

INTRODUCTION

Hello students. My name is *Mr. David Torres*. I am a husband to a beautiful bride named Angie and I am a father to 7 children.

This morning I want to speak about the Christmas Story in 4 words:
The Word became flesh.

a.k.a as *the Incarnation of Christ* [Lit. “in flesh”] or *the humiliation of Christ* [the act of humbling oneself]

The Bible teaches us that *Jesus came into the world in human flesh*.
The Creator took on the form of the created. God came down.
He humbled Himself to save sinners.

There is a key verse that teaches us this very truth about our glorious Christ. Turn your Bible to John’s Gospel, **John 1:14** –

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us,
and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the
Father, full of grace and truth.

CONTENT

3 truths of the *Incarnation* that point us to the Gospel.

Jesus became flesh

John writes, “the Word became flesh” – Jesus became flesh. He became something He was not before coming into the world, a human being.

John tells us that “in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God” (Jn. 1:1). Later in v. 14, “the Word became flesh.” He is talking about Jesus.

*Jesus *is* and *always* will be God. He does not change. He is unchangeable.

The author of Hebrews says in **Heb. 13:8** –

⁸ Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday and today and forever.

This is what separates Christianity from all other religions: Jesus is God!

Now some of you might ask, “*where was He before coming down?*”

Jesus answers this in **John 6:38** to a large that was following Him –

³⁸ “**For I have come down from heaven,**
not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.

Jesus reveals so much in this verse, but what I want you to know is that *Jesus came down from heaven*, from glory. Heaven is where God dwells.

Later Jesus explains to His disciples in **John 16:28** –

²⁸ “**I came forth from the Father** and have come into the world;
I am leaving the world again and going to the Father.”

Prior to coming down from heaven, Jesus *pre-existed* in the form of God.

Paul teaches us in **Phil. 2:6-7** concerning our Lord –

⁶ ... although He [Jesus Christ] **existed in the form of God**,
did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,
⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave,
by being made in the likeness of men.

Before Jesus came into the world, Jesus existed *in form of God*, equal with God the Father.

Allow me to explain:

You and I may change over time on the outside, but you remain the same. You started out as a *baby*, then a *child*, then a *youth*, some of you are even teenagers, then a *young adult*, a *middle-age adult*, then a *old person*. During that time, you go through changes outwardly speaking. But inwardly, on the inside, you are still the same you.

Illustration: Photos of Micah.

Likewise when Jesus became flesh, *being made in the likeness of men*, did not change who He is: Jesus *is* and *always* will be God.

Paul tells us: “*when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son*” (Gal. 4:4). The Son, the Word, the Lord Jesus added human nature to His deity.

Jesus came down was made in the likeness of men. This was absolutely necessary. This is the good news, Jesus came down, sent by the Father, for a purpose, with a plan.

We could not save ourselves. We needed to be rescued. We need to be saved. Only God could save us and rescue us and so He did.

John tells us plainly in **John 3:16-17** –

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

¹⁷ “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

The *first* truth of the Incarnation is that Jesus became flesh.
The *second* truth of the Incarnation is that...

Jesus dwelt among us

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, **and dwelt among us...**

Jesus came down from heaven, came forth from the Father and dwelt among us. He made earth His home, born in Bethlehem, while growing up in Nazareth.

This was prophesied with *detail* and *precision* in the OT.

Isaiah 7:14 (c. 739-642 B.C.) tells us that Christ would be *born of a virgin*.

Micah 5:2 (c. 735-710 B.C.) tells us that Christ would be *born in Bethlehem*.

A while ago, a Professor at a college with the help of his students used the science of probability to calculate the probability of Jesus fulfilling this prophecy of being born in Bethlehem.¹

For you Math geeks out there:

1. They determined the average population of Bethlehem from the time of Micah to the present;
2. Then they divided it by the average population of the earth during the same period.

Conclusion: the chance of one man being born in Bethlehem was one in 300,000.

Just think about out: Out of the hundreds and hundreds of *cities* in the scores and scores of *nations* that were around during that time, just one place was designated to be the birthplace of the Messiah. Amazing!

That's just one prophecy. That same professor wrote a book with another individual wrote a book titled, *Science Speaks*.

What do you suppose the odds are of any one in all of history fulfilling just 8 of the 60 major prophecies concerning the life of Christ?

1 in 10^{17} . That's 1 in 100, 000, 000, 000, 000, 000.

But even more amazing than that is that Jesus would choose to live among us! It is absolute grace that Jesus would dwell among us.

Let me take you to a passage of Scripture that explains this a bit more. It is found in **2 Cor. 8:9** –

⁹ For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, **that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor**, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

“though He was rich” – Do you know how rich God is?

