

The Incarnation of Christ

Introduction

- One of the most fundamental doctrines of the Bible and Christianity is that the pre-existent, Divine Christ became a man.
- “*Incarnation* is a term used by theologians to indicate that Jesus, the Son of God, took on human flesh.” – GotQuestions.org
- “The Scriptures present the Lord Jesus Christ as being at the same time perfectly human and perfectly divine.” – Lewis Sperry Chafer
- We will follow the outline from Henry Thiessen’s *Lectures in Systemic Theology*.

Reasons for the Incarnation

- To Confirm God’s Promises
 - Christ had to come to fulfill the prophecies and promises of God.
 - Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 7:14 & 9:6, Micah 5:2
- To Reveal the Father
 - John 1:18, 14:9, 16:27
- To Become a Faithful High Priest
 - “Let it be said with all reverence, that Christ came in order to enter into every human experience, apart from sin, that He might be fit as a High Priest.” - Thiessen
 - Hebrews 2:17-18, 5:1-5
- To Put Away Sin
 - He had to become a man to die as the sacrifice for our sins.
 - Mark 10:45, Hebrews 9:26, I John 3:5
- To Destroy the Works of the Devil
 - Hebrews 2:14-15, I John 3:8
- To Give Us an Example of a Holy Life
 - “Christ was the only One that was infallible in His teaching and in His character. It was necessary that we should have an illustration of what God wants us to be.” – Thiessen
 - Matthew 11:29, I John 2:6, I Peter 2:21
- To Prepare for the Second Advent
 - He had to first deal with the problem of sin before He can reign triumphantly.
 - Hebrews 9:28, Revelation 5:6

The Nature of the Incarnation

- He Emptied Himself
 - Philippians 2:7
 - It is clear that He did not fully forsake His divine attributes (John 2:24-25, etc.)
 - "...the Scriptures teach, when taken as a whole, that Christ merely surrendered the independent exercise of some of His relative or transitive attributes." – Thiessen.
- He Was Made in the Likeness of Men
 - His humanity was "like" ours, but without sin.
 - John 1:14, Romans 8:3

The Humanity of Christ

- He Had a Human Birth
 - Matthew 1:18-2:12, Luke 1:30-38 & 2:1-20, Romans 1:3, Galatians 4:4
- He Had a Human Development
 - Luke 2:40,52
- He Had the Essential Elements of Human Nature
 - He had a body – Hebrews 10:5,10
 - He had a soul – Matthew 26:38
 - He had a spirit – Mark 2:8, 8:12
- He Had Human Names
 - Jesus, Son of Abraham and David, Son of Man, etc.
- He Had the Sinless Infirmities of Human Nature
 - He was weary (John 4:6), hungry (Matthew 4:2), and thirsty (John 19:28).
- He Is Repeatedly Called a "Man"
 - John 1:30, 8:40, Acts 2:22