He chose to come in complete poverty and obscurity...and He chose to stay that way for most of His years here. The how, when, what, and the why of Jesus' life on Earth are all inextricably intertwined. Today we'll explore some answers to those questions as we look at FIVE REASONS JESUS BECAME A MAN.

Reason #1:

I. HE CAME TO FULFILL OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES - LUKE 24:44

There are more than 300 specific prophecies in the Old Testament about a coming Messiah, including the ones in Isaiah 7 & 9 regarding His *birth*. In Micah 5, the prophet foretells the Messiah's *birthplace* in Bethlehem and refers to his eternal origins by saying He is “from everlasting.” In other words, Bethlehem may be his birthplace, but it is not His beginning.

Nearly ALL of the 300 prophecies about Jesus have *already* been fulfilled. ... and the few unfulfilled ones have to do with His 2nd coming. One mathematician has calculated the odds of ALL 300 prophecies being fulfilled in one person is 83 billion to one.

Reason #2:

II. HE CAME SO WE COULD SEE THE FATHER

In conversation with His disciple, Philip, Jesus was asked “Lord, show us the Father.” Jesus replied, “If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father.” To see Jesus was to see the Father. According to John 4:24, God is *spirit*, so to see Jesus is not to see the *form* of God. But to see Jesus is to see the *essence* of God...the only way to know God is to know Jesus.

Paul tells us in Colossians 1:15 that Christ “*is the image of the invisible God*,” and in verse 19 that, “*...in Him (Christ), all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.*”

In John 1:1, if you substitute “Jesus” for “Word” it reads, “*In the beginning was Jesus, and Jesus was with God, and Jesus was God.*” And in verse 14, “*Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us...*” He had been one with God the Father for all eternity, and came to earth to reveal the Father to his human creation. Why did Jesus become a man? So we would be able to *understand* God.

Reason #3:

III. HE CAME TO SAVE US FROM OUR SINS

1 Timothy 1:15 is, perhaps, the most succinct statement of this truth we have: “*Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.*” If the apostle Paul was “Chief of Sinners” and Jesus saved *him*, the rest of us are saveable too!

Mankind's first representative (Adam) plunged us into sin, so a second representative (Jesus) was necessary to save us from condemnation. The second Adam (and according to 1 Corinthians 15:45, the *last* Adam), had to come to earth, experience temptation and still choose obedience to the Father's will to become the acceptable sacrifice for the first Adam and all who were in Him.

Only the one who did not deserve to die could be the sacrifice for those who did deserve to die. If Christ had not come, humanity would still be on a long downward spiraling path, hopelessly heading into the eternal night of despair.

But God, the ALMIGHTY FATHER interrupted all of that. By coming as Jesus to be our Savior, He interrupted the cycle of sin.

Reason #4:

IV. HE CAME TO EMPATHIZE WITH OUR WEAKNESSES

Hebrews 4:15 tells us, *"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."*

There is no circumstance in our lives that Jesus cannot identify with. He has felt everything we feel. Hebrews 5:8 says that Jesus "learned obedience" through His suffering...just the way you and I do when we resist temptation.

Philippians 2 tells us Jesus set aside the prerogatives of deity when He took the form of a servant and came here as a man. His temptations were just as real as ours...perhaps even *more* intense. He knew the eternal consequences if He gave in to sin for even a moment!

Jesus came to earth to empathize with us in our shame and to identify with us in our burdened condition. Immanuel... God with us...came to save and to be what we could not be in the midst of a fallen world: totally obedient to the Father.

Finally, Reason #5:

V. HE CAME TO GUARANTEE OUR HOPE OF HEAVEN

That is, to *secure* our place in heaven. He came to earth so we might go to heaven. Unless He is in our hearts, we are not fit for heaven. Christ Alone can remove our sin, and cause us to "put on immortality" that makes us fit to live forever in the presence of God.

He revealed the Father. He saved us from our sins. He proved Himself to be the God-Man -- having combined attributes of the divine and human -- all that was necessary to make us suitable for heaven.

The idea of sending Jesus to earth to prepare us for Heaven was God's, not man's...so, it is his prerogative to say whatever He *chooses* about it. Acts 4:12 *"There is NO OTHER NAME under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."*

After His second coming the hope of heaven *will no longer exist* for those who have not already embraced it. In *"Exploring the Gospel of John: An Expository Commentary"* John Phillips offers this little tongue twister that might help in grasping this thought:

*"He had to come as He came, to be what He was;
He had to be what He was, to live as He lived;
He had to live as He lived to do what He did."*

Ultimately Jesus chose God's will over His own (unlike us) in order to make it to the cross and die for our sins (Luke 22:42). He came to earth as a man for at least these five reasons...all of which add up to one opportunity--for us to go to heaven!

So, now you know...what will you DO with that information?