

# The Incarnation: Tradition and Truth Believing and Receiving the True Light

## Light, Power and a New Birth *John 1:9-13*

### A. True Light Comes To The World *John 1:9-11*

1. **Jesus is the LIGHT** and He brings light to all
  - a. Who is the one coming in verse 9? NIV has it best!  
*Isaiah 60:1-3; Gen 1:1-3*

#### 2. What is “true” light?

- Truth here means ‘perfect’ or ‘complete’ so that there is nothing lacking.
- The earthly temple verses the heavenly temple  
*Heb 8:1-2; 8:24*

#### 3. What ‘light’ is in you? *Matt 6:22-23; Rev 21:22-23*

All other lights aside from Christ are either imitations, representations or deceptions of the TRUE LIGHT—they are NOT the true LIGHT of Christ.

#### 4. The world rejects the true Light *John 1:10-11*

- He was in the world
- The world was made through Him
- The world did not know Him
- He came to His own
- His own did not receive Him

### B. Believe and Receive the Light *John 1:12-13*

- **Question:** Why does John the disciple introduce the believers NEW BIRTH in the middle of introducing the incarnation?
- **Answer:** Because the incarnation (Christ’s birth) and our new birth are *both a work of God*.

#### *Our ‘new birthright’ is established verse 12*

- Believing and receiving are the same...
- Our right is to become children of God...
- Like Christ—we are born...
- Unlike Christ—we did not preexist...
- We are NOT born Christians...
- Our new birth is not by the will of man...
- Our new birth is by the will of God...

#### *Children of God are born (begotten) verse 13*

- Not of blood (*descent-ancestry*)
- Nor of the will of the flesh (*desire*)
- Nor of the will of man (*human power*)

***But by the will of God...***

***The miracle of the incarnation makes possible  
the miracle of my own new birth in Christ.***



Arise, shine; for  
your light has  
come! And the  
glory of the  
Lord is risen  
upon you.  
*Isaiah 60:1*

#### John 1:9-13 NIV

**:9** The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.

**:10** He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.

**:11** He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

**:12** Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

**:13** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

#### John 1:9-13 KJV

**:9** That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

**:10** He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

**:11** He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

**:12** But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

**:13** Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

# The Incarnation: Tradition and Truth Have you Beheld the Glory of Christ the Messiah?

*The Word was with God...  
The Word became flesh...  
We beheld His glory...  
Of His fullness we have received...  
...Have you?*

## 1. God Tabernacles with Man *John 1:14*

### The Old Testament Tabernacle and the Incarnation



*And the Word became flesh and dwelt (tabernacled) among us...*

*Exo 25:8-9; Exo 40:34-38; 1 Cor 3:16*

Christ is the locus of God's dwelling with Israel as He had dwelled with them in the tabernacle in the desert.

**The Incarnation:** Jesus left his usual place [with God] and accepted the conditions of

human life and chose NOT to use His divine attributes.

*Philippians 2:5-11*

As believers we now become partakers of His divine nature and to the extent that He will permit us—we can use and experience His power! *2 Peter 1:2-4*

## 2. The Glory of God *John 1:14*

*...and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father...*

The glory was Jesus Himself—God in the flesh. When John and the rest of the disciples looked at Him—they saw the glory of God. The ‘tabernacle’ of God among men. *Revelation 21:3*



## 3. The Fullness of God *John 1:14; :16 — Col 2:9-10; Col 1:19*

*...full of grace and truth... (:14)*

*And of His fullness we have all received... (:16)*

- **Full of grace and truth:** In these two words, ‘grace’ and ‘truth’ the character of divine revelation is summed up.
- **And of His fullness we have all received:** When we receive Christ as savior we receive the fullness [or completeness] of His ‘grace’ and ‘truth.’ *Eph 3:19; 4:13*

## 4. Grace for grace! *John 1:16*

The expression ‘**grace for grace**’ probably means “**grace upon grace**” or “abundant grace.” Here grace means God's gracious favor which He showers on His beloved children.



Grace upon grace is like the ‘**manna**’ from heaven—it just kept coming: **manna for manna**. The incarnation brought the true manna to earth—Jesus the bread of life.

*Psalms 78:24; John 6:35*

And the Word  
became flesh...

**:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

**:2** He was in the beginning with God. **:3** All things were made through Him, and with-

out Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. **:5** And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

**:6** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. **:7** This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. **:8** He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. **:9** That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. **:10** He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. **:11** He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. **:12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: **:13** who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

**:14 And the Word became 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.** **:15** John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" **:16** And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. **:17** For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. **:18** No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

*John 1:1-18 NKJV*