BIBLE LIFE MESSAGES

What the Incarnation is All About

Colossians 2:2-10

1 What the Incarnation is all about. 2

In First Timothy, chapter 6, verse 16, God's word says, God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. 3

God is so majestic, so far beyond our understanding, that we can't even imagine what He is like!

In fact no one is capable of seeing God and living. But, he said, you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.¹

Yet, God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden. Because He did, I believe He wants to fellowship with you and for you to get to know Him intimately! 4

So, the Incarnation happened. God became a man!

Our scripture today explained that the Incarnation happened and why. 5 Colossians, chapter 2, verses 2 through 10, explain, My purpose is that they may be

¹ Exodus 33:20.

encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is. ² ₆

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ. 3 ₇

² Colossians 2:2-5.

³ Colossians 2:6-8.

For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.

God did become a man! 8

I. How Do You Know?

How do you know? 9

The Bible describes Lord Jesus as actually being God! 10

First, Romans, chapter 8, verse 3, says that Jesus had to have a human body to be a sin offering. ⁴ 11

Second, Colossians, chapter 1, verse 22 tells us that Jesus had to die in a physical body to reconcile us to God. 5 ${}_{12}$

⁴ Romans 8:3 - For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son <u>in the likeness of sinful man</u> to be a sin offering.

⁵ Colossians 1:22 - But now he has <u>reconciled you by Christ's physical body</u> through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation . . .

So, verse 9 in our scripture today says, For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form. ₁₃ In fact, one of the names of Jesus is Emmanuel, which means, "God is with us". ⁶ ₁₄ The Word of God, Jesus, became flesh and dwelt among us. ⁷ ₁₅

The Bible actually calls Jesus God! In John, chapter 1, verse 18, from the New International Version that I normally use in these Bible Life Messages, it calls Jesus, <u>God</u>, <u>the One and Only</u>, who is at the Father's side. But in this verse, I like even better how the New American Standard Version translates it, Jesus is <u>the only begotten God</u> who is in the bosom of the Father. ₁₆

Second Corinthians, chapter 4, verse 4, calls the Lord the image of God. ⁸ 17

⁶ Matthew 1:23 - The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him "<u>Immanuel</u>" — which means, "<u>God with us</u>".

⁷ John 1:14 - The Word <u>became flesh and made his dwelling among us</u>. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

⁸ II Corinthians 4:4 - The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, <u>who is the image of God</u>.

So, how do I know God became a man? If Jesus had been only a mere man, there wouldn't have been a reason for the Bible to draw attention to His bodily existence! 18

So, the next question becomes . . .

II. Did God Just Wear a Human Body Like a Suite of Clothes?

Did God just wear a human body like a suite of clothes? 19

No. He was a total human being experiencing everything you experience. 20

Jesus suffered when He was tempted. ⁹ ₂₁ When He was tempted, He didn't sin! ¹⁰ ₂₂ Yet He had human weaknesses just like you and me. ¹¹ ₂₃

⁹ Hebrews 2:18 - Because he himself <u>suffered when he was tempted</u>, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

¹⁰ Hebrews 4:15 - For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been <u>tempted in every way</u>, just as we are — yet was without sin.

¹¹ Hebrews 5:2 - He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since <u>he himself is subject to weakness</u>.

The Lord's prayers were heard because of His submission; ¹² ₂₄ and He learned obedience from what He suffered. ¹³

God identified with your life perfectly. When you approach Him in prayer, He knows exactly where you're coming from. He's been there! 25

The Lord's human life is the ultimate success story. He lived a sinless life with all the weaknesses you have! 26

III. How Does Lord Jesus Being God Affect My Life?

How does Lord Jesus being God affect my life? 27

First, it should keep you away from the "Christian" cults! The cults have many obvious false teachings. They are usually built around a charismatic leader and

¹² Hebrews 5:7 - During the days of Jesus' life on earth, <u>he offered up prayers</u> <u>and petitions</u> with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and <u>he was heard because of his reverent submission</u>.

¹³ Hebrews 5:8 - Although he was a son, he <u>learned obedience from what he</u> <u>suffered</u>...

they often use other documents besides the Bible as "divine" authority for their beliefs. But the one thing they tend to have in common is they will deny the deity of Lord Jesus. That common practice is a sign to you of what they really are; a Christian counterfeit! ₂₈

Second, it shows you how God wants you to live. Read about His life and try to duplicate His values in your life. 29

Third, it should compel you to come to worship and express your adoration every Sunday to the One Who loved you enough to create you, provide for you and to die for you!

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