

WHY DID THE SON OF GOD BECOME A MAN? THE WORD MADE FLESH

John 1:14

Intro: Most of us would agree that the Bible is the most wonderful book that has ever been written. And there is a special reason why that is true. It was given to us by God Himself. It is a revelation from God. In 2 Peter 1 the Apostle Peter was telling his readers he was not teaching them “cleverly devised fables” when he had made known to them the power and coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, because they had been eye-witnesses of His majesty, His glory, when the Lord was transfigured before them on the mountain. They, meaning not only he, but also James and John, saw the Lord transfigured, and they heard the God the Father speak from heaven when He said about Jesus, “This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased.” But then he added his in verses 19-21 of the same chapter:

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy (or, the prophetic word made more sure); whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

This word “interpretation” has attracted the attention of Bible scholars for many years. The Greek word used here appears nowhere else in the NT. According to Robertson it is a word which speaks of the origin or source of the Scriptures. Alford, quoted by Robertson, used the words “comes” or “springs.” Then Robertson went on to say that the idea here is that “no prophet starts a prophecy himself. He is not a self-starter (VI, 158, 159). The Word ultimately comes from God Himself, although He may give it to us through the men who wrote it down.

Now this prepares us for the last verse of 2 Peter 1:

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

When Peter spoke of “the prophecy” that came in old time,” he was referring to the Old Testament. But if you turn over to the last chapter of 1 Peter you will find that Peter made a comment about Paul’s epistles. Peter was answering those who were critical of the coming of the Lord saying, that if He had not come in the time that had elapsed since He returned to heaven, how can we be sure that He is coming at all. You will find the words I am reading in 2 Peter 3:15-16:

15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

Notice the words, “as they do also the other scriptures.” This means that even before the NT was compiled, Paul’s letters were considered as being inspired by God like the OT was.

Paul himself was used by the Holy Spirit to give us what has been considered the classic statement on the divine inspiration of the Word of God. It is found in 2 Timothy 3:16-17:

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

So the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation is the book that God has given us. It was written over a period of some 1600 years by about forty different writer, most of whom did not know each other. And yet the OT and the NT together comprise *the Word of God. And it is the only Word of God.*

But the other thing that we can say about the Bible is that it is a Book about God. From Genesis 1:1 where we read, “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth,” we are introduced to God, and as we go on through the rest of the OT we learn more and more about God. Even in the Hebrew word for God, *Elohim*, we have the suggestion that there is more than one Person in the Godhead. The Spirit of God is mentioned in Genesis 1:2, and, for example, in the prophecy of the coming Messiah in Isaiah 9:6, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given,” have the clear indication that when Jesus was born, He was born as a child, but that Child was the Son of God Who had come to earth in human flesh. In fact, while the Lord Jesus was here on earth, He said about the OT, “Search the Scriptures (the OT Scriptures) . . . for they are they which testify of Me” (John 5:39).

Now I want to show in this brief Christmas series that God, and when I

say God, I mean God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, had two reasons for giving us the Bible. The first was to tell us about God. The second was to reveal to us God's marvelous salvation. Now both of these are centered in Christ. Today I am mainly concerned with the first as it relates to Christ and His coming to the earth, conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born as the baby Jesus in Bethlehem approximately 2,000 years ago. He came as the final and complete revelation of God. And as we shall see in the following messages of this short series, He was named "Jesus" by the angel of the Lord because, as the angel said, "He shall save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21). "Jesus" is the Savior, and we know that in the NT His full name is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now let me make it very clear that Jesus Christ did not have a human father. Joseph was legally His Father, but not His biological father. It is very important for us to know and to believe that Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary, conceived by the Holy Spirit. If Joseph had been His father, then Jesus would have been a sinner like you and I are, and He could not have been our Savior; He would have needed a Savior Himself. Nor could He have been a revelation of God anymore than Moses or David or any of the OT prophets.

Now when authorities, whoever they may be, keep us from reading the Scriptures, keep us from singing the Christmas carols which speak so clearly about Jesus and why He came to this earth, they are cutting us off from the knowledge of God, and they are cutting us off from the salvation of God. They are cutting us off from the only hope of salvation that there is in all of the world. The world is full of religions of different kinds. What we need is not to be religious. What we need is someone who can give us the truth about God, and who can save us from our sins which have separated us from God.

Unfortunately the celebration of the birth of Christ has largely become commercialized. Most children grow up today knowing more about Santa Claus than they do about Jesus Christ, and that is a major tragedy. The original purpose of Christmas was to remember the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God Who came, as I have said, as the final revelation of God, and Who also came to save sinners from the judgment of God by His sacrificial death on the Cross. And before God we are under no obligation to give equal time to other religions because to do so would be to turn from the truth to error. The truth about God and the

truth of salvation are two truths that we cannot afford to be wrong about.

