**The Incarnation**

A Brief Commentary

By

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*Luke 1:26-37 And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,* ***To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David****; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.*

*Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be,* ***seeing I know not a man?*** *And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee,* ***and the power of the Highest shall overshdow thee:*** *therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.*

The definition of “overshadow” from Strong’s Concordance**:**

“From a vaporous cloud that casts a shadow the word is transferred to a shining cloud surrounding and enveloping persons with brightness. Used of the Holy Spirit exerting creative energy upon the womb of the virgin Mary and impregnating it.”

This was similar to the cloud that covered the tabernacle in the Old Testament. Also the cloud at the mount of transfiguration in the New Testament. (Matthew 17:5)

God in His sovereignty chose Mary to be His instrument in bringing about the body of a child to be indwelt by God Himself in the person of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

It was very necessary that Mary be with child of the Holy Spirit, in order that this child be born sinless. It was also very necessary that Christ have a human body in order to suffer, die and pay the penalty for our sin. God could not use an animal to do this, because animals are beings of a lower order, therefore, not human. He could not use one of the holy angels, because they are beings of a higher order. His perfect plan required that it must be a man, a perfect, sinless man.

Since we as humans inherit the sins of our fathers, there was no one on the earth that could qualify.

When the Christ Child was born at Bethlehem, He was completely sinless, completely God, yet completely man. He grew up in this sinful world, with all the temptations, and sinful filth around, but without even a hint of sin in His thirty three years of life here on earth.

Only one without any sin could die in our place and pay for our sin. Oh! what a perfect plan. We can add nothing to it, for if we did, we in our sinfulness would only pollute and destroy it.

Mary had a cousin who’s name was Elizabeth. Elizabeth had been pregnant for about six months. The child she was carrying would become John the Baptist, who was to be the forerunner of our Lord, to announce his coming and prepare the way.

*Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.*

*Isaiah 40:3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

*John 1:23 He said, I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.*

Abortionists claim there is no life until a baby is born, however, note the following verse:

*Luke 1:41-45 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary,* ***the babe leaped in her womb;*** *and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?* ***For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy****. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.*

The baby Elizabeth was carrying, was six months along and when they came into the presence of Jesus, (very recently conceived) he, Elizabeth’s baby, leaped in her womb.

Even a baby, still in the womb becomes excited in the presence of our Lord.

This event of Christ’s birth was long awaited by the prophets who had prophesied of it for many years.

*1Peter 1:10-12 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied* ***of the grace******that should come unto you:*** *Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify,* ***when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.*** *Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven;* ***which things the angels desire to look into.***

The act of God taking the form of man in the body of this baby born in Bethlehem, is known as the incarnation.

Webster’s dictionary describes incarnation as “the embodiment ofa deity or spirit in some earthly form.”

Why is this so important? Without it there would be no Christianity, no salvation, no hope for lost mankind.

*1 John 4:2,3 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world*.

This is undoubtably the greatest miracle the world has ever seen, yet many try to deny it.

Can you imagine, God leaving the realms of heaven in all its purity and beauty to indwell a body on this sin cursed earth and live among a sinful people? It did happen and for the very purpose of saving many of these very sinful people like you and me.

The Apostle Paul says it best in the following:

*1 Timothy 1:15 This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*

One would think when this happened that the world would welcome Him with open arms, but man is so in love with his sins that he wants no interferencefrom anyone, not even the very God, who created us.

Unsaved man will not, nor cannot, do anything to help himself out of his lost condition. Only Christ can take a poor lost sinner, lift him from his gutter of sin, and give him life.

*Ephesians 2:1-7 And you hath he* ***quickened,*** *who were* ***dead in trespasses and sins****; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,* ***Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ,*** *(by grace ye are saved;)* ***And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus****: That in the ages to come he might shew* ***the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.***

That word quickened means to make alive, for in our sinful state we were walking dead men sinking farther and farther in sin each day.

The salvation God brings to us as a result of Christ’s birth, life, death and resurrection, is the fulfilment of a promise made in when God places a curse on Satan.

*Genesis 3:14,15 And the LORD God said unto the serpent,* Because *thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*

The fulfilment of this promise is recorded in Galatians.

*Galatians 4:4,5 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,*

*To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

Praise God. He as God the Son (in the form of a baby) was willing to come to this evil world for the purpose of dying and paying the penalty for our sin, and offering us life eternal. Even more making us part of His family forever.

*Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint‑heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.*

*Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*

All by theGrace of God. We did not merit salvation, He saved us by His grace. He makes us part of His family by His grace, and by His grace He allows us to share in His glory.