



GOD DWELT AMONG US



In this chapter you will ...

- (1) Recognize how everything pointed to this moment in Biblical history.
- (2) Understand the significance of the incarnation.
- (3) See the beauty of the Trinity in salvation.
- (4) Embrace Jesus, fully God and fully man.

John 1:1-18 - God Became Flesh

One of the most mysterious and marvelous truths of the Gospel is the fact that God left heaven to come to earth as a man. The Son, as the second member of the Trinity, *“did not consider equality a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself being made in the likeness of men”* (Philippians 2:6-7). Why? So that all the promises of the King who would come might be fulfilled, AND so that His life might be the spotless lamb able to absorb the full wrath of God for fallen men. Jesus, the Son of God, God-very-God, the Eternal Word of God became flesh to dwell among sinful men and be *“made sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him”* (2 Corinthians 5:21). The life and ministry of Jesus is summarized in John 1:14 - *“we have seen His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”* All His teaching and every miracle was to show men what God the Father is like ... full of grace and truth.



Incarnation Is The Answer

From the very beginning God was making promises to restore what Satan and sin had destroyed. And all along the way people would have been asking - “Is this the one?” Is it Isaac? Is Samuel the one? Surely it’s King David? And in every case we find they are only pointing to another yet to come. When this Promised One came, what would He be like? How would we know Him? How would God *do it*? Well, here is how the Father did it. His unique Son becoming a man. A king who is God. A perfect man to save sinful men. God satisfying the very demands of the law He gave. Incarnation is the answer!

What Does It Mean To “Be Like Jesus”?



We must be clear about how we teach obedience, morality, and holiness from the life of Christ. We *cannot* be like Jesus. We aren’t God, don’t have perfect knowledge, and can’t perform miracles. Just as we have been careful to not point to the “heroes” of the Old Testament and say - “Be like them”, so we do not say “Be like Jesus.” Jesus did not come to set a good example for us to follow, He came to make us followers. Jesus did not teach a list of rules for us to obey, He came to obey the law perfectly on our behalf. He is first and foremost A *Savior!* And when we have been transformed by the Savior, we are now able to be an obedient son as He was to His Father. We are now able to reveal truth to others, as He did to us. His incarnation becomes the blueprint for our mission - Incarnational Ministry. We now live and speak “grace and truth” pointing people to the glory of the Father!

Story-Tellers Takeaways ...

- (1) Jesus was born and the highpoint of the Biblical story was upon us.
- (2) The incarnation was the Father’s answer to the problem of sin.
- (3) During the life of Jesus we have the most amazing picture of the Trinity in action ... the Father revealing Himself through the Son, and the Son’s strengthening and empowering through the Spirit.
- (4) When you come to understand who Jesus is, you can’t respond in any other way than worship.

My Notes:

How to Read the Story ... the Big into the Small, and the Small into the Big ... all to Penetrate Our Hearts!

Feathers - You must have an understanding of the epic narrative of God's story ... this is Biblical Theology that guides our reading of the story.

Shaft - You must approach each text of Scripture honestly and openly ... this is Exposition of Scripture that shapes our understanding of the story.

Point - You must have a soft heart to worship the author of the story ... this is Gospel Centeredness that changes life.

For Discussion:

- (1) What is harder for you to embrace: The humanity of Christ or the deity of Christ? Why?
- (2) Discuss Romans 3:21-26 and the significance of God being both the "just and justifier"?
- (3) How does understanding the whole story enrich and fill in your understanding of the events of Jesus' life? The virgin birth? His baptism? His teaching on the Father? His temptation?
- (4) Describe just what your life should look like if you are going to model your life of ministry after the incarnational life of mission that Jesus lived. Where do you need to repent and grow?