But now let's turn to Jesus Christ as the final and complete revelations of God.

No one has ever been able to understand fully all that the OT teaches us about God. God is more glorious than we will ever be able to understand fully in this life. Moses teaches us a great deal about God. He wrote what God revealed to Him. And going on in the OT we find the truths about God either repeated and emphasized, or we find more about the power of God, and the wisdom of God, the holiness of God, His absolute righteousness in all of His ways and works. We are told over and over that He is good, that He is loving and merciful and gracious. We read that He is omnipresent throughout the earth and the heavens. He is aware of everything that we do. He is the sovereign Lord and King of the universe. And He does according to His will among the armies of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth. Nothing is ever out of His control.

But how is God revealed in the NT?

Please turn with me now to the Gospel of John, chapter 1. Reading from the first verse of the chapter we find a title that is not used by any of the other Gospel writers. It is "the Word." It is used three times in verse 1. Notice each of the statements in which it is used:

- 1) "In the beginning was the Word,
- 2) "and the Word was with God,
- 3) "and the Word was God."

The first statement of verse 1 is repeated in verse 2. This has to be for emphasis.

In verse 3 we find that whoever this was, was very active in creation. In fact, He can rightfully be called the Creator. Thus, the Apostle John was obviously speaking of a person

In the second part of verse 2 we learn that this Person was distinct from God. So John was not talking about God the Father. But then in the third part of verse 3 we learn that this Person was God. He was "in the beginning," which would agree perfectly with the statement that He was "with God," and that He "was God" according to the last statement of verse 1. (Summarize them all again.)

Now I want you to turn with me to the epistle of 1 John, and let us look

together at the first three verses of that epistle. (Read.) Notice that the Apostle John said here that he was writing about “the Word of life,” not *as though He was One among many, but that He was the only “Word of life, “the Word of life.”* He is life and He is the bestower of life, the source of all life.

But the main emphasis in these verses is that the writer of this epistle was personally acquainted with this Person about Whom he was writing. That is true also over verse 2, and again of verse 3. The Apostle John was personally and intimately acquainted with this Person Whose Name was “the Word of life.” And it seems that in verse 3 the Apostle John positively identified Jesus Christ as “the Word.” Now turn to the last book of the Bible, The Revelation, and to chapter 19. The rider on the white horse is given four names, and one of them is “The Word of God.” See verse 13. He also is called in verse 16, “King of kings, and LORD of lords.” So there is no doubt but that the Apostle John in all of these passages is speaking of Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of the living God!

But now why does He have this Name, “the Word.” It is the familiar Greek word which you have doubtless heard many times even if you have never studied Greek. It is the word **λόγος**. And it conveys the idea to us that God in sending Christ was making a statement. Jesus Christ as the Word was conveying a message from God to everyone who was prepared to receive it. What was the message?

Now we need to go back to the Gospel of John, chapter 1, but this time we want to look at verse 14. Here we see the message:

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.

“The Word became flesh” is the idea. Now you take what we have learned about “the Word” in John 1:1 and these other verses that we have looked at, and you will see that whatever our Lord Jesus Christ was “in the beginning, and whatever He was when He was “with God,” He was exactly the same when He came in human flesh. In other words, the fact that He as the Word “was God” in the beginning, and was still the Word when He was born of the virgin Mary, means that Jesus Christ continued to be God in the fullest sense of His Deity even though He took upon Himself human flesh.

This is the message that God has given to us if we have ears to receive it.

John 1:14 (6)

The Jews in our Lord's day did not think He could be God, or the Son of God, because He was a man. But that is where they were wrong. This is a very, very important truth for all of us to understand. If it changed our Lord's Deity for Him to become a Man, then He could not be a full and final revelation of God. And the same is true of the work that He came to do. If it changed our Lord in becoming a man so that He was no longer God, but became a sinner like we are, then He also would need a Savior, and we are all hopelessly lost in our sin.

But what did John say about Him in John 1:14? Let me read it to you again:

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.

What was "His glory"? It was His Deity. Jesus Christ in the flesh was perfect Man and absolute God. This is what we need to know and firmly believe about the Lord Jesus Christ. Only as a Man could He die for men, and only as God the Son could He be a perfect sacrifice.

Now let me take you to one more passage of Scripture before we go where we will see how God speaks to us today. I am referring to Hebrews, chapter 1, beginning with verse 1. (Read Heb. 1:1-4 and 2:1-4.)

Concl: How do we know God? We know God through His Word, and we have His final and most complete revelation in His Son. The Bible which was in the process of being revealed and written down for 1500 years before Christ came, was completed in less than one hundred years after Christ came, because God has no more to say about Himself than He has said, and continues to say to us through His Word, in Christ!!!

Closing verses: John 14:7-9.