

Inside the Lines  
P.O. Box 1261  
Fort Mill, South Carolina 29716

**JESUS**  
**His Incarnation Lesson 3**  
return pages 4 & 5 only

***Something for You to Study***

A basic fact of Christianity is that Jesus Christ who was fully God, who was with God "before the world was" (John 17:5) became man. The eternal Son of God took a human nature and by so doing became God in the flesh. No laws of heredity can account for this. God by a creative act brought about the virgin birth of Jesus Christ at a fixed time in history, at the right time according to Galatians 4:4.

The Bible is very clear about the fact that the Lord Jesus was born into the world of a human mother without a human father. This was prophesied in Isaiah 7:14 and fulfilled in Matthew 1:18-25 (see also Luke 2:6-7). Luke 1:34-35 is God's answer to critics, for it specifies that Christ was virgin born. Matthew 1 records Joseph's acceptance of the fact that the baby to be born of Mary was supernaturally conceived.

The doctrine of the virgin birth of Christ is one of the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. It ought not to be difficult to accept, because the God who created the reproductive process can certainly set it aside if **HE** so chooses. The angel reminded Mary in his announcement to her that "with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37). Some profess to believe that Jesus Christ is who He claimed to be, the Son of God, the Saviour of the world, but do not believe the Word of God that He was virgin born. This is impossible. If Jesus were not virgin born, He would have had a sinful human nature and could not have died for sinful man.

His person and His work are inseparable. Someone has said, "A Saviour not quite God is a bridge too short at the other end."

A clear understanding of the incarnation is essential, for we must know who Christ is before we can fully understand what He did. The fact that He had no human father marks Him as different from all other men and is a witness to His deity. The Lord Jesus Christ is the visible representation of God, because He is God in the flesh, the God-man. It is not simply that God became man in the incarnation, but that it happened in a miraculous way through the virgin birth.

**OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES OF THE INCARNATION**

The first prophecy is in Genesis 3:15, where God told Eve that *her* seed would be separated from the lineage of man. Among the many prophecies throughout the Old Testament are 2 Samuel 7:12-16, which states that He would be from the family of David; Isaiah 7:14, that He would be virgin born and would be "God with us"; Daniel 9:25, which indicates the time of His coming; and Micah 5:2, the place of His birth.

These prophecies were fulfilled in the New Testament in exact detail. The one who does not accept the virgin birth sets aside the clear testimony of the Old

Inside the Lines  
P.O. Box 1261  
Fort Mill, South Carolina 29716

Testament, reiterated in the New Testament, that "God sent forth his Son, made of a woman" (Galatians 4:4).

#### REASONS FOR THE INCARNATION

*To reveal God.* Jesus Christ is God's answer to the question, What is God like? When we speak about God, we mention His holiness and majesty and power. We describe Him as the Creator and Ruler of the universe and think of His sovereignty over everything. The Scripture urges men to have an awesome fear of God, a reverential worship of one who is far beyond our understanding. Proverbs 9:10 speaks of the "fear of the LORD" as the "beginning of wisdom." At Mount Sinai in Exodus 19:16, the people trembled before the majesty and power of God. When Job was given a revelation of God's glory, his reply was, "I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes" (Job 42:6).

When the Lord Jesus came, He revealed the further truth that God is love. This was not something new; it was not a change in God's character from the Old Testament to the New, for God cannot change. Immutability is inherent in His being. God's love was always present in His dealings with His people from the creation of the world. But the Lord Jesus was the demonstration, the evidence of this characteristic of God (1 John 4:10). In Matthew 11:27 Jesus said His purpose was to reveal the Father. The one who refuses to see God in Christ cannot see God at all, for Jesus said, "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

*To fully understand our nature.* God knows us completely. He is the one who determined our constituent parts and made us the psychological beings that we are. Our nature did not happen by chance, for we are creations of God. But God never becomes hungry or tired or discouraged. He could not be the eternal, omnipotent God if He were less than perfect. The Lord Jesus as a man was tired; He became hungry. He knew sorrow.

