

THY KINGDOM COME #31

Developing A Biblical Worldview

I. Introduction

Let me begin by saying how much I am grieved at the corruption of Christmas—not just from the world—which I could expect—but politicized by people who profess to be Christians...

Rev. Jesse Jackson

Christmas is not about Santa Claus, Jingle Bells, fruitcake and eggnog. Christmas is about a homeless couple.

Hillary Clinton

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of a homeless child.

Claremont United Methodist Church in CA put images of Jesus, Mary and Joseph in cages to represent how migrant families are separated when trying to enter the U.S. Pastor Karen Clark Ristine called the Holy family, “the most well-known refugee family on earth.”

Many Christians today have a casual view of Christmas, with no clue as to the biblical worldview on the true meaning of Christmas. We need to correct that.

So the title of my teaching tonight is taken from a phrase found in the 1st chapter of John’s Gospel that encapsulates the Christian worldview of Christmas...

“And The Word Was Made Flesh”

John begins his gospel declaring that Jesus is God and that He came ‘in the flesh’...

John 1:1,14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. *And the Word was made flesh* and dwelt among us...

Bible scholars refer to the ‘the Word made flesh’ as the ‘incarnation’.

Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary

"Incarnation"

A theological term for the coming of God's Son into the world as a human being.

We sing of Christ's incarnation is in many of our Christmas carols, like...

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

"Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity"

The concept of incarnation is at the very core of the Christmas message...

Pastor Tim Keller

Christmas is about the word incarnation. If you understand the word incarnation, you'll understand what Christmas is about.

I know some of you may be saying to yourself, "Sure, Pastor Ray, we know that! Tell us something we don't know."

But I would say that sometimes we know things only at a *surface* level-we haven't thought through the deeper meaning of things we think we know.

So tonight I want to take the concept of the incarnation, which is 'the Word made flesh', and apply it as a principle for developing a biblical worldview.

3 Points Tonight

- **In the incarnation, the invisible God became visible**
- **In the incarnation, the invisible Kingdom became visible**
- **The incarnation of Christ is the model of how His kingdom comes on earth today**

II. The Word Made Flesh

A. First: In the Incarnation, the Invisible God became visible.

Pastor Tim Keller

The text says the invisible has become visible, the incorporeal has become corporeal. In other words, God has become human. The absolute has become particular. The ideal has become real. The divine has taken up a human nature.

1. Jesus confirmed His incarnation as God in the flesh in answering Philip's question in John 14:

John 14:8-9 NLT

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied."

(Think about his question- 'we want the invisible God to be made visible')

Jesus said to him... "He who has seen Me has seen the Father."

a. He's saying: "I am God in the flesh. If you want to see God look at ME!"

2. The Apostle Paul confirmed the incarnation of Christ as the invisible God become visible...

Colossians 1:15 NLT

Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.

He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation.

3. In one of his last letters, the Apostle John tells us his entire testimony of Christ, everything he wrote, was confirmed by the incarnation of God in Christ.

a. He confirms that the Word was made flesh; the invisible God became visible, and that the disciples had heard Him, seen Him, and touched Him...

1 John 1:1-2

That which was from the beginning, which we *have heard*, which we *have seen with our eyes*, which we have looked upon, and *our hands have handled*, concerning the Word of life — *the life was manifested*, and we have seen, and bear witness...

1 John 1:2-4

...and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us — *that which we have seen and heard we declare to you*, that

you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ. *And these things we write to you that your joy may be full.*

4. The incarnation of Christ inspired Isaac Watts to create the Christmas carol, “Joy to the world, the Lord is come”! The next line says...“Let earth receive her King!”

a. So first we rejoice at the incarnation, the invisible God made visible; then...

B. Second: In the Incarnation, the invisible Kingdom became visible.

1. Christ didn’t become King at His incarnation! He was ruling and reigning in the invisible realm from the beginning.

Psalm 2:6-7

Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: the Lord has said to Me, “You are My Son...”

Psalm 29:10

The Lord sat enthroned at the Flood, and the Lord sits as King forever.

2. The incarnation was the event where the invisible King and His Kingdom was made visible.

a. In the incarnation, the invisible Savior became the visible Savior.

Psalm 74:12

For God is my King from of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth.

Isaiah 33:22

For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King; He will save us.

b. In the Old Testament, the invisible God is the Healer:

Exodus 15:26

**"I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians.
For I am the Lord who heals you."**

c. In the NT, Jesus is the visible God who heals them all.

d. In the OT, the Psalmist sings of the invisible God who controls nature:

Psalm 89:9

You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, You still them.

e. In the New Testaments, Jesus is the visible God in the boat with the disciples.

3. So it is that the Kingdom of the Son of God existed from the beginning; but in the incarnation, the Kingdom came from heaven to earth.

4. The incarnation of the Son of God was when the invisible King became visible as the 'Word Made Flesh'; and wherever the King goes, His Kingdom goes with Him! This is why His first message was...

