

## The Word Became Flesh

Jesus is the Word, and the Word was God, and the Word became flesh. The Lord Jesus became flesh and became the greatest \_\_\_\_\_ this world has ever known. We search through the Bible, because it has precious \_\_\_\_\_ on every page. It has the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. God is sharing His \_\_\_\_\_ with us through the Word. The Bible provides for us the greatest story of \_\_\_\_\_ ever written. God sent His Son Jesus into the world to \_\_\_\_\_ our lives and to demonstrate His love. We know of this love because of the \_\_\_\_\_ we have of His life, death, burial, and resurrection in the Bible. So we go again and again to its pages.

The coming of Jesus into the world was an \_\_\_\_\_ event. The Bible predicts His \_\_\_\_\_ in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC in Bethlehem of Judah in Micah 5:2. His birth was marked with a special \_\_\_\_\_ that Wise Men followed for months from the East. His birth was marked with an \_\_\_\_\_ announcing His birth to some shepherds and a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God, telling them they will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes.

God proclaimed through the prophet Isaiah, “For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the \_\_\_\_\_ will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no \_\_\_\_\_ to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his \_\_\_\_\_, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this” (Isaiah 9:6-7). Oh, it’s exciting to recall the blessing of Jesus in His coming into the world.

### **Our reading today comes from The Gospel According to John 1:1-5.**

This time of year many people focus on the birth of Christ, but did you know that Jesus has \_\_\_\_\_ existed? In fact, there’s never been a time when Jesus did not exist. Jesus was no mere \_\_\_\_\_. He was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God. Jesus was Divine and became flesh. He’s always existed and created all things, but He didn’t always have flesh.

John 1:14 says, “And the Word became flesh and \_\_\_\_\_ among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.” People are made up of both flesh and spirit, and the eternal spirit of the Lord Jesus took on flesh and \_\_\_\_\_ to us the glory of God in heaven. Jesus Christ, by becoming flesh, gave us two immeasurably valuable \_\_\_\_\_ essential to our lives: grace and truth. We have the grace that \_\_\_\_\_ us and the truth that sets us \_\_\_\_\_! Oh, be grateful for the Word that became flesh.

In John 1:15-18, John the Baptist testified about Jesus, “This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He \_\_\_\_\_ before me.’ For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the

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**Longer quotations may not appear in the Study Sheet, but can be read in the accompanying transcript.**

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bosom of the Father, He has \_\_\_\_\_ Him.” We know what God is like because we know Jesus. The Lord Jesus said, “He who has seen Me has seen the Father” (John 14:9).

The Hebrew writer also helps us to understand how the Father in heaven \_\_\_\_\_ Himself through the Lord Jesus. Hebrews 1:1-3 says, “God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has \_\_\_\_\_ to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the \_\_\_\_\_ representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high.”

God, today, speaks to us through His Son; and Jesus His Son, who created the world and upholds all things by the word of His power, gives us an exact representation of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. The better we know Jesus Christ, the better we will know the Father in Heaven.

Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all things. John 3:35 says, “The Father loves the Son and has given \_\_\_\_\_ things into His hand.” The Lord Jesus said, “All \_\_\_\_\_ has been given to Me” (Matthew 28:18). The Lord Jesus is now \_\_\_\_\_ at the right hand of the Majesty on high. He upholds your existence and mine. He c\_\_\_\_\_ everything that exists. Colossians 1:15-17 says, “He is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were \_\_\_\_\_, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.”

Sometimes people hear the words “firstborn of all creation” and \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus was the first created being. However, if all things were created by Him and for Him, He \_\_\_\_\_ be a created being. The word “firstborn,” here is misunderstood. The title “firstborn” here is speaking not of chronology but of preeminence. It’s not that Jesus is the first created person, but that He has a place of authority \_\_\_\_\_ all creation. He has a superior status over creation and his existence is \_\_\_\_\_ to creation. He was in the beginning and has always existed, and now God has given Him authority over all creation. Jesus prayed to His Father, “Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, and the glory which I had with You before the world was” (John 17:5). Jesus was not created; He always existed. Jesus existed \_\_\_\_\_ the world began, why then would He become a man? Why would a Divine Jesus become flesh? There are some very good reasons.

First, Jesus became a man to \_\_\_\_\_ us from our sins. An angel of the Lord told Joseph, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:20-21). John the Baptist described Jesus as the “Lamb of God who takes away the \_\_\_\_\_ of the world” (John 1:29). Jesus had to take on flesh in order to be a \_\_\_\_\_ for your sins and mine.

Hebrews 10:4-7 says, “For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore, when He [that is, Jesus] comes into the world, He says, ‘Sacrifice and offering You have not desired, but a \_\_\_\_\_ You have prepared for Me; in whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have taken no pleasure. And then I said, “behold, I have come (in the scroll of the book it is written of Me) to do your \_\_\_\_\_, O God.’” Jesus had to take on flesh, so that He could give His body as a

sacrifice for our sins. Jesus was born to \_\_\_\_\_. First Peter 2:24 says, “and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might \_\_\_\_\_ to sin and \_\_\_\_\_ to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.”

