

The Biblical Description of the Incarnation

Introduction

A. If the human race were to unite in an effort to reach the height of imaginative improbability, no flight of fantasy, however bizarre, could conceive of the idea that God would – or could – become a member of the human race.

B. The amazing truth, however, is that God became a man! While retaining all that it meant to be God -- Jesus Christ became fully man.

I. He was to be born of a woman to defeat Satan, Genesis 3:15.

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed, it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise His heel.

Observation: This statement is the first announcement in the Bible of the birth of Jesus Christ* It was made to Satan in the Garden of Eden. The seed of the Woman (Jesus Christ) would bruise (crush) Satan's head and he would bruise (crush) the Savior's heel.

II. He was to be born of a virgin and be God-with-us, Isaiah 7:14.

Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call His name Immanuel.

Observation: Here the miracle of His birth is prophesied – He was to be born of a virgin. The meaning of this birth is found in His name, Immanuel – God-with-us.

III. He was to be born of divine initiative and rule forever, Isaiah 9:6,7.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David and upon His kingdom, to order it end to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The seal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Observation: The child (born of Mary) was born but the Son (Eternal God) was not born but given. His person is beyond compare as illustrated in His names and office. All of this is performed by divine sovereignty and finds its source in God's mercy and grace.

IV. He was to be born out of eternity into our time, Micah 5:2.

But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Observation: Jesus Christ was prophesied as to be born in Bethlehem and as having come out of eternity into our time. The amazing accuracy of the Bible together with its profundity of thought is an evidence of its divine authorship.

V. He was to be born a Savior and save His people. Matthew 1:21

And she shall bring forth a son and thou shalt call His name Jesus,
for He shall save His people from their sins.

Observations: What mankind needs the most Jesus Christ was born to fulfill.
We need deliverance from our sins. The preposition is important
-- there is no salvation in our sins.

VI. He was to be born the Christ and be a source of joy, Luke 2:10,11.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good
tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is
born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

Observation: In the birth of Jesus Christ all the Old Testament prophecies
concerning the coming of the Messiah suddenly became possible
of realization. Because He was born we need no longer be
fearful. The message and benefits of His birth will bring joy.

VII. He was to be born into our poverty and give us His riches, II Cor. 8:9.

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though He was rich,
yet for your sakes He became poor, that ye through His poverty might be
rich.

Observation: No one will ever know the spiritual "distance" Jesus Christ
had to travel to become a man. Riches to poverty is the theme
of this verse. He became poor so we would be given the riches
of His grace.

VIII. He was to be born in the fulness of time to redeem us, Galatians 4:4,5.

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made
of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law,
that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Observation: God arranged human languages, pointed out the poverty in
philosophy and literature, produced expectation in religion
and made the whole civilized world one under Rome – in
preparation for the birth of His Son. The purpose of all
this provision is to make possible our adoption.

IX. He was to be born a humble servant and be exalted above all, Phil. 2:6-9.

Who, being in the form of God thought it not robbery to be equal with
God, but made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a
servant and was made in the likeness of man. And being found in fashion
as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the
death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him and given
Him a name which is above every name.

Observation: Jesus Christ was willing to lay aside His glory and the
independent use of His attributes so that He could become the
servant and Savior of mankind. He is now our exalted Lord and
worthy of all praise.

Conclusion: Hebrews summarizes it all: But we see Jesus, Who was made a little
lower than the angels for the suffering of death, Crowned with glory
and honor that He by the grace of God should taste death for every
man. Hebrews 2:9

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