



IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH
SERIES: JESUS, ONLY JESUS
TITLE: 7 TRUTHS ABOUT THE INCARNATION
SCRIPTURE: VARIOUS SCRIPTURES
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INTRODUCTION

Today's lesson is a theological one, focusing on seven truths about the incarnation of Jesus. We will look at many Scriptures describing how God *sent* Jesus or how Jesus *came*. In this lesson, we've surveyed about 50–55 passages that refer to His incarnation.

Incarnation is the theological term for the act in which God the Son took on human nature. The Christmas season draws our attention to this miracle—God becoming flesh and being born of a virgin.

Before listing the seven truths, we must note how essential the doctrine of the incarnation is. First John 4:2–3 teaches that any version of Christianity that denies Jesus came in the flesh is not true Christianity: “By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.” To

deny the incarnation or the virgin birth is to reveal the influence of a false spirit rather than the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:3 emphasizes the necessity of the incarnation: “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.” The reason Jesus could condemn sin in our flesh is only because He took on flesh Himself. Hebrews 2:14 teaches the same truth: “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.”

The incarnation is not a secondary matter but a core doctrine. We should hold it tightly, teach it boldly, and worship joyfully because of what God has done in Christ.

Explanation

1. JESUS IS GOD’S ONLY SON

As the New Testament describes Jesus’ incarnation, we see the emphasis that He is God’s only Son. There is no one like Jesus, and we should not expect God to send another like Him. God’s only Son came once to live among us and accomplish our salvation. Therefore, we must look to Him and not ignore or reject Him. Hebrews 12:25 warns, “See that you do not refuse [Jesus] who is speaking. For if [the Israelites] did not escape when they refused [Moses] who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject [Jesus] who warns from heaven.” Notice the emphasis of the following verses:

- 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...
- 1 John 4:9 – In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent *his only Son* into the world, so that we might live through him.
- John 1:14 – And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of *the only Son* from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- John 3:16 – For God so loved the world, that he gave *his only Son*, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

2. GOD PLANNED THE INCARNATION

The Old Testament has numerous prophecies about Jesus' coming. Going all the way back to Abraham, we learn that God would bless all nations through one of his descendants (Gen. 12:3). God told King David that one of his offspring would establish a kingdom that would never end, and that this offspring would be a son to God the Father (2 Samuel 7:12–14). Isaiah famously prophesied that a “virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Immanuel” (Is. 7:14). Micah 5:2 tells us that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem. Some scholars estimate that there are somewhere between 300–450 Old Testament prophecies that Jesus fulfilled with His life.

Notice these verses about God planning to send His Son:

- Galatians 4:4 – But *when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law...*
- Hebrews 10:5 – Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a *body have you prepared for me;*”
- John 10:36 – Do you say of him whom the Father *consecrated and sent into the world*, ‘You are blaspheming,’ because I said, ‘I am the Son of God’?

3. IN THE INCARNATION, JESUS BECOMES LIKE US—FULLY MAN

This truth regarding the incarnation is incredibly vital. If Jesus did not become a man like us, then He could not achieve a righteousness on our behalf. As a man He is able to represent us before God. His righteous living as a man can atone for the sins of men.

We also see that our Savior can sympathize with us because He lived as we live. We can imitate Him because of His remarkable humility in leaving heaven to come to earth.

- 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.
- Romans 1:3 – ...concerning his Son, who was *descended from David* according to the flesh.
- Hebrews 2:14 – Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, *he himself likewise partook of the same things*, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.

- Hebrews 4:15 – For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who *in every respect has been tempted as we are*, yet without sin.
- John 1:14 – And the Word *became flesh* and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.
- Philippians 2:6–8 – ...who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but *emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant*, being born in the likeness of men. And being found *in human form*, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
- 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.
- Galatians 4:4 – But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, *born of woman*, born under the law...

4. IN THE INCARNATION, JESUS REMAINS FULLY GOD.

The truth that Jesus is fully man and fully God is difficult to comprehend. Yet we can be certain it is true because God's Word teaches it. We determine truth not simply by what we can comprehend or reason, but ultimately by God's revelation. Scripture clearly teaches that Jesus is fully God and fully man. We have clear statements of this doctrine as well as eyewitness accounts of Jesus demonstrating divinity.

- Colossians 2:9 – For *in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily*...
- John 3:31 – He who comes from above *is above all*.
- Hebrews 1:1–3 – Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, *through whom also he created the world*. 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.
- 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 anything made that was made. 4 In him was life, and the life was the light of men.
- John 17:21 – ...that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and *I in you*, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.

- Colossians 1:15–20 – 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*. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him *all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell*, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

5. GOD SENT JESUS

This aspect of the incarnation highlights that Jesus did not come independently from the Father. Rather, Jesus came in cooperation with and obedience to the Father. God sent Him. And as He was sent, Jesus obeyed the Father—doing only what the Father asked Him to do and saying only what the Father wanted Him to say. Jesus was on a mission from His Father and He faithfully fulfilled that mission.

- John 1:14 – And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son *from the Father*, full of grace and truth.
- John 8:42 – Jesus said to them, “If God were your Father, you would love me, for *I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me.*”
- John 12:49 – For I have not spoken on my own authority, but *the Father who sent me* has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.
- John 14:24 – ...And the word that you hear is not mine but *the Father's who sent me*.
- John 17:3 – And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and *Jesus Christ whom you have sent*.

6. JESUS REPRESENTS GOD

Because of the incarnation, we can know who God is. Jesus represents God the Father. In times past God revealed Himself in a variety of ways—through thunder, lightning, earthquakes, strong winds, an audible voice, prophetic

words, dreams, and visions. But now God has revealed Himself through His Son, who represents the Father perfectly. We can know God if we know the Son.

- 1 John 4:9 – In this the love of God was *made manifest among us*, that God sent *his only Son* into the world, so that we might live through him.
- Colossians 1:15 – He is *the image of the invisible God*, the firstborn of all creation.
- John 1:9 – The true light, *which gives light to everyone*, was coming into the world.
- 1 John 1:1–2 – That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—*the life was made manifest*, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, *which was with the Father and was made manifest to us*—
- John 1:14 – And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and *we have seen his glory*, glory as of the only Son *from the Father*, full of grace and truth.

7. JESUS' INCARNATION DEMANDS A RESPONSE

In light of Jesus coming to earth, we must respond with faith in Him. If we deny Jesus or choose to ignore Him, we will die in our sins. Jesus is the only solution for sin—the only way made possible by God for sins to be atoned for. If we refuse to listen to Him, we will perish. But if we choose to submit to Jesus and believe in Him, then we will have eternal life. Taking a neutral position toward Jesus is not an option. We must believe!

- John 9:39 – Jesus said, “For judgment *I came into this world*, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”
- Luke 12:49–51 – *I came to cast fire on the earth*, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that *I have come to give peace on earth*? No, I tell you, but rather division.
- John 16:28 – *I came from the Father and have come into the world*, and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.
- Hebrews 9:28 – so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, *not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him*.
- John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that *whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life*.

Discussion Questions

- Which stands out to you about Jesus after hearing these Scriptures?
- What stands out to you about God the Father after hearing these Scriptures?
- Based off what we've read about the incarnation, how might you describe the relationship between the Father and the Son?
- What is your impression for how our culture thinks about the virgin birth? Do you think our culture thinks the virgin birth is more of a fairy tale or a real miracle? In other words, do you think the virgin birth is a stumbling block for some to believe?
- Why is the doctrine of the incarnation foundational for Christianity? Why is it a core doctrine and not considered a "secondary doctrine?"
- Does anything seem confusing to you about the incarnation?