

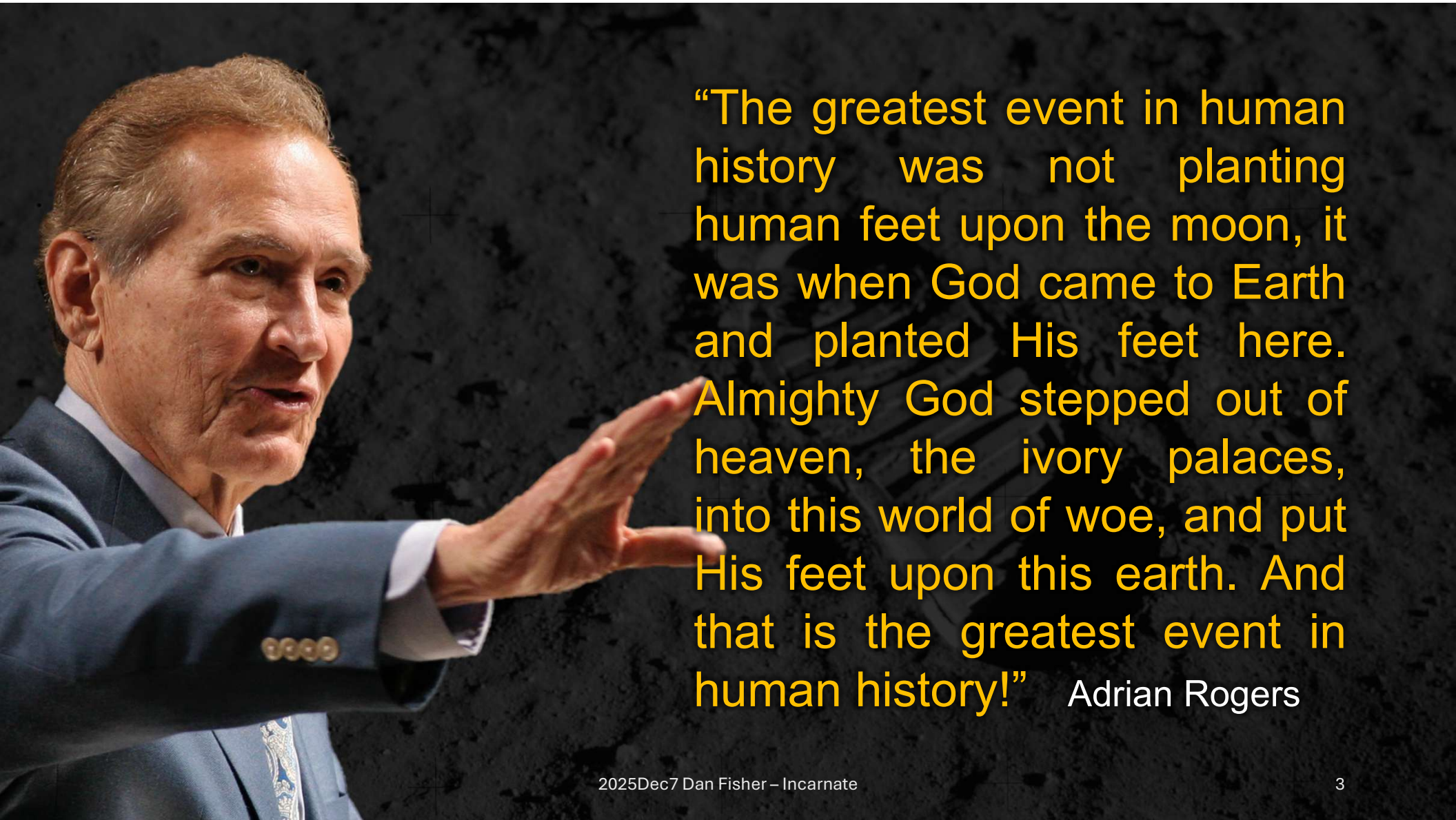
Incarnate

2025Dec7 Dan Fisher – Incarnate

July 20, 1969,
at 9:56 PM CST

- Neil Armstrong: “That’s one small step for man and one giant leap for mankind.”
- Pres. Richard Nixon: “The planting of human feet upon the moon is the greatest event in human history.”