GOD is absolutely holy. Therefore **HE** cannot be tempted to sin. The Lord Jesus as a man was tempted so that He is able to understand when we are tempted. The difference is that He never gave in to the temptation as we do. Hebrews 4:15-16 says that because Jesus Christ understands our weaknesses, we can come to Him without fear and ask His help.

*To confirm God's promises.* The Old Testament prophecies of Christ were promises from God that **HE** would send His Son to be the Saviour and a future Ruler over the world. The incarnation was the fulfillment of the promise. When the infant Jesus was presented in the temple. He was recognized as the one prepared and sent by GOD (Luke 2:25-38).

*To be the Saviour.* This is the supreme reason for His coming. Jesus Christ was born to die. He said, "For this cause came I unto this hour" (John 12:27). The purpose of the incarnation is summed up in John 3:16.

*To destroy the devil.* There is a clear statement in Hebrews 2:14-15 that one reason Jesus became a man was to destroy the devil, who had the power of death over



Inside the Lines  
P.O. Box 1261  
Fort Mill, South Carolina 29716

mankind. This power came from Satan's successful tempting of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3). Those who accept Christ as Saviour have freedom now from the rule of Satan. In addition there will come a day when Satan's power over all creation will be completely broken, as Revelation 20:10 and 21:3-5 indicate. All this will happen because the Son of God became man.

#### **SUMMARY FACTS OF THE INCARNATION**

By the incarnation, Jesus Christ who is God, became man. He had a human ancestry. Matthew 1 gives His legal descent showing Him to be from David's lineage, while Luke traces His lineage back through Mary to Adam. He lived and died and rose again in a body. He had human emotions and senses and the ordinary development of every human being (Luke 2:52).

We do not know what Jesus looked like, though His appearance was obviously that of a man. Every picture of Him is done entirely by the artist's imagination. Many pictures of Christ are based on those which were done in the Middle Ages by artists who portrayed Him as men of that time appeared. Since His human mother was Jewish, it is logical to assume that He had the Jewish features of the time in which He lived. Christ's incarnation brought Him ultimately to the fulfillment of the prophecy in Isaiah 53 which pictures Him as having "no beauty" as a result of His suffering.

#### ***A Further Word***

This Lord Jesus is the indispensable Revealer of God, He is the Forgiver of sins, and He is the final Judge. The alternative to these claims is undeniable and clear. There is no logical alternative to the truth as the Lord spoke it, other than that He was demented or an impostor. Both these alternatives are unthinkable. But the bite is here. You cannot accept some of His teachings and dismiss others, and still call Him a good Man, an honest Teacher and a worthy Example. Can you know God apart from Him? If you answer yes, you are on the opposite side from the Lord Jesus Christ—He said you cannot. . . . To know Him is to know the Father, for He and the Father are one.

Notes

Inside the Lines  
P.O. Box 1261  
Fort Mill, South Carolina 29716

***Find Out for Yourself***

***Name*** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Explain why the virgin birth of Christ is an essential fact of the Christian faith. Use such Scriptures as Luke 1:30-35; John 8:46; Romans 3:23; 1 Peter 2:21-24 and others.
  
2. Read Psalm 96. What should be your attitude toward God on the basis of the psalm?
- 2a. Compare it with Isaiah 63:7-9 and Jeremiah 31:3. Name the chief characteristic of God in those verses.
  
3. How would you use Micah 5:2 to strengthen someone's faith in the Bible as God's Word?
  
4. How would you explain the expression, "The God of Sinai is also the God of Golgotha"?
  
5. Read Luke 2:52. List the four ways (in one word each) **in** which Jesus Christ grew:
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
  - d.

***Check Your Memory***

1. The incarnation cannot be explained by any laws of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus had a human \_\_\_\_\_ but not a human \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The two words \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_ mean that God became man.
4. The virgin birth of Christ is an evidence of His \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ cannot be separated.

Inside the Lines  
P.O. Box 1261  
Fort Mill, South Carolina 29716

6. The supreme reason for the incarnation is that Christ would \_\_\_\_\_.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ is a prophecy of the death of Christ.



**Scripture Memorization**  
**write it on the back page three times**

*Luke 2:10-12*

*10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.*

*11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

*12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

*(KJV)*