

Christmas: Why Did God Become Flesh?

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I. Introduction

We all know the story of the virgin birth. Christians celebrate this every Christmas. We think the story is miraculous because a virgin gave birth. As incredible as that is, the unimaginably jaw-dropping part of the story is that God became human!! Why would an all-knowing, all-powerful, all-present being decide to become human and an insignificant human at that (in the world's eyes Jesus was a nobody, a carpenter's son)?

II. Why Would the One who Controls Space and Time Elect to Become Flesh and Blood?

Matthew 1, Jesus' genealogy begins with "Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham." God wants us to know that His Son is the long-awaited Messiah that would come from the line of king David (1 Chronicles 17:7-15) and He'd also be the Seed promised to Abraham who would bless the nations (Genesis 12:3; Galatians 3:16).

When Joseph was engaged to Mary, before they ever had sexual relations, Mary "was found with child of the Holy Spirit." Joseph, not wanting to publically shame Mary, was going to cancel the engagement privately. But then an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and explained to him that Mary had not been unfaithful, to the contrary, the child conceived in Mary was of the Holy Spirit. Mary will have a son and Joseph must call Him Jesus, "for He will save His people from their sins." Matthew then adds that all this happened so that what the Lord spoke through Isaiah would be fulfilled, "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which means "God with us." What is the meaning of the virgin birth? "God with us," God wanted to give us back what we lost in the Garden of Eden: His presence.

Genesis 2-3, when God first made us and our beautiful home, we enjoyed His presence, which made everything perfect. There was peace and harmony within humanity and between humanity and nature. But then we decided to leave God's presence and His footsteps were no longer something to run to; they became something to fear and avoid. When we left God's presence, death, destruction, and chaos entered our world. But God promised that He would one day restore His presence to us through the Seed, His Son (Genesis 3:15).

Matthew 2, God is Spirit, we can't see Him. So whenever God wanted to make Himself visible, He would reveal His Shekinah Glory—the visible manifestation of His presence—usually in the form of light, fire, or cloud or a combination of these. When Jesus was about two years old, wise men (magicians, astrologers, etc.) from the East come to see Him. They came from Persia, which makes you wonder how they knew about the "star" that led them. They likely learned this from the prophet Daniel who used to be chief of the wise men in Persia (Daniel 2:48). The star they followed was no ordinary star. It moved from east to west, north to south, and hovered over one house. The "star," the light that led the wise men was likely the Shekinah Glory of God. As God the Father illuminated that house, He was pointing to and giving us the true meaning of "God with us." He was saying, "I have now become flesh!" (Colossians 2:9).

John 1, thus, in the New Testament Scriptures, God's Shekinah Glory takes on human form, which is why in John's Gospel Jesus is known as "the light of men," a "light [that] shines in the darkness," the "true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world," the "light [that] has come into the world," and "the Light of the world," (John 1:4, 5, 9; 3:19; 8:12; 9:5; 11:9; 12:35-36, 46). God's Shekinah Glory, His light became flesh, "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14; cf. Colossians 2:9).

Is God with you? Jesus would be called Immanuel, "God with us" and He lived up to this name through and through. He walked, talked, and lived among His disciples. The disciples heard, saw, looked upon, and held the Lord Jesus Christ (1 John 1:1). God's presence was back with us; He was among us once again. But as awesome as that experience was, today we have something the Twelve Disciples didn't. God is not just with us, He's in us! We have the Spirit of the Lord beating inside us, the Spirit that made us God's children and gave us the right to call Him "Daddy" as Jesus did in His most desperate hour (Galatians 4:6; Mark 14:36).

If you've ever felt alone in this world, like God has forgotten you and no one is coming to your rescue, God wants you to know that He is with you, no matter the circumstances no matter the mountain you must climb. When Jesus was depressed unto death and sweating blood in the Garden of Gethsemane, He cried out to His Father and His Father answered (Mark 14:34; Luke 22:44). But wait a minute, didn't Jesus die a brutal death?! Yes, He did. God the Father didn't remove the cup Jesus had to drink, but He gave Him the strength to face that brutal Cross and what it would do to Him. Therefore, Jesus faced that mob with courage and strength because He knew His Father loved Him. And if He had to go through this brutal experience, Jesus knew His Father would get Him through it (Matthew 25:46-56).

When God is with you, He gives you perfect vision. You're able to see crystal clearly. And instead of seeing a brutal cross that will take your life, you will see and sense the Father's presence. You may not know why this is happening to you, but you will know that God loves you and that He will give you the courage and strength you need to get through it. You will know that He will be there til the end (Job 1:13-22).

III. Conclusion

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."