“The greatest event in human history was not planting human feet upon the moon, it was when God came to Earth and planted His feet here. Almighty God stepped out of heaven, the ivory palaces, into this world of woe, and put His feet upon this earth. And that is the greatest event in human history!” Adrian Rogers



The “incarnation” ... a great mystery

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:
God was manifested in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by
angels, preached among the Gentiles, believed on in the world,
received up in glory. 1 Tim 3:16

Stephen Wellum, “The Incarnation and Two Natures of Christ”:

“Confusion about Jesus’ identity is no small matter. There is nothing more important than knowing *who* Jesus is. This is not merely an academic debate, something for theologians to ponder; it’s a question vital for all people *and* especially for the church.”





William Boekestein, “The Incarnation: Why Did God Become Man?”

“Until we grasp that Christ is God-in-flesh, the Old Testament will remain a collection of stories about how men and women struggled with the call to faith. ... The New Testament is not simply a collection of ethical instruction, or even a commentary on the life of a certain Nazarene. It is the real-life story of what happened when God came to men that they might belong to Him. ... Only in the incarnate Christ, are all the promises answered with a resounding ‘yes!’”

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. 2 Cor 1:20

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. **Is 7:14**

“The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). **Mt 1:23**

The word “incarnation”

Incarnation comes from the Latin compound of *in* + *carnes* (flesh) which means “in the flesh”

Incarnation is the supernatural act of the triune God, where the eternal, second person of the Trinity (the divine Son), from the Father, by the work of the Spirit, took upon Himself a complete human nature/body – apart from sin. As a result, God the Son became incarnate.

The incarnation is literally the **in-fleshing** of the eternal Son of God — Jesus’ “**putting on our flesh and blood**” and becoming **fully human**.



Adrian Rogers: “The *Infinite* became an *infant*.”

Jn 1:1-2,14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ...
¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling [tabernacled; pitched His tent] among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

1 Jn 1:1-3 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. ² The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. ³ We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.

1. “the Word”

Jn 1:1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning. ...

- *The Word* refers to the eternal divine Son who was “in the beginning with God” and who himself is God
- From eternity past until He took on humanity, the Son of God existed in perfect love, joy, and harmony in the fellowship of the Trinity
- At the incarnation, the eternal Word entered into creation as human by becoming a first-century Jew

Jn 1:3-4 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind.

Jn 1:14 ... We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

2. “became flesh”

Jn 1:14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

- *Became flesh* does not mean Jesus, in becoming man, ceased to be God or became a “lesser” God
- God the Son did not compromise Himself and change into something lesser than He was

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. Col 1:15

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; Col 2:9

The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. Heb 1:3

In Jesus we behold the face of God. He is the full reflection of God that we can see as God in the flesh.

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ. 2 Cor 4:6

- Divinity and humanity are not necessarily mutually exclusive – Jesus chose to be both at the same time
- Jesus did not shed His glory as a snake sheds its skin – He veiled His glory in humanity

“He who has seen Me has seen the Father” Jn 14:9

“Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail th’ incarnate Deity! Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.” Charles Wesley, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

- It's helpful to think of the incarnation as an act of addition – not subtraction
- Without change or loss of his deity, Jesus added a second nature to himself consisting of a human body and soul

We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. [Jn 1:14](#)

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; [clung to] ⁷ rather, he made himself nothing [of no reputation] by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, ... [Phil 2:6-8](#)

- *Flesh* isn't merely a reference to the human body, but the entirety of what makes up humanity — body, mind, emotions, and will

For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. **Heb 2:17-18**

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are — yet he did not sin. **Heb 4:15**

- To save human beings Jesus had to be made like us “in every respect” – except our sin
- In the incarnation, the Son of God did not only become like man; he actually became truly and fully human

