



**Monday, December 25, 2017
Combined Christmas Service
The Reason For The Incarnation**

Christmas is that season of the year when we pause to remember the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ that took place about 2000 years ago.

This baby that was born in a humble manger in Bethlehem was actually God Incarnate.

His name is Immanuel, meaning God with us.

There are several passages of Scripture that reiterate that Jesus Christ was God incarnate...God becoming Man.

Micah 5:2

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."

Philippians 2:6-11 (Contemporary English Version)

6 Christ was truly God. But he did not try to remain equal with God.

7 Instead he gave up everything and became a slave, when he became like one of us.

8 Christ was humble. He obeyed God and even died on a cross.

9 Then God gave Christ the highest place and honored his name above all others.

10 So at the name of Jesus everyone will bow down, those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth.

11 And to the glory of God the Father everyone will openly agree, "Jesus Christ is Lord!"

The main question I wish for us to consider is:

Why would God need to incarnate?

Why Would God need to come as a human person to the earth? What need was there for God to come visit this planet?

What is the reason (or reasons) for the incarnation? and related to this are other questions we may ask:

Why come as a feeble human being?

Why didn't God come as 'God' in all of His omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence? (This would have made it real easy for all of us to recognize that God had come!). Why did God come born in a stable - as a feeble human being?

Why a gruesome Cross?

If the whole purpose of the Incarnation was to save us from sin and its consequences - why the Cross? Why not some other way less gruesome way? Couldn't God have just said, I forgive all of you and just wipe away all our sins?



What about before and after?

Why did He come at that time in human history - why not earlier or later? What about sins committed before His coming, and what about sins committed after His coming?

What about other groups of people?

Why did He chose that group of people - why not some other group? And since God incarnated to one people group, should we therefore also assume that each people group will have their own personal version of incarnation of God?

Would God need to Incarnate multiple times?

Is there a need for several incarnations - whether for God to reveal Himself to various people groups or for God to reveal Himself across time? Would the idea of several/multiple incarnations even be valid?

So lets start at the very beginning....well, maybe before the beginning.

Before the beginning, God...

Before the beginning, there was God..the Triune God...there was love, there was relationship...God is self-existent,...

In the mind of God everything was completed before it even started...the Lamb of God...a people chosen for Himself...(Hebrews 4:3, Ephesians 1:4, 1 Peter 1:18-19, Revelation 13:13)

In the beginning, God...

In the beginning God created everything.

A perfect world. Man in the image of God..authorized and designed to represent God..a free moral being...free will....

Sin and its consequences

Sin and the Fall

All have sinned

Consequences of sin

Man's need for God (eternity in our hearts)

Man's attempts to reach God - It's impossibility

God is holy, God is love, God is just

Why the Incarnation?

#1, He had to become a Man to REVEAL God

(the image of the invisible God.....the express image of God...Heb 1:3, 2 Cor 4:5, Col 1:15)

#2, He had to become a Man to DEMONSTRATE

or model for us, what man was originally designed to be

#3, He had to become a Man to REPRESENT



One man sold us into bondage to the devil. It was one Man who could bring us out from under bondage.

One man failed us before God. It was one Man, representing us before God who is able to be our Intercessor.

Hebrews 2:14-18

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,
15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.
16 For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham.
17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.
18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

#4, He had to become a Man to be the perfect SUBSTITUTE

Only He was sinless...and only a sinless One could become a substitute for the rest of us.
No other man could be a substitute, because each had sin of their own.

On talking about substitution, Christian Theologian, John Stott, in his book 'The Cross of Christ' writes this: *"The essence of sin is we human beings substituting ourselves for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting himself for us. We...put ourselves where only God deserves to be; God...puts himself where we deserve to be."*

Romans 5:18-19

18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life.
19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.

So now lets take a look at some of our questions:

Why come as a feeble human being?

because the natural human body cannot contain the infiniteness of God. In order to **reveal** God..
because He had to walk as a human person to **demonstrate** show us what we were originally designed to be.

because only as a human person could He **represent** the rest of us

because only as a human person could He be the **substitute** for the rest of us

Why a gruesome Cross?

A) God is holy, God is love, God is just

God is holy - even the slightest of sin cannot be embraced

God is love - He loves us immensely

God is just - sin has to be paid for...the result of sin had to be endured by someone..



B) Forgiveness is not cheap

In every act of forgiveness, someone accepts the price of suffering in order to make forgiveness available.

C) True love is always substitutionary

It always involves the one loving, stepping into the world of the one being loved - personally identifying with the other.

2 Cor 8:9

What about before and after?

The payment was complete, more than sufficient to wipe out all past debts and all future withdrawals....

What about other groups of people?

He chose a people through whom He would come. But what He did..He did for the whole world....1 John 2:2

Would God need to Incarnate multiple times?

Once was more than sufficient...a perfect, sufficient, complete work was done...
Logically, if God has to repeat this several times...it would imply that the previous incarnations were insufficient, lacking in some way...

Conclusion:

What was the reason for the Incarnation?
to Reveal, to Demonstrate, to Represent, to be the Perfect Substitute

Christ whose birth we celebrate at Christmas - was God incarnate?
He came to be our Savior.
He died, He arose, He is alive today.

Our Response?

Repent, Believe, Follow

Acts 10:43

To him all the prophets give witness, that through his name everyone who has faith in him will have forgiveness of sins.