¹ Peter W. Stoner and Robert C. Newman, *Science Speaks: Scientific Proof of the Accuracy of Prophecy and the Bible* (Chicago: Mood Press, 1976).
The Incarnation

He owns everything! He created it all!
Listen to the psalmist in **Psalm 24:1** –

¹ The earth is the LORD’S, and all it contains,
The world, and those who dwell in it.

More than what belongs to the Lord, it is that Jesus, *the King of heaven left His glorious throne to become the friend of sinners.*

He left glory, heaven to dwell among us. Paul says it was “*for your sake He became poor.*”

Q: *How did Jesus become poor?*

A: He was “born of a woman” (Gal. 4:4), “made...for a little while lower than the angels” (Heb. 2:7, 9).

Jesus became poor by leaving heaven’s glory. There He enjoyed all the rights and privilege of God, but He did not cling to His favored position as the Son.

Coming to dwell among us meant that He would not be worshipped by the saints and angels in heaven. Instead He chose to be denied, not believed on, falsely accused, treated so awful by sinful men.

In coming down to earth, Jesus came down from heaven “not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me” (John 6:38).

In coming down to earth, Jesus does not express all His attributes. He did not stop being all-knowing, all-present, all-powerful. Remember, He is unchangeable.

Think of a car covered in mud. The car has not stopped being a car even though it is covered in mud. The mud simply doesn’t allow us to see what is under the mud.

In short, Jesus gave up heaven’s riches. He tells us in **Matt. 20:28** –

²⁸ ... the Son of Man did not come to be served, **but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.**”

He came to serve and give His life a ransom for many. He came with a mission, not to do His own will, but the will of the Father.

That is the message of the gospel: Jesus came down and dwelt among.

In living here on earth, He knows all that you and I go through. He knows what it is to be hungry, thirsty, tired, and even tempted though never did He commit any sin. He can sympathize with us.

He knows that it is like to hurt. He was troubled. He exercised faith. He exercised love. He read the Scriptures. He prayed. He cried.

*Jesus waived His right as the Son of God to become a slave, a servant.

The *first* truth of the Incarnation is that Jesus became flesh.

The *second* truth of the Incarnation is that Jesus dwelt among us.

The *third* truth of the Incarnation is that...

Jesus showed us His glory

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and **we saw His glory**, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The disciples, including John, witnessed this during Jesus' earthly ministry. They were with Him and were witnesses of His *wisdom, love, knowledge, power, and holiness*.

They saw Him turn water into wine at a wedding. John says Jesus "manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him" (**Jn. 2:11**).

They saw Him heal a sick man who had been sick for 38 years and the witnessed Jesus speak truth to the Jews who were already plotting to kill Him, not only because He healed the man on a Sabbath but because made "Himself equal with God" (**Jn. 5:18**).

He tells them in **v. 24** –

²⁴ “Truly, truly, I say to you, **he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me**, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.

CONCLUSION

So let me ask you, *do you believe in Jesus?*
Do you believe Jesus is the One and Only Son?

If you do, you are promised eternal life. There is no condemnation for you. You have passed out of death into life.

* Not only is the glory of Christ is shown in His earthly life, but I want you to know that His glory was on the Cross as well.

No one could stop Jesus from going to the Cross. Not the disciples. Not Peter. Not Satan. Not even Christ Himself.

Jesus prayed for it to come in **John 17:1** – “the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You.”

He was eager to complete His mission. Jesus prayed in **vv. 3-4** –

³ “This is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

⁴ “I glorified You on the earth, **having accomplished the work** which You have given Me to do.

His mission was to provide eternal life to those who trust in Him. Jesus said it this way, “For the Son of Man has come to seek and save the lost” (**Luke 19:10**). That is every sinner. It only takes committing one sin to be a sinner. Everyone of us who has yet to believe on Christ, you are lost without Him.

God desires you to be saved. God calls you to believe in His Son whom He has sent into the world, the only begotten Son of God.

God does not men to sin. He does not want men to die in their sin and face the consequences for their sin, which is eternity in hell. **Ps. 5:4** –

⁴ For **You are not a God who** takes pleasure in wickedness...

In **Ezek. 18:23** we read –

²³ **“Do I have any pleasure in the death of the wicked,”** declares the Lord GOD, **“rather than that he should turn from his ways and live?”**

He desires that you turn from your evil ways and live.

If you do not believe Jesus is from God, if you do not believe Jesus came down from heaven, if you do not believe He is God, if you do not believe you need to be saved, then you will face His judgment.

You will die in your sin, without a Savior and be punished for all of eternity for rejecting His Gospel, for rejecting His son.

So let me ask you, *do you believe in Jesus?*
Do you believe Jesus is the One and Only Son?

My prayer is that you would believe on Jesus, believe He came from heaven, sent by the Father, dwelt among us, showed us His glory, died on the cross for our sins, for our wrong-doing and plead/beg Him to save you.

Let us pray.