Matthew 4:17

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

"Repent, because the kingdom of heaven *has come near!*" (HCSB)

5. When Christ came near, His Kingdom came with Him! Jesus' earthly ministry was not just the manifestation of His authority to forgive sins, but also His authority over sickness and over demons.

Matthew 4:23

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

Luke 11:20

If I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.

...then the kingdom of God has come to you. (HCSB)

...then the Kingdom of God has arrived among you. (NLT)

a. Pastor Ray paraphrase: When you see the sick being healed and those who are bound being delivered from demons, you are looking at the incarnation of the Kingdom of God.

6. If you need confirmation, consider how Jesus commissioned His disciples:

Luke 9:1-2

Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Luke 10:9

And heal the sick...and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

REVIEW

In the incarnation, the invisible God became visible

In the incarnation, the invisible Kingdom became visible

And finally, the big one...

C. The incarnation of Christ is the model of how His kingdom comes on earth today

1. The incarnation of the Son of God and His earthly life was the initial fulfillment of the first thing Jesus taught us to ask of the Father:

Matthew 6:10

“Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”.

2. Most of us have prayed this prayer a thousand times; but the truth is that many never take the time to consider what it really means; they disconnect “Thy kingdom come” from “Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven”.

3. But what Jesus is doing here is giving us the DEFINITION of what it means to pray “Thy Kingdom come”...

The kingdom of God is the will of God done on earth as it is in heaven!

4. In the incarnation of the Son of God, the invisible God became visible; then, in the life He lived on earth, He made the invisible kingdom visible; He demonstrated the present reality of the Kingdom of God everywhere He went because He expressed the will of God done on earth as it is in heaven.

- He kept the commandments
- He preached God’s word
- He saved the lost
- He healed the sick
- He cast out demons

5. Jesus Christ was the incarnation of the Kingdom of God because he did the will of God on earth as it done in heaven.

6. Jesus made the Kingdom a present reality by doing the will of God on earth as it is done in heaven. And this is what He taught us to pray! Why?

a. Let me quote comments on the incarnation by Russell Moore, a great man of God and former President of the Southern Baptists....

Russell Moore

We must understand that God’s kingdom has not yet been wholly fulfilled on this earth. *Thy kingdom come* is not just an expectant yearning for the coming of Christ in the future; it also expresses the prayerful desire of Christ’s servants to see God’s Kingdom broaden and become increasingly established throughout the world in the here and now.

b. We must pray this incarnation of the kingdom begins with US!

Russell Moore

Praying, “Thy Kingdom come,” means we desire for His sovereign rule over our lives here on earth, as we submit to His authority and yield to His control in every aspect of our existence.

7. What if we, as God’s church, could be the ongoing ‘incarnation’ of the Kingdom as we do God’s will on earth as it is in heaven. And not just in us!

Russell Moore

Praying, “Thy Kingdom come,” means we earnestly yearn for God’s reign to be established throughout the whole earth and over every human being. We pray, “Thy Kingdom come,” so that God’s sovereign rule will come in the here and now.

III. Close

Let me close with the connection between the incarnation of Christ and the Kingdom of Christ contained in Isaiah’s familiar prophecy....

Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end...The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

I see all 3 points of my message here:

The incarnation of Christ: Unto us a Child is born, a Son is given

The close connection to the kingdom: And the government will be upon His shoulder...

And what it means to us today: Of the increase of His government there shall be no end...

In other words, Christ’s coming was just the beginning of the increase of His Kingdom...which is ‘the Word made flesh; God’s will done on earth as it is in heaven.

R.J. Rushdoony says this means ALL the earth.

R.J. Rushdoony

The prophecy tells us plainly that the Lord God is concerned with more than the redemption of our souls. His work of salvation does emphatically include our salvation, but it also includes His triumphant repossession of the whole creation.

Isaiah closes by saying, "The zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this."

God Himself says He will see that it happens!

So how account so man Christians today accept defeat?

R.J. Rushdoony

Too many churchmen today act as if they have joined the losers by becoming Christians. Such an attitude is a denial of the incarnation and the resurrection. They surrender what cannot be surrendered, the assured Kingship of Christ, and the everlasting increase of His government and sway. They assume that because they lack zeal for Christ's Kingdom that the Lord, too, lacks zeal.

R.J. Rushdoony

The joy of the Christmas season is the joy of triumph, the joy that the King has come and He reigns. We sing "joy to the world" because "the Savior reigns". As the people of Christ, we establish peace on the earth through our faithfulness. The establishment of that peace is the application of God's Law-word to every area of life and thought.

R.J. Rushdoony

The church cannot honestly celebrate Christ's birth and sing triumphant carols and then turn its back on the mandate to exercise dominion and be more than conquerors.

Summary

Jesus was the Word made flesh.

He incarnated His Kingdom as the will of God done on earth as it is in heaven.

And He left us with this...

John 20:21

As the Father sent Me, so send I you.

Will we do it? Will we be 'the Word made flesh' in our generation?

Closing Prayer

Title

Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

23 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; 24 and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

25 In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." 26 For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes.