

WHAT DOES “INCARNATION” MEAN?

“Incarnation” means “to become a human being,” which Jesus Christ did for us 2000 years ago.

Christ Jesus:

“...made himself of no reputation, and took upon himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.” (Philippians 2:7)

“Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”
(Matthew 1:23)

Jesus Christ is God, co-equal and co-eternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He is revealed in scripture as the Son of God. This shows His deity. He is revealed as the Son of man. This shows His humanity. He is not half God and half man. He is very God and very man. Jesus was not created and He did not begin life in Bethlehem 2000 years ago. He always has been.

As part of the Godhead (the Holy Trinity), Jesus became a man and lived among men in order to become the “kinsmen redeemer” which God’s holiness required for the restoration of man’s lost inheritance. Only by becoming a man could He identify with man and give His life as the eternal sacrifice for the sins of the world. It was also necessary for Him to live a life without any sin because God’s holiness required that the sacrifice be a “lamb without spot or blemish.”

Jesus was human. He endured every kind of temptation. He suffered pain, sorrow and rejection as a man. He was born to a young woman named Mary but He was conceived by the Holy Spirit. He did not inherit the sin nature of Adam which all of us received from our natural fathers. Since we also inherit our blood type from our fathers, we know that the blood of Jesus was unique. It is the holy blood that saves and cleanses us when we are born again by the Spirit of God. He was not born in sin and because He was faithful, He never yielded to temptation to sin. He was human but He was not carnal. Jesus could have failed as a man but He did not. He maintained His purity and integrity and was able to go to the cross as a perfect sin offering, taking on Himself the penalty for all our sins.

Jesus was known by many titles but He seemed to prefer the name “Son of man” because of His great love for people and His desire to identify with us as His own. He was not the son of man, but as the incarnate God He was THE Son of Man.