

## JESUS' INCARNATION

JROC - Week 2 – This is Such a Strange Way to Save the World

December 4, 2022

Gal. 4:4 - *when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born<sup>[a]</sup> of a woman, born under the law,*

The significance of Christmas will never be lost!

- Jesus was born into CHAOS!!! On purpose!
- Jesus was born into a dark and violent world! On purpose!
- 6 BC was a LOUSY time to be born! 6 BC?

Herod the Great died approx. 4 BC. Herod decreed the slaying of Hebrew male babies...2 years and younger...bringing the year back to 6 BC.

The Magi told Herod of the star that appeared approx. 6 BC.

Matt. 2:16 - *Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men – 6 BC.*

The world of Jesus was NOT the OT Hebrew world:

Israel was multicultural.

There was much Greek influence which taught that man, not God, was at the center of the universe!

Gentile nations were ruling over Israel and oppressing them with high taxation and cruel puppet rulers (Rome placed Herod as King over Israel – and Herod [who was a madman] wasn't Jewish [through the line of Esau – Idumean]).

There was much inner corruption. There was no King on Israel's throne. The High Priest was the highest office. Yet, the High Priest was unqualified as he was not from the correct line of the priesthood (Zadok; Num. 25)

The religious Jewish leadership was complying too often w/ Rome.

Jews were at odds with each other: Pharisees, Sadducees, Zealots, Essenes...

The significance of Christmas lives on in those who hear and see. “Do you Hear what I Hear? Do you See what I See?” speaks volumes! The significance of Christmas will never die!

We can comprehend the POWER of Christmas (Isa. 7:14 –

God in the flesh/God with us)...because of God’s GREAT LOVE (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8)...because of God’s desire to dwell with us (Ex. 25:8)...because of God’s sacrifice of Himself (Isa. 53; Acts 20:28). Because of God’s GRACE!

This is such a strange way to save the world! BUT it is God’s way and it is PERFECT!!!

I Cor. 1:18 - *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.*

God’s amazing love for us is in neon in Phil. 2:6-11.

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IMAGINE; being at the Father’s side one moment in heaven and then, the next moment, 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 to hear the sounds of lambs and voices of two humans.

IMAGINE, and then we can only, PERHAPS, begin to understand what it cost God to give 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 His deity anything that He had to seize/steal; He IS GOD), <sup>7</sup> *but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.* <sup>8</sup> *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.* <sup>9</sup> *Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,* <sup>10</sup> *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, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Jesus is God. He did not empty Himself of His deity. He gave up the independent use of His attributes as God...for a time...to come in the appearance of man (Phil. 2:8)...to sacrifice His life for us.

Jesus did not empty Himself of His deity. Jesus remained fully God. Col. 2:9 - “in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form.”

Jesus voluntarily laid aside the independent exercise of His attributes. He “made Himself of no reputation.” He veiled His glory (other than in Matt. 17 when we see Jesus on the Mt. of Transfiguration) and He chose to occupy the position of a slave.

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 did set aside His heavenly glory. He also voluntarily refrained from using His divinity to make His way easier.

CONSIDER: Jesus could have come down from the cross – but He didn’t!

During His earthly ministry, Christ completely submitted Himself to the will of the Father ([John 5:19](#)).

As part of the kenosis, Jesus operated within the limitations of humanity. God does not get tired or thirsty, but Jesus did ([John 4:6](#); [19:28](#)). God knows all things, but it seems that, at least once, Jesus voluntarily surrendered the use of His omniscience ([Matthew 24:36 – only My Father in heaven knows the hour that I will come](#)). Other times, Jesus’ omniscience was on full display ([Luke 6:8](#); [John 13:11](#); [18:4](#)).

When it comes to the kenosis, we often focus solely 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 the glories in heaven to being a human

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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 death—even death on a cross!” In the ultimate act of humility, the God of the universe became a human being – while fully God - and died for His creation.

The kenosis is the act of Jesus 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.* <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also has *highly exalted Him* and given Him the name which is above every name, <sup>10</sup> 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, <sup>11</sup> and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

WHAT A RADICAL REVERSAL!

Jesus refused glory while on earth...

John 17:5 - *And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.*

...and made Himself of NO REPUTATION...

...to 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 – Jesus preached HIS VICTORY/TRIUMPH to the fallen angels/the spirits-demons in prison after His crucifixion and before His resurrection while in the tomb three days and three nights) 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 IN us – those of us who have “received” Him (John 1:12-13) – *to whom He gave the right to become children of God (us) to those who believe in His name (ALL Who He is), who were born (born again; born from above; born of the Holy Spirit) NOT of blood nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but OF GOD!*

GLORY HALLELUJAH!

Continue to ponder re: what the BIG PICTURE of Christmas might be....