

THE BIBLE PROJECT 2.03

NT 2: *INCARNATION*

The Fullness of Time is the LAST MINUTE OF OT ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE.



BIG IDEA 1:

The Word became flesh and “dwelt” among us, and we beheld his glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.—John 1:14

Who does the world think Jesus is?

John Knox: “I, for one, simply cannot imagine a sane human being, of any historical period or culture, entertaining the thoughts about himself which the Gospels, as they stand, often attribute to him.”

--John Knox, *The Death of Christ*, p. 58

21st Century citizenship record

- Name: Jesus Bar-Joseph
- Birthplace: Bethlehem, Judea
- Date born: Herod, King of the Jews
- Father: Joseph, Tribe of Judah
- Mother: Mary, Tribe of Levi
- Siblings: James, Joses, Judas, Simon and several sisters [see Mark 6.3]
- Home: Nazareth, Galilee
- Occupation: Builder

List some stereotypical characterizations of who Jesus is:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Throughout history, the claim that Jesus is by nature both God and man has been challenged and disbelieved. So this lesson is to nail down that the biblical record is clear and unambiguous on the subject. Jesus is the WORD MADE FLESH. Jesus does not “discover” a god-quality in his otherwise human life, nor is his baptism a time when his “God-consciousness” comes into his ministry. Jesus is not an example of an ordinary human being who with study, prayer and self-effort raises his ordinary existence to the divine level. Jesus is not merely “divine” (meaning “god-like”). He is Deity, in actuality both God and man.

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke record the “virgin” conception of Jesus. The point is INCARNATION. That has given biblical scholars and theologians a lot of heartburn through the ages. It is currently not believed by at least half of the Pastors ordained in the Presbyterian Church USA. Nor is that belief required for ordination in PCUSA.

But this lesson is to clarify that the Bible does not leave the question of the God-Man nature of Jesus in confusion.

INCARNATION - WORD AND MEANING.

The word

“In”-Latin means “INTO”

“Carn” as in “carnivore” or “carnal” means “FLESH”

“ation” — means “act of being made”

Meaning

So the act of being made into flesh must mean that God is not already in human flesh. He comes from outside our material embodiment.

That can only be true if God is not already somehow inside the world.

A god who is already inside his or her creation can not come into it.

So the meaning here is that only a Creator who stands outside of his creation can come into it.

Incarnation then substantiates the biblical view of Creation as being an object formed by a Creator who is not himself part of that Creation. Creation is not self-generated.

In order to have Christmas, we must have a Creation.

Examine John 1: 1-18—The Prologue of the Gospel of John JB Phillips Paraphrase:

¹⁻⁵ At the beginning God expressed himself. That personal expression, that word, was with God, and was God, and he existed with God from the beginning. All creation took place through him, and none took place without him. In him appeared life and this life was the light of mankind. The light still shines in the darkness and the darkness has never put it out.

⁶⁻⁸ A man called John was sent by God as a witness to the light, so that any man who heard his testimony might believe in the light. This man was not himself the light: he was sent simply as a personal witness to that light.

⁹⁻¹³ That was the true light which shines upon every man as he comes into the world. He came into the world—the world he had created—and the world failed to recognize him. He came into his own creation, and his own people would not accept him. Yet wherever men did accept him he gave them the power to become sons of God. These were the men who truly believed in him, and their birth depended not on the course of nature nor on any impulse or plan of man, but on God.

¹⁴⁻¹⁸ So the word of God became a human being and lived among us. We saw his splendour (the splendour as of a father's only son), full of grace and truth. And it was about him that John stood up and testified, exclaiming: "Here is the one I was speaking about when I said that although he would come after me he would always be in front of me; for he existed before I was born!" Indeed, every one of us has shared in his riches—there is a grace in our lives because of his grace. For while the Law was given by Moses, love and truth came through Jesus Christ. It is true that no one has ever seen God at any time. Yet the divine and only Son, who lives in the closest intimacy with the Father, has made him known.

