

JESUS' INCARNATION

Week 1 – JROC - God With Us!

November 27, 2022

Luke 2:25-35 - ²⁵ And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: ²⁹ Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; ³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation ³¹ Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, ³² A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel. ³³ And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ³⁵ (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

How did Simeon know these things?

Luke 2:36-38 - ³⁶ Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; ³⁷ and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. ³⁸ And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. Who gave Anna this insight? How did she know that there was a connection between the baby Jesus and redemption?

OT prophecy! Messianic prophecy? Is prophecy significant?!

How do we know that Jesus is THE Messiah? What does Messiah mean? Who were those who were anointed in Biblical times?

Prophets, priests, kings. There were many messiahs, weren't there? Do we believe that Jesus is THE Messiah? (Psa. 2; Isa. 61:1; [cross reference]. Jesus fulfilled all three roles: Prophet, Priest, and King)

One of Jesus' titles/names, The Branch:

Isa. 11:1-2 - *There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. ² The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might.* God's judgment was coming on Judah, and the nation would be left with nothing but a seemingly lifeless "stump," but there would be life yet. God promised to retain a remnant to carry on His work and the bloodline of King David. What seemed to be a dead, decaying stump would bring forth

new life in the Messiah, Jesus Christ. What a paradox – a contradiction. There is no contradiction in God's AMAZING plan of redemption!

This was NEW LIFE promised through the One Who would be known as THE BRANCH. Jer. 23:5-6 - "*Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment*

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and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this is His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

And, it is in this message of the Messiah Jesus – the DELIVERER – Who came into the world at His incarnation – God in the flesh - in Bethlehem Ephrathah (Micah 5:2) – that we also have the message of His death! How do we know? Messianic prophecies (Gen. 3:15; Gen. 22:8; Psalms 22; Isaiah 53....)

Acts 13:22-23 – Paul spoke to Jews in their synagogue in Antioch, sharing with them the history of Israel from Genesis, Exodus, through Deuteronomy, Judges, and I & II Samuel - **22** *And when He (God) had removed him, (King Saul – whom the children of Israel should NOT have asked for – and in so doing, they REJECTED God as King) He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'* **23** *From this man's seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus.*

The Promised One Who is the Word of God came as IMMANUEL What does this name of Jesus mean? God in the flesh; deity arriving to this earth which He had created and offered life eternal; deity arriving to this earth in bodily form. GOD WITH US!

SO? What does GOD WITH US mean to US – to you - to me?

This One Who came as GOD WITH US promised to be with us every hour of every day of our lives! Have we realized that Jesus has come to abide/remain with us even through the drudgery of our days? He desires to weep with us and to wipe away our tears. Jesus longs to be the source of our PEACE and JOY. Jesus is Sar Shalom, the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6). Gal. 5:22-23 – *The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control.*

Jesus lives within us - we who are believers in/followers of Him.

John 17:20-26 – In the Garden of Gethsemane, the night before He was crucified, Jesus prayed, *I do not pray for these alone (the disciples), but also for those who will believe in Me through their word (us); 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me. 24 Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that*

they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.” There can be no “ordinary” moment for us, we who live our lives with Immanuel, God with us, knowing that He dwells within us! Do we forget?

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CONSIDER: If Jesus had come as HIMSELF – God the Son from eternity past – and had not come as one of us to identify with us – we could not bear the sight of His presence!

Moses could not look at the face of God!

I Tim. 6:15b-16 – says of God ¹⁶ *who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.*

IMAGINE; being at the Father’s side one moment and being carried in the womb of one whom He had created and then coming from that warm womb into the cold night air, coming into the world, cleansed by the hands of one whom He had created, swaddled in cloths over his entire little body, laid in a manger a feeding trough!

Imagine what it would be like to hear the praises of angels one moment and the next moment hear the sounds of lambs and voices of two humans.

We can only, perhaps, begin to understand God’s INCREDIBLE gift of HIMSELF for us!

Phil. 2:6-11 - *who, being in the form (morphe – essential being/nature/unchanging character of GOD) of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God (“robbery” Jesus did not consider it anything that He had to cling to) ** to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

****** Jesus did not empty Himself of His divine attributes. Jesus remained fully God: “*in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form*” (Col. 2:9). It’s better to think of Jesus’ “emptying” of Himself as a laying aside of the *privileges* that were His in heaven. Jesus “made Himself of no reputation” when He came to earth. He gave up the independent exercise of His attributes. He veiled His glory, and He chose to occupy the position of a bondservant.

The kenosis was a self-renunciation, not an emptying Himself of deity. Nor was it an exchange of deity for humanity. Jesus never ceased to be God during any part of His earthly ministry. He voluntarily refrained from using His divinity to make His way easier. During His earthly ministry, Christ completely submitted Himself to the will of the Father ([John 5:19](#)).

When it comes to the kenosis, we often focus too much on what Jesus gave up. The kenosis also deals with what Christ took on. Jesus added to His divine nature a human nature as He humbled Himself for us. Jesus went from being the glory of glories in heaven to being a human being who was put to death on the cross. [Philippians 2:7–8](#) declares, “Taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to

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death—even death on a cross!” In the ultimate act of humility, the God of the universe became a human being and died for His creation. The kenosis is the act of Christ taking on a human nature with all of its limitations, except with no sin.

God with us. This is Jesus Who *made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant.*

In Jesus we see HUMILITY and SERVANTHOOD.

This is our Jesus Who, *humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.* ⁹ *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,* ¹⁰ *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,* ¹¹ *and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

What a radical reversal! Jesus Who refused glory and made Himself of NO REPUTATION we will see as the One Who is exalted ABOVE ALL. AND every knee will bow before Him...of those in heaven and of those on earth and of those under the earth (I Pet. 3:18-19) and every tongue will confess that Jesus the MESSIAH is Lord – to the glory of God the Father!

THIS IS CHRISTMAS!

THIS IS IMMANUEL...

This is the One Who is with us...Who lives within those who have...*received Him, to whom He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*