

THE INCARNATION: LUKE 1:26-38

INTRO: Come with me as we contemplate the wonder of the Incarnation.

- What an absolute mystery the incarnation is; that God who is immutable, changeless, God who from eternity is Spirit now suddenly has come into the world as a man and God, divinity and humanity.
- There was a time when Jesus was God but not man, but there was never a time when He was man but not God.
 - Col. 2:9; For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.
- Jesus became what He had never been, man, without ceasing to be what He always had been and forever will be, God.
- Today there dwells in heaven, seated on the throne, a God-Man, flesh and spirit, existing forever changed!
- Without the Incarnation we do not have God upon the cross, just a man.
- His deity was not humanized, nor His humanity deified.
- The whole teaching of the Holy Scriptures places the incarnation at the center of the methods of God with a sinning race.
- The work of salvation, the methods of God on accomplishing this salvation is finished at calvary, although God is still working in bringing in His complete redemption.
- And we don't read of this work being complete until we get to Rev. 21:5-6 where we read;
 - Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."⁶ And He said to me, "It is done!" I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.
- Everything before the incarnation moved toward it until its accomplishment.
- The messages of the prophets, the seers, and the songs of the Psalmists traveled toward this "other worldly miraculous event."
- It is also true that from the incarnation all following events have flowed toward the second coming of the Christ.

HE SHALL BE GREAT?

1) What of His earthly life looked like greatness?

- Jesus, when He took our nature becoming a man, He stooped very low, none ever stooped lower.
 - 2 Cor. 8:9; For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
 - Phil. 2:6-8; who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,⁷ but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

- **Yet the angel proclaims, He Shall be Great!**
- **Let's consider some of His life:**
- **When He was pressed in the Virgins womb, was he Great?**
- **Was He great when He was born in an animal enclosure then laid in the beasts feeding trough?**
- **When as a babe nursing dependently on Mary, was He Great?**
- **As an adult He had nowhere to lay His head, when He was mentioned as illegitimate, with drunkards, sinners, and lawless, was He great?**
- **When accused by the religious influential of being out of His mind, or having a devil, was he great?**
- **Who considered Him great when he was sold for the price of a slave, then arrested by a crowd who had came out carrying swords, torches and clubs as though coming after a common thief.**
- **Who considered Him great when he was tied and brought before Pilots judgment seat like some wild law breaker, or when He was blindfolded and smitten and spat on, or His beard being plucked at.**
- **Would He be considered great when He was scourged, beaten, then led through the streets bearing His cross?**
- **Or when He was stripped and ruthlessly nailed to a cross and His body covered with blood, sweat and filth.**
- **There He was displayed as a man rejected by heaven and earth, the offscouring and rubbish of mankind. Who then thought of Him as Great?**
- **Truly He was brought very low. He was pierced through, taken down and laid in a borrowed tomb.**
- **And what deep thoughts must have erupted in dear Mary's mind then heart when this mother saw His once beautiful body, a body she once bathed cared for now beaten bloody and pierced.**
- **Not only did a spear pierce His heart, but her heart as well and old Simeons' prophecy came racing through her heart,**
 - **Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ³⁵ (yes, and a sword will pierce through your own soul also)**
- **Yet the angel proclaimed, "He shall be Great and be called the Son of the Highest." Did the eye of faith see Him thus? What a paradox.**

2) Ask those He touched, Was He Great?

- **Ask Mary Magdalene was He great?**
 - **She is mentioned in the gospels 12X, of whom the Lord delivered of 7 demons,**
 - **She was first at the tomb and first witnessed the risen Savior.**
 - **Her confession was, He shall be great!**
 - **Ask the Gadarene Demoniac of whom Jesus cast out a 1000 demons and who was found sitting clothed and in his right mind at Jesus feet.**
 - **Ask Jairus when his daughter was returned to him from death, was Jesus Great?**
 - **The woman with the issue of blood 18 years.**
 - **The lepers he cleansed. The blind man etc.**
 - **and Multitudes of others, ask them was the angel right? Was it true "He shall be great!"**

3) Is He Not Great Now!

- And now the very God/Man who was despised and spat upon sits in glorious splendor on His Father's throne. This Man is anointed King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- Hear Peter's words from his first sermon regarding this Great One,
 - Acts 2:32. 33; This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. ³³ Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.
 - And of course, the Fathers' own testimony in Phil..2: 9-10, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

4) He has been great in us!

- Has He not been great in our salvation and in our life?
 - Is this not our testimony?
 - Ps. 40:1-3
 - Eph. 2:1-8
 - Col. 1:13, 14
 - Col. 2:13-15
- Is He the Great One, Lord of my life?
- Has He made a "great difference in me. In me is He great?"
 - And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. Col. 1:18
 - For whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be conformed to the image of His Son*, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Rom. 8:29
- Do others see Jesus in me?
- VS. 38, "behold the bondservant of the Lord!"

5) When He comes again it will be in Greatness:

- The first evangel of this dispensation is an angel, and the last evangel of this dispensation will again be an angel heralding Christ into time and earthly sight;
 - 1 Thes. 4:16; For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.
- Rev. 19:11-16;

Conclusion:

- VS. 46; My soul magnifies the Lord... Let Him be great, proclaim Him as great, show Him as great...

Table Talk