NIV John 1. 1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² He was with God in the beginning. ³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome^[a] it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹

² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

¹⁵ (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶ Out of his fullness we have all received **grace in place of grace already given**. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and^[b] is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

BIG IDEA 2 THE NAMES OF JESUS DEMONSTRATE INCARNATION

Mt 1.23	Emmanuel	ADD THESE:	
Mt 3.17	Beloved Son	Lk 2.11	Savior
Mt 4.3	Son of God (Satan)	Lk 7.16	Great Prophet
Mt 8.2	Lord	Lk 7.34	Glutton, drunkard
Mt 8.19	Teacher	Lk 7.34	Friend of pub & sinners
Mt. 12.23	Son of David	Lk 9.35	My Chosen
Mt. 13.55	Carpenter's son	Lk 19.38	the King who comes
Mt. 16.13	the Christ/Messiah	Jn 1.29	Lamb of God
Mt 26.49	Master	Jn 1.38	Rabbi
Mt. 26.69	the Galilean	Jn 1.41	Messiah
Mt 27.11	King of the Jews	Jn 1.45	Jesus of Nazareth, Son of Joseph
Mt. 27.42	King of Israel (thief)	Jn 9.24	sinner
		Jn 18.30	evildoer
		Jn 20. 16	Rabboni
		Jn 20.28	Lord and God

BIG IDEA 3: JESUS' SELF-CLAIMS USE THE DIVINE NAME

Check out Gospel of John for titles Jesus takes for himself (the I AM sayings), starting in John 4 and list as many as you find. **SEE ATTACHED LIST OF "I AM" STATEMENTS.**

BIG IDEA 4: REACTIONS TO JESUS' CLAIMS:

Mk 2.6-7	Blasphemy!
Mt 26. 63-65	Son of man coming on the clouds→ Blasphemy -- execution
Jn 8. 59	Stoning
Lk 4. 28-29	Throw him off cliff at Nazareth

Additional reactions to some of his claims

Mk 15.61	Son of Blessed One, I am	tore clothes and Blasphemy! → Crucifixion
Jn 10.31	The Father & I are one	Stoning—You are making yourself God
Jn 10.20	He has a demon	

ADDITIONAL NT EVIDENCE FOR THE NATURE OF JESUS

BIG IDEA 5: Assertions of some of his followers

Col 1. 15-16	He is the image of the invisible God, firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created through him and for him.
Heb 1. 1-4	...In these last days God has spoken to us by a Son ... He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God very being ...
Jn 20. 26-28	My Lord and My God
Titus 2. 11-13	the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ.
2 Pet 1.1	Through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

BIG IDEA 6: Jesus' words were God's words

Disciples:	Jn 3.34	He whom God sent speaks the words of God
Jesus	Jn 12. 49	For I have not spoken on my own, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment about what to say and what to speak.
Jesus invitation is God's invitation	Mk 9. 37b	Whoever welcomes me, welcomes not me, but the one who sent me.
Jesus rejection tantamount to rejecting God	Lk 10. 16	Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me.

BIG IDEA 7: Jesus on his own nature:

Jesus use of Amen and Abba—Absolutely unique

Amen deals with aspects of the kingdom bound up with his person

Abba – intimate and never used elsewhere, Mk 14.36, R 8.15, Gal 4.6

Maranatha – 1 Cor 16.22 *Maranatha* & close of REV: 22:20 “come Lord” in Greek:

ερχου κυριε

BIG IDEA 8: JESUS CLAIMS AUTHORITY

Jesus and the Law of Moses

Matthew 5, *But I say*

The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath

The Authority of Jesus

He forgave sins, Mark 2, Luke 7

Inclusion/exclusion—Mt 12.28 – If I by the spirit of God cast out demons, then kingdom has come

Response to Jesus was entrance qualification—Mt 7.21, Not everyone who says, Lord, Lord...

Lk 22.29—I confer on you, just as my Father has conferred on me, a kingdom, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom

Mt 10.32 – He who acknowledges me before men, I will acknowledge before my father in heaven, but whoever denies me ... I will deny

Jesus expects no successors – a curious fact noted by CFD Moule

BIG IDEA 9: OTHER CLAIMS ABOUT JESUS

Mk 14.61 Son of the Blessed

Lk 9.35

My Chosen

Lk 2.11 Savior

Lk 19.38

the King who comes

Lk 7.16 Great Prophet

Lk 7.34 Glutton, drunkard

Jn 1.29

Lamb of God

Lk 7.34 Friend of publicans & sinners

BIG IDEA 10: HISTORY'S RECOGNITION OF THE NATURE OF JESUS

IN The Nicene Creed—Nicene Creed came from the controversy over whether Jesus was “like God” or “was the same nature as God”. 325 AD. This struggle over Incarnation is not new.

