

OUR AMAZING SAVIOR

Part II

John 1:1-3, 14

Introduction: "God coming in the flesh" is a cardinal doctrine of the Bible. The Docetic Gnostics of the Apostle John's day denied the humanity of Jesus, and the Cerinthian Gnostics separated God from the man. Notice that John says "...and the Word *was* God" not "... the Word *became* God." There is no wiggle room in this matter; Jesus was a God-man. The false theory of Sabellianism was refuted as well. "God is spirit," not "spirit is God." "God is love," not "love is God," as the Christian scientists confusedly say. There are many theologians who are guilty of false theories about the Bible. Some have the audacity to assert that the virgin birth was a concoction of the early disciples. Others have written that the coming of Jesus was a spiritual one and not physical. The Bible states clearly that the incarnation of God coming to live in Jesus the man is an absolute and irrefutable fact that Christianity incontrovertibly revolves upon, and the preponderance of evangelicals accept this truth.

A. Our Amazing Savior. "Let us..." *Genesis 1:26*.

1. The only part of Jesus that had a beginning was His human nature. The inward part, *the Word of God*, had already been before the beginning of time, the same as the Heavenly Father.
 - a. Imagine how much love God had for us that He would send deity, *the Word of God*, and that He would undergo a change in form so He could become flesh as a real human being. *John 3:16*.
 - b. Look at Paul's revelation in *Philippians 2:6-8*. This Great One, *the Word of God*, already existed in the form of God. The Greek word for form is "*morphe*." It not only means in *outward* appearance, as we understand it in the English, but it means in the *entire make-up and nature* as well. Scroggi calls this ... "the greatest Christological passage in the Bible."
 - c. He possessed all the essentials of deity: Omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence, etc. He was God and thought it not robbery to *be equal* with God! But, "*He made Himself of no reputation...*"
 - d. The Greek *kenoo* means "to *empty out*." He emptied Himself of His right to be equal with God. He could not empty out His divine nature, because He was not only God from all eternity, but He was God manifest in the flesh. *1st Timothy 3:16*.
 - e. He relinquished the glory that He shared with the Father before the world was. *John 17:5*.
2. The glorified son of Mary.
 - a. Jesus, the Christ, presently resides in Heaven in His resurrected, glorified human body, making Him perfectly able to relate to both God and man. *1st Timothy 2:5*.
 - b. In His divinity, that is, His being equal with God, He is perfectly able to relate with the Heavenly Father. Like no one else, He knows how to deal with us and the Father, making him the perfect Mediator.
 - c. For a long time, even His disciples did not really recognize that Jesus was truly the Son of God. Because His humanity was so apparent, it took a supernatural revelation for Peter to become aware of this. Jesus was not just a man, but He was the *Son of God*. *Matthew 16:13-17*. Theologians call this event the *kenosis*.
 - d. Most people thought of Him as the son of Mary and Joseph or the son of the carpenter. When He claimed to be the Son of God, they reached down to pick up stones and accused Him of blasphemy. They understood the Hebrew term "*son of*" to mean "*he is in the same family, and has the nature of his father*."
 - e. When they sought to stone him, Jesus responded to them. *John 10:33*. Men who are not saved remain as confused as the people of Jesus' day. After you receive Him as Lord of your life, the Holy Spirit opens your eyes to who He really is.

Conclusion: We are living in a day of so-called political correctness. The pressure is on the church of the living God to dilute the absolutes of the Gospel because they are offensive to some. The virgin birth, the resurrection of Christ, the ascension of Christ into Heaven, and the rapture of the church may be offensive to some, but we cannot compromise the Gospel for anyone. *Acts 4:19-20*.