

The Incarnation: Tradition and Truth

Lesson 4: The Glory of Christ the Messiah

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1. God Tabernacles with Man :14

"The Word was with God..." v. 1

"The Word became flesh..." v. 14

This is the basic statement of the incarnation!

The Old Testament Tabernacle and the Incarnation

Dwelt [lived] among us...tabernacled gk (skenoō) from nao (naos)

The word LIVED—literally means to pitch a tent—used in the Septuagint for the tabernacle of God.

The command to build the tabernacle

Exo 25:8 And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them. **Exo 25:9** According to all that I show you, *that is*, the pattern of the tabernacle and the pattern of all its furnishings, just so you shall make *it*.

The Lord fills the Tabernacle

Exo 40:34 Then the cloud covered the tabernacle of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. **Exo 40:35** And Moses was not able to enter the tabernacle of meeting, because the cloud rested above it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. **Exo 40:36** Whenever the cloud was taken up from above the tabernacle, the children of Israel would go onward in all their journeys. **Exo 40:37** But if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not journey till the day that it was taken up. **Exo 40:38** For the cloud of the Lord *was* above the tabernacle by day, and fire was over it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

We are now the tabernacle of God

1Co 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?

The word 'temple' here is naos, from the root of 'to dwell' to tent.

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*

2Pe 1:2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, **2Pe 1:3** as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain* to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, **2Pe 1:4** by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises,

that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust.

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*

Rev 21:1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea.

Rev 21:2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Rev 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God.

Rev 21:4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

DWELL in verse 3 is *skenoō*—the same word as used in John 1:14 —Christ dwelt among us.

3. The Fullness of God

...full of grace and truth... (:14)
And of His fullness we have all received... (:16)

Two key passages about the idea of fullness and Jesus

Col 1:19 For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the fullness should dwell,

Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;

Col 2:10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

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*

From verse 12: As many as received Him....

Eph 3:19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Eph 4:13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

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.

Psalm 78:24-25

Psa 78:24 Had rained down manna on them to eat, And given them of the bread of heaven.

Psa 78:25 Men ate angels' food; He sent them food to the full.

John 6:32-35

Joh 6:32 Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven.

Joh 6:33 For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

Joh 6:34 Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always."

Joh 6:35 And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

Notice the theme of FULLNESS in these two verse?

There is also the law of increase...

From 'Job' to the 'bread and fish' to the words of Jesus at the conclusion of the parable of the talents in Mat 25:14-17, "For to every one who has will more be given and he will have abundance," –there is key Biblical truth revealed: 'increase.'

From grace to grace....