We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
begotten from the Father before all ages,

God from God,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,

begotten, not made;
of the same essence as the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
he became incarnate by the Holy
Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.

He was crucified for us under Pontius
Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.

The third day he rose again, according
to the Scriptures.

He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the
Father.

He will come again with glory
to judge the living and the dead.
His kingdom will never end.

And we believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life.

He proceeds from the Father and the
Son,

and with the Father and the Son is
worshiped and glorified.

He spoke through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and
apostolic church.

We affirm one baptism for the forgiveness
of sins.

We look forward to the resurrection of the
dead,
and to life in the world to come. Amen.

"I AM" STATEMENTS OF JESUS IN JOHN'S GOSPEL

- JOH 6:35 Then Jesus declared, "***I am the bread of life.*** He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."
- JOH 6:48 ***I am the bread of life.***
- JOH 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "***I am the light of the world.***"
- JOH 9:5 While I am in the world, ***I am the light of the world.***"
- JOH 10:7 Therefore Jesus said again, "I tell you the truth, ***I am the gate for the sheep.***
- JOH 10:9 ***I am the gate;*** whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.
- JOH 10:11 ***"I am the good shepherd.*** The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- JOH 10:14 ***"I am the good shepherd;*** I know my sheep and my sheep know me . . .
- JOH 10:36 what about the one whom the Father set apart as his very own and sent into the world? ***Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'?***
- JOH 11:25 Jesus said to her, "***I am the resurrection and the life.*** He who believes in me will live, even though he dies;
- JOH 14:6 Jesus answered, "***I am the way and the truth and the life.*** No one comes to the Father except through me.
- JOH 15:1 ***"I am the true vine,*** and my Father is the gardener.
- JOH 15:5 ***"I am the vine;*** you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.
- Unpredicated
- JOH 4:26 "***I am*** [he], the one who is speaking to you."
- JOH 8: 24 I told you that you would die in your sins, for you will die in your sins unless you believe that ***I am*** [he].
- JOH 8:28 When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will realize that ***I am*** [he], and that I do nothing on my own, but speak these things as the Father instructed me.
- JOH 8:58 "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "***before Abraham was born, I am!***"
- JOH 13:19 I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that ***I am*** [he].

The Bible Project 2.0

Consider the following if you choose to prepare for next class:

Skim as much of The Gospel of Luke as you are able and note the details that describe Jesus' humanity. Make a list.

Read also:

- Phil. 2. 5-11
- Heb. 1. 1-4; 2. 14-18
- Rom. 1.3
- Jn 8.40
- **In what ways were Jesus the man and Adam the man alike? In what ways different?**

Could Jesus have yielded to temptation?

What do these scriptures show? Mk 1.35, 6.46, 7.34; Lk 3.21, 6.12-13, 9.29, 22.44; Jn 8.26.

What is the main observation in these texts? Mk 14.36, 39; Jn 4.34, 5.30, 6.38, 8.29, 10. 36-38, 17. 4

MARKERS:

Mark 2	Jesus' home town is _____
Matt 9, Mark 2, Luke 5	Paralytic healed, roof ruined
Matt 6, Luke 11	Lord's Prayer
Luke 7	Son of Widow of Nain raised

BIG IDEA RECAP

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BIG IDEA 2 THE NAMES OF JESUS DEMONSTRATE INCARNATION

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BIG IDEA 4: REACTIONS TO JESUS' CLAIMS:

BIG IDEA 5: ASSERTIONS OF SOME OF HIS FOLLOWERS

BIG IDEA 6: JESUS' WORDS WERE GOD'S WORDS

BIG IDEA 7: JESUS ON HIS OWN NATURE:

BIG IDEA 8: JESUS CLAIMS AUTHORITY

BIG IDEA 9: OTHER CLAIMS ABOUT JESUS

BIG IDEA 10: HISTORY'S RECOGNITION OF THE NATURE OF JESUS