

MESSIAH'S BIRTH "The Word Became Flesh"

Opening Blessing:

1 Thess 5:23-24

23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

24 The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. NIV

Introduction-

I spent ten years of my life in a ministry that taught and believed in soul sleep and Unitarianism. As the Lord led me out of that system by revealing Himself to me, I found myself digging up proof texts for doctrines that many in Christianity never doubted or needed proofs for!

For all its faults, the ministry I was a part of imparted to me a love and faith for the Word of God. And it was through His Word that the Lord began to cleanse me of my crucial misconceptions concerning His Person. We had ascribed to a belief in soul sleep because we did not fully understand the doctrine of spirit, soul and body. This misunderstanding of the nature of man also made me susceptible to the belief that Jesus was a divinely conceived man, but not divine in and of Himself.

Two verses that the Lord used to begin to arrest my attention were Matthew 10:28 and James 2:26.

Matt 10:28

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. KJV

James 2:26

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. KJV

What these verses have in common is a dead body. But in Matthew it is emphatically stated that it is God alone who can destroy the soul and in James, the spirit is still alive. This opened my mind to the possibility of thought and life outside of a physical existence. Once I saw this as possible, then the Lord revealed to me through Scripture that He had existed before His incarnation.

John 12:39-41

39 For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

40 "He has blinded their eyes and deadened their hearts, so they can neither see with their eyes, nor understand with their hearts, nor turn-and I would heal them."

41 Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him. NIV

Verse 40 is a quotation of Isaiah 6:10.

Isa 6:10

Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed." NIV

What is the context?

Isa 6:1-5

- 1 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple.
- 2 Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.
- 3 And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory."
- 4 At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke.
- 5 "Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the LORD Almighty." NIV

And so we see that Isaiah saw the glory of the Lord Jesus long before He came to earth. Let us now examine some verses that speak of His pre-incarnate existence.

His Pre-incarnate Existence-

Heb 10:5-7

- 5 Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me;
- 6 with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased.
- 7 Then I said, 'Here I am-it is written about me in the scroll- I have come to do your will, O God.'" NIV

The declaration of verse 7, "Here I am . . . I have come to do your will, O God," was His parting comment when He left heaven to under the auspices of the Holy Spirit to enter into Mary.

1 Peter 1:8-12

- 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy,
- 9 for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls.
- 10 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care,
- 11 trying to find out the time and circumstances **to which the Spirit of Christ in them** was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow.
- 12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things. NIV

It was the Spirit of Messiah that spoke to the prophets of old.

1 Cor 10:1-4

1 For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers, that our forefathers were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea.

2 They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea.

3 They all ate the same spiritual food

4 and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. NIV

Christ was with them in the wilderness!

John 8:56-59

56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad."

57 Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?"

58 Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I AM.**"

59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by. NKJV

If His intent was to clarify their timeline confusion, saying that He was existent before Abraham certainly didn't help the Jews in His audience. As a matter of fact it infuriated them into a murderous rage!

Phil 2:5-11 KJV

5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

He was in the form of God but took upon him the form of a slave and was made in the likeness of men. This was, with regard to His person, a conscious decision of His will, not something imposed upon Him by accident of birth!

The Incarnation-

Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.
30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.
31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.
32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,
33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."
34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"
35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.
36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month.
37 For nothing is impossible with God."
38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her. NIV

Mary had a very practical and technical question. How could she give birth to the Messiah since she had not been with her husband? The angel simply and profoundly explains to her that King she would give birth to would be none other than the Son of God.

The flesh comes alive when it is joined by spirit and the product of the union is the soul.

Gen 2:7

And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. KJV

When He came into the world, the Son said, "A body thou hast prepared for me." The egg of Mary (and Mary herself) was the body. He, the Son of God, was the Spirit. When the Spirit of Messiah entered the egg of Mary under the auspices of the Holy Spirit, it came alive. The product of that union was the soul life of the man called Jesus.

John 1:1-3, 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 The same was in the beginning with God.
3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
14 And the Word was made 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. KJV

John 1:14

And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled (fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us; and we [actually] saw His glory (His honor, His majesty), such glory as an only begotten son receives from his father, full of grace (favor, loving-kindness) and truth.
[Isa 40:5.] AMP

In Luke 1:39-45, we have Elizabeth's witness of the incarnation, which means that it occurred between verse 38 and 41.

Luke 1:39-45 NIV

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea,

40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!

43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

45 Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

The Word had indeed become flesh. God had entered His creation in a unique way. He started the process of becoming a faithful High Priest to His people, One who could be touched by the feeling of their infirmities.

“At the moment of conception, a fertilized human egg is about the size of a pin head. Yet, it contains information equivalent to about six billion ‘chemical letters.’ This is enough information to fill 1,000 books, 500 pages thick with print so small you would need a microscope to read it! If all the DNA chemical ‘letters’ in the human body were printed in books, it is estimated they would fill the Grand Canyon fifty times!”¹

In light of John 21:25, it is interesting to note that Jesus filled the Grand Canyon with books just in the incarnation!!

Implications of the Word becoming flesh

Luke 2:40

And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him. NIV

His body grew and He learned, why would He need to if He was God?

2 Cor 3:3

Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. KJV

Can you quote all of Scripture?

Heb 12:22-24

22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,

23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,

¹ Chuck Misler, *The Creator Beyond Time and Space*, Supplemental Notes, p. 17

24 to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. NIV