

Title: God Incarnate

Passage: John 1:1-5

Introduction

God Incarnate = Jesus fully God and fully man

Plurality:

- Union of the Trinity
- Union of Godhead and humanity in Jesus Christ

Book: "Knowing God" by J.I. Packer

- most misunderstandings of the Bible are rooted in God Incarnate
- If Jesus was not truly God, then miracles hard to understand.
- But if Jesus was God, then can understand the miracles and death/resurrection

Passage: John 1:1-5, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

EXPOSITION

The Gospel of John

- written after the others written (Matthew, Mark, Luke)
- Written intent to rebuke heresies about Jesus not being God.

Overview:

I. Jesus is an eternal being

II. Jesus is human

III. Jesus is fully God

I. Jesus is an eternal being

In the beginning was the Word

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.

- connecting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the beginning

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,

Dwelt

- dealt = tabernacle
- Pointed to the Tabernacle in Old Testament
- In the Holy of Holies was the ark of the covenant which contained the Ten Commandments
- Why? The Word of God belonged and reflected the inner most reality of who God is.

Gospel of Mark (first written of the 4)

Mark 1:1-2

The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way,

- Mark pointed back to Isaiah (700 years before)

Matthew 1:1 (Abraham)

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Luke 3:38 (Adam)

the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

John 1:1 (beginning of all time)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Hebrews 1:1-2

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

Philippians 2:5-6

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,

Revelation 22:13

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

II. Jesus is human

the Word was with God

- reveals distinction of the Trinity: the second Person of the Trinity (Son) was with the first Person of the Trinity (Father)

Doctrine of Trinity

- Definition: In the unity of the Godhead, there are three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

III. Jesus is fully God

The Word was God

- Clearly points to Jesus' deity (Jesus is fully God)

John 20:28-29

Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me?

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

- Jesus did not rebuke Thomas' acknowledgement that Jesus is God.

Story: Saint Nicolas

- Arius was teaching that Jesus was not God. Saint Nicolas rebuked him.
- <https://www.stnicholascenter.org/who-is-st-nicholas/stories-legends/traditional-stories/life-of-nicholas/bishop-nicholas-loses-his-cool>

Allegation: Jesus was a "God-like" creature (divine but not deity)

Biblical response:

1. The deity of Christ is clear throughout the New Testament.
2. If John meant Jesus was divine but not a deity, a clear Greek word existed could have been used to say "god-like" but wasn't used.
3. In Greek grammar, the verse clearly reads "the Word was God"
4. The Word was God as well as distinct from God the Father. (The Word was with God and the Word was God)

Key Point: Jesus is fully divine

- Jesus (God the Son) is the executor while God the Father is the ordainer

Jesus is the Creator God

All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Jesus' role in creating life and sustaining life

John 1:10

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.

Colossians 1:16

For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

1 Corinthians 8:6

yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning, God [Jesus] created the heavens and the earth.

Psalms 100:3

Know that the LORD, he is God! It is he [Jesus] who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Psalms 95:5-7

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land. Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

John 10:11

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

Genesis 2:7

then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.

John 1:18

No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Isaiah 40:3-5

A voice cries:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Jesus sustains the world

Hebrews 1:3

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

John 5:17

But Jesus answered them, "My Father is working until now, and I am working."

Isaiah 53:5

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

- Jesus' hands who sustains the world were pierced for you.

Truth: Jesus is the image of God the Father and God the Holy Spirit

- Jesus came to reflect who God is.

Application

The Incarnation made it possible to see and know God's love

- Has anyone seen God? Yes! All that Jesus did was real.
- There are more historical records that Jesus existed than George Washington. Jesus lived!
- What did we see in Jesus? Jesus revealed God's love for us.

The Incarnation made it possible for Jesus to die for our sins.

Hebrews 10:4-7

For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'"

The Incarnation makes Jesus our God compassionate and sympathetic to our weaknesses.

- Jesus lived like us and truly knows what it means to be human with its weaknesses and limitations

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- God is a compassionate God who knows what you are going through.

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

The Incarnation shows that Jesus is able to satisfy your needs.

John 10:10b

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through him who strengthens me.