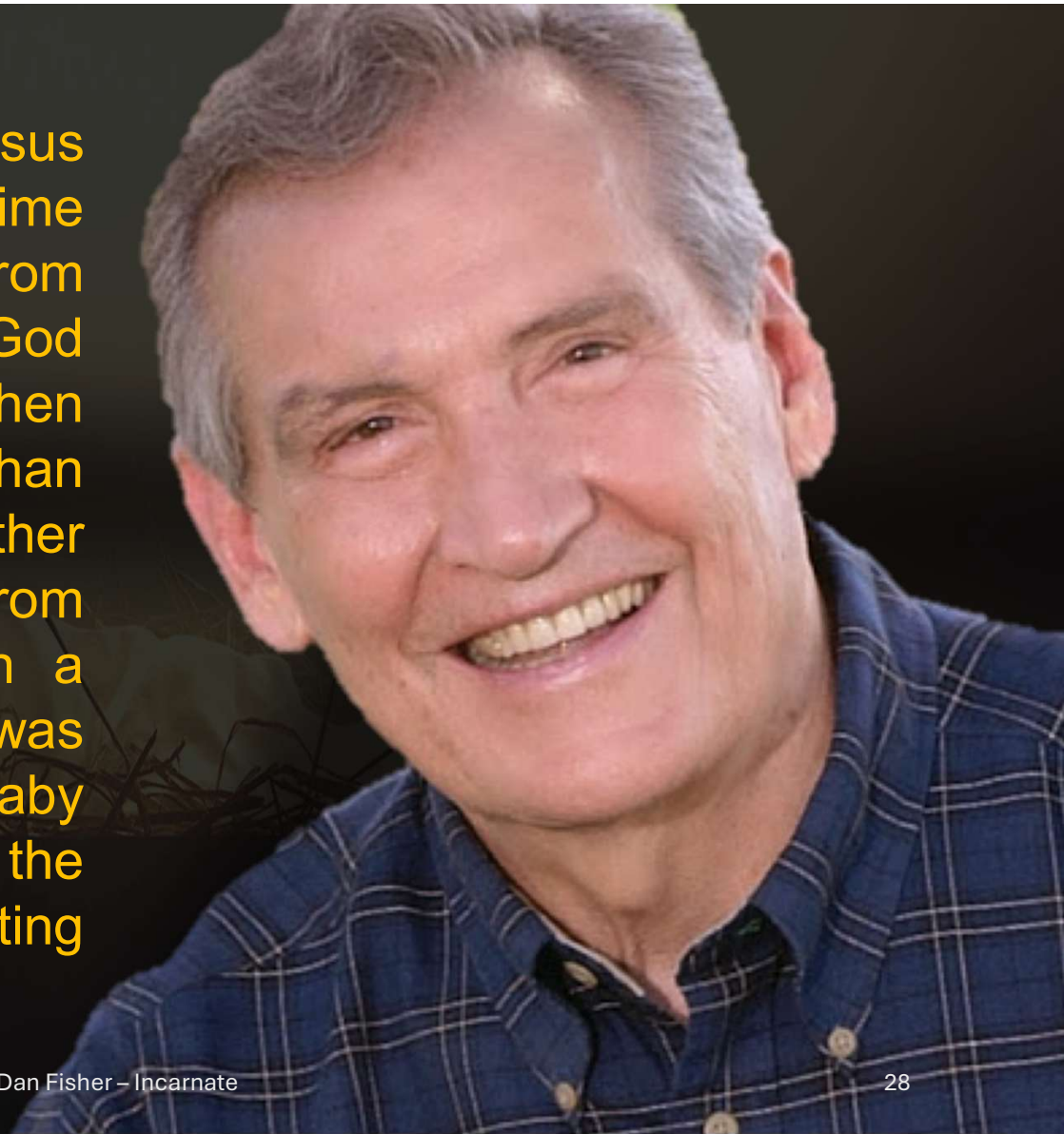
who, in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, ⁸ though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. ⁹ And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, **Heb 5:7-9**

Why did God go to such lengths?

- Jesus acts as man, because it is man who needs salvation
- In becoming human, He made a way for human beings to become children of God

But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. ¹⁰ In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered. ¹¹ Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. **Heb 2:9-11**

“There never was a time when Jesus was not. There never will be a time when Jesus is not. A billion years from now, He will still be God. He is God from everlasting to everlasting. When Jesus was born, He was older than His mother and as old as His Father because He was the Son from Heaven. Jesus did not begin in a manger. He came to earth and was manifest in a manger. This little baby wrapped in swaddling clothes was the great, eternal, uncreated, self-existing Word made flesh.



The little baby in Luke 2 is the mighty God of Genesis 1. He is the One who made it all. Before Him 'there was nothing that is made.' That little baby lying in the straw with dimpled feet is the One who swung planets into space. The little baby boy playing with shavings in Joseph's carpenter shop is God of very God. God manifested in the flesh." Adrian Rogers

