



He, the God-man, is born to a young virgin in a small hick town. His birth is the occasion for a lifetime of slander for Mary – the unmarried, teen mom (however primitive you insist first century Palestine was, you must remember that they knew virgins don't get pregnant). His first cradle is an animal's slop bucket – that's where the eternal Son of God sleeps for the first time in his human nature. All of heaven came to announce the most important event in human history to men from one of the most despised classes in society: shepherds, people who no one would listen to. Heaven designated the most obscure and insignificant people to serve as hype men for the Messiah. In his life, God the Son chose country bumpkins and mobsters and hookers to be his followers during his earthly ministry. God contrived a gospel message that none of us could rightly embrace with a haughty attitude. We must stoop down from our prideful self-sufficiency to lay all our hopes on a Savior who was weak and fragile. Christ came to us low, so low, in fact, that you have to stoop to receive him. Since human beings couldn't seem to stop worshiping creation instead of the Creator, the Creator became a creature to accommodate our limitations! That's what God does for us in the incarnation: he stoops and makes himself available." Samuel G. Parkison

1. He descended from _____

"form" = Greek term *morphē* means the _____ of something

"He was existing in the form of God. He has always, is always, will always exist in the form of God."

John MacArthur

the self-emptying of Jesus = _____

- Emptied out His _____
- Emptied out His _____
- Emptied out His _____
- Emptied out His _____
- Emptied out His _____

"He didn't lose His attributes – none of them. He simply set aside the independent, free exercise of all His attributes." John MacArthur

2. He descended to _____

He became something He had _____ before

“form” (bondservant) = Greek term *morphē* means the essential nature of something

“appearance” (as a man) = Greek schema, the _____; what people

“The Word by whom all time was created was born in time for us. He without whose divine permission no day completes its course wished to have one day for His human birth. The Maker of man became Man: that He, the Bread, might be hungry; that He, the Fountain, might thirst; that He, the Light, might sleep; that He, the Way, might be wearied by the journey; that He, the Truth, might be accused by false witnesses; that He, the Judge of the living and the dead, might be brought to trial by a mortal judge; that He, Justice, might be condemned by the unjust; that He, Discipline, might be scourged with whips; that He, the Foundation, might be suspended on a cross; that He, Courage, might be weakened; that He, Security, might be wounded; that He, Life, might die. To endure these and similar indignities for us, to free us, unworthy creatures ... He did this although He who submitted to such great evils for our sake had done no evil and although we, who were the recipients of so much good at His hands, had done nothing to merit these benefits.” St. Augustine

3. He descended to _____

From a _____ to a _____

“In humility He left the comfort and peace of Galilee. In humility He was baptized by John. In humility He identified with the sins of His people. In humility He bore their sins in His own body on the cross. For all of that He was exalted by the Father and given a place in glory. In humility He was tempted in the wilderness. In humility He fasted in repentance for the sins of the nation. In humility He trusted in the Father right through Satan’s fierce temptations, refusing the fulfillment of God’s promise on His own terms, even refusing angelic assistance, refusing national honor, and waiting on the Father’s will. In humility He told His disciples He was going to die. In humility He told them they were going to have to follow a similar path. In humility He submitted to unfair trials and degradation, shame, agonizing death, sin bearing, the wrath of God, the judgment of His Father.” John MacArthur