



Introduction

In our previous lesson we discussed the importance of Jesus' motives for coming to save. Specifically, they were 1) for the glory of God, 2) for the love of His people, and 3) for the joy of returning to the Father's presence. These are all the reasons why Jesus came to save us. But now we're going to look at the wonders of Jesus' glory and then His incarnation. To better understand and appreciate His humble incarnation, we must first discover His true deity and glory.

The Son's Deity

- Galatians 2:5, "to them we did not yield in submission even for a moment, so that the truth of the gospel might be preserved for you."
- First, John 1:1-4: **In the beginning** was the Word, and the **Word was with God**, and the **Word was God**. He was in the beginning with God. **All things were made through him**, and without him was not any thing made that was made. **In him was life**, and the life was the light of men.
- Philippians 2:6: "who, though he was in the **form of God**, did not count **equality with God** a thing to be grasped."
 - Paul Washer wrote, "The word "form" comes from the Greek work morphê, which refers not only to the outward or external appearance of a person but also to his or her essential character or underlying reality. The Son did not merely seem to be God in appearance; rather, He was God in essence or nature."¹
 - The word "equality" comes from the Greek word ísos, which means, "to be equal in quantity or quality."
- Colossians 2:9 says, "For in him the whole **fullness** of deity dwells bodily."

The Son's Glory

- Colossian 1:15-17 - He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
- Hebrews 1:3 - He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.
- Isaiah 6:1-3 says, "In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!"

Old Testament Prophecy

Jesus' incarnation was not plan B, but plan A.

¹ Paul Washer, *Discovering the Glorious Gospel*, page 19



- Micah 5:2 which says that a ruler would be born in Bethlehem from the clans of Judah, and that His coming was from ancient days
- Genesis 3:15 tells us the seed of the woman, and actual person, would crush the head of the serpent.
- Isaiah 7:14 says, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”
- Isaiah 9:6 also says, “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.”

Prophecy Fulfilled

- Galatians 4:4-5: “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”
- Romans 5:6: “For while we were still weak, **at the right time** Christ died for the ungodly.” This means that Jesus was never late, nor was he early—He arrived precisely when he meant to. Thus, Jesus truly did come in the flesh. But there are a few important components we must understand about *how* Jesus became a man. To understand this, we must look at the miraculous conception and second, Jesus’ true humanity.

Jesus’ True Humanity

- Romans 8:3, “For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh.”
- 2 Corinthians 8:9, “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”
- Paul Washer aptly wrote, “If Jesus was not conceived both of the Holy Spirit and in the womb of a virgin, then He was not God incarnate, and the rest of the gospel is a lie—the cross has no saving power; the resurrection was a hoax; and we remain in our sins, separated from God and without hope.”²

Small Group Discussion Questions

1. Why is Jesus’ deity so crucial to the gospel?
2. What are other essential truths to the gospel that others distort?
3. Why is it important that the gospel is “plan A”? What does the phrase “in the fulness of time” teach us about God?
4. How does Jesus’ pre-incarnate glory make his incarnation more wonderful? Why did Jesus need to be born of a virgin?
5. How is Jesus’ humanity and deity essential for his role as Mediator? How could someone use this knowledge in sharing the gospel?

² Ibid, page 33