

The Word Became Flesh

The synoptic gospels tell us Jesus went through the complete human experience: a baby growing in the womb; born as an infant; life as a child and a young man; and finally life as a man subject to all the realities of created life. But, John covers the theological significance of the matter. Jesus' incarnation is so great, it is of such great impact, that it should be on our mind every day - not just one day out of the year.

I. JOHN 1.14A: THE MOST IMPORTANT REALITY IN HUMAN HISTORY

- A. John 1.14a - *The word became flesh and dwelt among us*. This is the most essential truth in Christianity. No incarnation? No Christianity.
- B. 1.14a¹ - The **word** is Jesus.
- C. 1.14a² - Jesus ...became **flesh**. See also 1 John 4.2-3; 1 Timothy 3.16.
- D. 1.14a³ - Jesus ...**dwelt** among us. dwelt: "to tent," "to shelter," "to reside."

II. JOHN 1.14B - JOHN BEHELD HIS GLORY

- A. 1.14b¹ - We have seen his glory... a reference to Matthew 17? Probably not.
- B. 1.14b² - *Glory as of the **only Son** from the Father...*
 - 1. Of the only Son. Original language: *monogenes*. Means "one and only." Jesus is one of privilege, inheritance, and right.
 - 2. Jesus' glory is the same glory that would belong to one who possessed everything that is true of God.
- C. 1.14c - *Glory...full of **grace** and truth*. There is also a morality to it.
 - 1. Exodus 34.6-7 - what does God proclaim as He passes by?
 - 2. John had experienced real truth. John 8.32 - *the truth will set you **free***.

III. JOHN 1.15-18 - WHAT WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM HIS FULLNESS

- A. Colossians 1.15-19
 - 1. 1.19 - *In Him, all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell*.
 - 2. 2.9 - *In Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily*.
 - 3. 2.10 - *You have been **filled** in Him*. You have been made complete.
- B. John 1.16 - Now John speaks of Jesus' fullness and says we have all received it.
 - 1. Received what? *Grace upon grace*. Literally "grace in the place of grace."
 - a) Romans 5.2 - We **stand** in grace. We're engulfed in it.
 - b) Lamentations 3.22-23: *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are **new** every morning; great is your faithfulness*.
- C. John 1.17 - This all came through Christ. This is the gospel!
- D. John 1.18a - *No one has ever seen God*. No one can see him and live.
 - 1. John 1.18b - *Jesus, who is at the Father's side, he has made him **known***.
 - a) God revealed his back to Moses. But in Jesus, we have seen the face of God.

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. This is why Jesus came. This is why we honor the Lord. We shouldn't just do that this Tuesday, but every day of the year!
- B. Have you received grace upon grace? Do you stand in God's grace today?