

**God With Us**  
**John 1:14**  
**December 18, 2016**

## Introduction

**Isaiah 7:14** *Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.*

**Matthew 1:18-23** *Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. **19** And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. **20** But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." **22** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: **23** "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).*

This is the glorious Christmas truth that all people need to hear! Christmas is not about gifts, family, peace, shopping, lights, trees, or Santa Claus. Christmas is the celebration of the reality of God becoming flesh and saving us. Jesus coming to earth is the fulfillment of what God told Satan that the woman's Seed, a Man, will crush Satan's head. Let us look closely at what John tells us who Jesus Christ is.

**John 1:14** *The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only [or Only begotten], who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**Note:** Unlike Matthew and Luke, John does not tell us about the birth of Jesus Christ. What he does is he tells us the spiritual reality of Jesus' birth. He tells us from the view of heaven what is happening. He also tells us who Jesus really is.

- **The Word became flesh**
  - The Word
    - Who is this Word?
      - From what **John** says in **1:1-13**
      - He is God (**1:1**)
      - He is the Creator of everything in the universe (**1:3**)
      - He is the Saviour (**1:12-13**)
      - He is Jesus Christ (**1:17**)
    - God became man
      - Infinite became finite
      - Invisible became visible
      - He became man, but He did not cease to be God
  - Became flesh
    - Flesh—physical body (not necessarily the moral part, wordly)
    - He became a human being
      - This is told to us in Scripture many times

**Philippians 2:7** *but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

**Hebrews 2:14** *Since the children have flesh and blood, He too shared in their humanity so that by His death He might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—*

**Colossians 1:22** *in the body of His flesh [physical body] through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—*

- This is an important doctrine
  - To deny this teaching is to be an unbeliever

**2 John 1:7** *Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.*

- Jesus Christ, fully God and fully Man—a mystery we cannot understand
  - See Chalcedonian Creed

- **And dwelt among us**

- NIV—made His dwelling among us
- Dwelling = tent
- He pitched His tent among us
- Even better translation—tabernacle
- John was referring to the Tabernacle for both the Jews and Gentiles
- For the Jews—Tabernacle was the place where God's glory shone
- For the Gentiles—It was that Jesus lived with people

**1 John 1:1** *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life.*

- **We have seen His glory**

- His glory
  - Two aspect of His glory

**Exodus 33:14-23** *The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." 15 Then Moses said to Him, "If Your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. 16 How will anyone know that You are pleased with me and with Your people unless You go with us? What else will distinguish me and Your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?" 17 And the LORD said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name." 18 Then Moses said, "Now show me Your glory." 19 And the LORD said, "I will cause all My goodness to pass in front of you, and I will proclaim My name, the LORD, in your presence. I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 20 But," He said, "you cannot see My face, for no one may see Me and live." 21 Then the LORD said, "There is a place near Me where you may stand on a rock. 22 When My glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. 23 Then I will remove My hand and you will see My back; but My face must not be seen."*

**Exodus 34:5-7** Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed His name, the LORD. **6** And He passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, **7** maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet He does not leave the guilty unpunished; He punishes the children and their children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation."

- 1) The sum of all His attributes
  - Mercy and compassion
  - Gracious
  - Loving and faithful
  - Holy
- 2) The visible light—Shekinah glory

**2 Peter 1:16-18** We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty. **17** For He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased." **18** We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with Him on the sacred mountain.

- John says that people have seen Jesus in His glory
  - People have seen His love and mercy
  - His holiness
  - His power

**John 2:11** This, the first of His miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee. He thus revealed His glory, and His disciples put their faith in Him.

- Creating something out of nothing!

- **The glory of the only begotten of the Father**

- Only begotten
  - John means that the Son comes from the Father
  - Greek—*monogenes* (can be translated as only child)
  - This phrase does not mean that the Son was created

**Hebrews 11:17** By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had received the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son [monogenes],

- Abraham had other sons, but Isaac was the only son of the promise
- Isaac was the unique son
- Jesus is the unique Son (Father has many children!)
- Same glory as the Father
  - Same nature
  - Jesus is God!

- **Full of grace and truth**

- Divine attributes!

- Grace
  - We receive His grace—His unearned favor
  - It is grace upon grace

**John 1:16** *From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another.*

- Look at His dealings with Peter! John!
  - Peter—denied Jesus 3 times
  - John—asked Jesus to burn down a village
- Truth

**John 1:17-18** *For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made Him known.*

- He is the fulfillment of all of the Law
- He is the revelation of God

**Matthew 7:28-29** *When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His teaching, 29 because He taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.*