Second, Jesus took on flesh so that we might \_\_\_\_\_ humility and obedience. The Bible says “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but \_\_\_\_\_ Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming \_\_\_\_\_ to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:5-8). Jesus became human in order to die on the cross. Though Jesus existed in the form of God, He had to empty Himself, to make Himself nothing.

He left Heaven’s \_\_\_\_\_ out of love to bless humanity. “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was \_\_\_\_\_, yet for your sake He became \_\_\_\_\_, so that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). Jesus thought nothing of Himself so that He could bless you and me with \_\_\_\_\_ life. I can’t imagine all the glory and majesty of heaven, but Jesus left it all to be born in a stable. He endured all the hardships of mankind. He never knew the joy of a family, never owned a house, never had a hot shower, and did not grow old. He became poor so you and I might have an imperishable, undefiled home in heaven.

Third, Jesus came into the world to bring us the \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus told Pontius Pilate, “For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to \_\_\_\_\_ to the truth. And everyone who is of the truth hears My voice” (John 18:37). Jesus embodies truth. He said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; and no one \_\_\_\_\_ to the Father but by Me” (John 14:6). If you wish to know the truth, listen to Jesus. If you wish to know right from wrong, listen to Jesus. God once spoke from heaven to Peter, James and John about Jesus. God said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; \_\_\_\_\_ to Him!” (Matthew 17:5). So we must pay close attention to everything the Lord Jesus says.

Carefully listening to Jesus brings a \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord Jesus said, “I’ve come as Light into the world, so that everyone who believes in Me will not remain in darkness” (John 12:46). The Roman Empire in the days of Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ with confused pagans, who felt enslaved by morally corrupt gods that they invented. The Roman gods didn’t understand love. Pagans were cruel and oppressive, and had little appreciation for human life or freedom.

The Bible teaches the Gentile world, “So this I say, and affirm together with the Lord, that you walk no longer just as the Gentiles also walk, in the futility of their mind, being \_\_\_\_\_ in their understanding, excluded from the life of God because of the ignorance that’s in them, because of the hardness of their heart; and they, having become callous, have given themselves over to sensuality for the practice of every kind of impurity with greediness” (Ephesians 4:17-19). The Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ morality and lived righteously. He demonstrated by his life and his death on the cross what love and forgiveness truly are. Jesus is the Light in a dark world, true healing in a suffering society, and real \_\_\_\_\_ for a confused culture. God knew what we needed. What a blessing Jesus is to us!

The Lord Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have \_\_\_\_\_, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). He gives us His grace, forgiving us of our \_\_\_\_\_.

God gives us the right to be His \_\_\_\_\_ through Christ. John 1:11-13 says, “He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the \_\_\_\_\_ to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.”

As God’s children we can \_\_\_\_\_ to our Father in Heaven. God promises us, “Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your \_\_\_\_\_ be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7). God our Father sets a \_\_\_\_\_ around our minds and hearts to keep us in perfect peace in times of anxiety.

More than that, the Lord protects us in time of \_\_\_\_\_. First Corinthians 10:13 says, “No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is \_\_\_\_\_, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of \_\_\_\_\_ also, so that you will be able to endure it.” God loves and watches over His children. And when we draw near God, He truly draws near us.

Jesus doesn’t bless us only in this life; He brings us \_\_\_\_\_ life. First John 5:11-12 says, “And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; and he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.” Jesus has prepared a \_\_\_\_\_ for us in heaven so that we can live with Him and the Father, and we can live with them forever and ever. Why do we speak about this? Because Jesus’ coming into the world is no small matter. Our lives are richer and fuller because of the Son of God, and how He became flesh. Thank God, that He did!

While it’s wonderful to consider how the Word became flesh, we must do more than talk about it. We must make it \_\_\_\_\_. Jesus didn’t come to save the world from sin; He came to save each of us as individuals. Jesus became flesh so that each of us could come to know God, could have the forgiveness of sins, could enjoy the blessings of a relationship with God, and could have eternal life with God in Heaven forever.

What does that mean for you? Jesus was born so He could die for you. Jesus became flesh knowing from the beginning that He would be crucified. He willingly emptied and humbled Himself in order to bear a cross for you. Don’t think of this as trivial, because it wasn’t trivial to the Father or to Jesus Christ. No one has ever done more to bless your life than Jesus did on the cross. No one but Jesus could give you forgiveness or eternal life. Do you take the Lord seriously?

If you do, what have you done about it? Have you committed yourself to follow Jesus and His teaching? Have you placed your trust in Him and confessed Him as the Christ, the Son of God? Have you turned away from sin? Have you been baptized into Christ? According to Romans 6:3, being baptized into Christ means being baptized into His death. Jesus shed His blood in His death, so baptism into Christ puts us in contact with His blood that forgives us. Baptism is also the time when the Lord adds us to His church. We need to come to Christ, we need to be baptized, and to get involved in the church. I pray that our time together will encourage you to act.