



# The Incarnation: Tradition and Truth A Witness to the Light

## God in the Flesh (Part 2)

**Review:** The importance of the ‘incarnation’ is that God became flesh...

1. The Word was God *John 1:1; Col 2:8-9*  
*Jesus Christ the Messiah is God (full deity)*
2. The Word became flesh *John 1:14*  
*Jesus Christ the Messiah is Man (full humanity)*

### The Humbled and Exalted Christ (Messiah)

“...who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.”  
Philippians 2:6-7 NASB

### A. What happened at the incarnation?

At the incarnation, Jesus gave up (emptied Himself--kenosis) the use of his divine attributes. By taking on human nature, he accepted certain limitations upon the functioning of his divine attributes. While retaining them, He did not use them!

1. **He gave up a perfect environment** *Jn 1:1, 14*  
Enters the environment of sinful humanity...
2. **He gave up His position as ruler** *Phil 2:6-7*  
From ruler to servant...
3. **Jesus demonstrated nonuse of...**
  - a. Omniscience [All knowing] *Mat 24:36; Lk 2:52*
  - b. Omnipotence [All powerful] *Mk 6:5; Jn 5:19*
  - c. Omnipresence [Present everywhere] *Jn 4:4*
  - d. Righteousness *Heb 9:4*
  - e. Self existence *Lk 4:2*
  - f. Justice *Jn 5:30*

### B. How did Jesus do the works of God?

If Jesus gave up the use of his divine attributes—how did He do miracles, signs and wonders?

1. **The anointing of the Holy Spirit empowers His public ministry.**  
*Jn 5:19* Doing the work of the Father...  
*Lk 4:18* The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...  
*Jn 14:10* Father abiding in Him does His works...  
*Lk 5:17* The power of the Lord was with Him...  
*Acts 2:22* Empowered through the Holy Spirit...
2. **The anointing of the Holy Spirit empowers our life and ministry**  
*Jn 14:10-17; Luk 24:49; Rom 15:14-19*  
*We are to live our lives in the SAME power that Christ lived His life on this earth!*

## There was a man sent from God...

“...whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that light.” *John 1:6-8*



### I. Why John and Why Now? *Jn 1:6*

**Why...**in the middle of introducing Jesus as the Word and the light of the world, does John the disciple introduce John the Baptist?

**Answer...**God has chosen to herald, announce and proclaim Jesus through people he sends.

**A. Have you been sent?** *Mat 5:16; 1 Pet 2:9*

**B. Would you be sent?** *Mat 9:38; Isaiah 6:8*

### II. How Could John be a Witness? *Jn 1:7a*

**Question...**did John the Baptist know enough about Jesus to be a witness?

**Answer...**Yes, here's how:

**A. God told John what he needed to know**  
*Jn 1:33-34*

**B. John was sent to fulfill prophecy**  
*Jn 3:28; 1:23; Mat 11:7-19; Lk 1:17*

**C. What do we need to know to be a witness?**

### III. The Reason for the Witness *Jn 1:7b-8*

John's mission is no different than our mission in witnessing today: That all people might believe.

**A. On or through? :7**

*Let people see through you—and see Jesus.*

*Through John's witness people would believe ON (or in) Jesus.*

**B. Do you believe that Jesus...**

- ...is Lord
- ...is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world
- ...is the Son of God
- ...is the bridegroom and all who follow Him are His beloved and cherished bride
- ...is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit
- ...gives us abundant life