



SERMON REFLECTION GUIDE

Christian Doctrine, Part 7: God Arrives

(The Doctrine of the Incarnation OR The Person of Jesus Christ)

John 1:1-18 - September 27, 2026

SERMON OUTLINE

Intro - Charlie Daniels, the Lubbock Fairgrounds, and humility. The incarnation of the Son of God as the greatest miracle - holiness taking on sinful flesh, yet without sin.

Christology - The Person of Christ (*Incarnation*) + the Work of Christ (*Atonement*)

Today - Incarnation

A. The Promised Person

Old Testament Prophecies & Criteria:

- *Genesis 3:15* - the son of a woman will crush the serpent (Satan)
- *Isaiah 7:14* - the woman will be a virgin, calling the son's name "Immanuel" (God with us)
- *Micah 5:2* - the son will be a ruler of Israel who comes from Bethlehem
- *Malachi 3:1* - the son will be preceded by a "Messenger", and will come to the Temple

This culminates in *John 1:1-18* - the arrival of "The Word" (Logos) into the human realm.

B. The Actual Person

"The Word" of *John 1* combines both Jewish affinity for God's Word, and the Greek philosophy of Heraclitus who defined the intelligent force of the universe by the term "logos".

This Word is "*God's own fellow & God's own self*" - DA Carson

John builds up this "Word" in order to tell us that "the Word became flesh" (*v. 14*) - this is the incarnation - that God becomes an actual person.

This is important because it gives us concrete reality instead of an abstract ideology.

• *Historical Reality*

All of the Bible builds towards a specific time and place when the Messiah would arrive.

Galatians 4:4 says that Jesus was born "at the fullness of time".

• *Personal Reality*

Jesus was a particular person with particular dignity.

"Accommodation" is a good word to think about - our Messiah accommodates for us, by living life in our shoes.

Hebrews 4 says that he is able to "sympathize with our weaknesses".

• *Material Reality*

The doctrine of incarnation requires "flesh/meat" - physical reality!

1 John 1 states that the apostles "heard, saw, and touched" Jesus Christ in the flesh.

2 John 7 says that to deny Jesus's body is a great heresy.

"Christ came in the *body*, died in the *body*, was resurrected in the *body* and ascended in the *body* to heaven. Now from heaven he fed his *body* on earth - the church - with his *body* and blood through the Spirit." - Tertullian (200AD)

C. The Hypostatic Person

Hypostasis - one person with two natures.

Jesus is "*perfect in the divinity, perfect in the humanity, truly God and truly man.*" (Chalcedon)

COMPARE: *Hebrews 1:2-3* (*Divinity*) & *Hebrews 2:17-18* (*Humanity*)

The Son of God becomes a son of the flesh so that those who are sons of the flesh might become sons of God. (See: *John 1:13-14*)



SERMON REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How do the Old Testament prophecies concerning a Messiah help us understand who Jesus is?
2. What difference does it make that the incarnation happened at a specific time in history?
3. Why does it matter that God became a person? Why does it matter that he took upon himself a material/physical body?
4. What is the best way to describe the incarnation? What is the nature of Jesus as he walked this world?
5. Why does the Christian Gospel require that Jesus is divine? What if Jesus was just a special human being that was *adopted* by God at his baptism?
6. Why does the Christian Gospel require that Jesus is human? What if Jesus was really just a divine spirit who *appeared* to be a human?