

## *Women & More*

### ***The Human Life of God***

November 21, 2013

Isaiah 25:1 *“O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name,  
for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things,  
things planned long ago.”*

Once God descended daily to the Garden of Eden and walked and talked with his human creatures, and they had fellowship together. Every single thing that God had created before man he had spoken into existence: *“Let there be...”* he had said. But man had been made by God’s own hands from the dust of the ground—Eve from Adam—made for his company and for his eternal praise and glory. But their praise turned to fear, and their glory was marred when they sinned. Things had radically changed, because the thing that pure and holy God could not abide in the least, sin, was manifested in them through their disobedience.

God could not walk with them, now, because of their sin and we wonder who would miss the communion most: Adam and Eve, or God? The couple could do nothing at all to remedy the separation. The ones that God had so loved would have to live without his personal presence. They would need to cover their shame and shed the blood of animals to atone for their sins. What if God had stayed away forever? What would have become of them; of us? What if he’d not made a way to come to us, to commune with us, to stay with us and to redeem us to Himself—for all eternity?

But The Divine is a purposeful, powerful, planning God! And just as he had knelt on the ground, scooped up its dirt—perhaps pitching away small pebbles—and made man in his image, he was going to do ‘it’ again—this time his remarkably loving, reconciling work. This time he would condescend to come down to us and take upon himself manhood, while remaining fully God, so that he could redeem us to himself and renew communion with us again.

Everything God thinks, says or does is always marvelous, but what could be more amazing than the Mighty, Holy, Awesome God coming to dwell among men and women. And he sent messengers to tell us he would come; he wrote manuscripts to outline his strategic plan. And at just the right moment in time, he came! He had promised he would; and he keeps his every promise.

God the Son would come to die—that’s what it would take to pay for our sins and reconcile us to the Father. And die he did! But before he died, he lived a sinless life and performed miracles and walked and talked with men, women and children—and he loved on us. And, of course, before he lived he was born!

◆Play the tape from the Young Messiah: *For unto Us a Child is Born!*

—composed by George F. Handel

**These are words from Isaiah 9:6-7**—“*For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called **Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.** <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.*”

For to us—us who? Isaiah is speaking for God about what God is going to do for the Jews and for the Gentiles to come. In Genesis 1:26 God had said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness...” So the ‘us’ in both references God—this time Incarnate God—meaning He made the decision to send himself as the child and he would accomplish it. But now the ‘us’ in “*For to us a child is born:*” includes the people: the fallen, the sinful, the lost. We are going to benefit most from his gracious condescension to man and earth. From throne to manger, from God to Man—from heaven to human hearts by way of earth!

“The seat of the **divine revelation** and the center of the **divine atonement** was and is the *human life of God*” —Henry van Dyke.

In the Isaiah 9:6 passage it also says: “*And he will be called*” and then lists Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father—this is the child that is born, the Son that is given—and Prince of Peace. We see eternity here: what the child has always been and what he will continue to be forever, because the child is God! When we take the Lord’s Supper, we remember the ‘passion’ of Christ—the anointed *One*—his suffering, his death, his sacrifice for us, and his resurrection—without which we could not be saved. But the birth of Jesus—the incarnation—unveils for us the ‘passion’ of the Father—we are allowed the longest glimpse of his magnificent glory allowed on this earth to date!

Isaiah prophecies to Israel in 9:2 “*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light,*” and in 60:1: “*Arise, shine, for your light has come, **and the glory of the LORD—covenant Father—rises upon you.***” And the New Testament heralds in Luke 2:14: “*Glory to God in the Highest....*”

As promised, as foretold, the birth of Jesus takes place! Luke 2:8-14 records:

“*And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord appeared to them, **and the glory of the Lord shone around them,** and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.’*”

13 “Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, **praising God** and saying, 14 **Glory to God in the highest**, and on earth peace, good will toward men.”

Not only had God promised to come to us, but he’d promised to save us and he gave us a glimpse of our Savior way back in **Zechariah 9:9** “*Rejoice greatly... O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, **righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.***”

And the promise of Jesus coming as Savior takes place right on schedule!

Matthew 1:21 “*She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because **he will save his people from their sins.***”

22 “*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet....*”

1 John 4:13-16 “*We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his **Spirit.** 14 And we have seen and testify that the **Father** has sent his **Son** to be the Savior of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God. 16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us.*”

The Trinity is fully engaged in God coming to us! When God the Son stepped down from his glorious position with the Father on High, and through the Holy Spirit’s work, entered Mary’s womb in preparation to be the “*Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world,*” he remained fully God. Yet in the most amazing way—only God can understand—he became fully man. The *incarnation* was the first installment in God’s plan to redeem us to Himself!

If not for the *incarnation*—the taking of manhood by the Son—there would have been no body and no blood; the Word would not have become flesh. Let’s take that in fully: there would have been no sinless life lived, no cross, no disciples called, no Divine *One* to walk among us and feel and be acquainted with our every pain and loss.

### ♥JESUS AS FULLY GOD—

Jesus was God in the flesh! John describes Jesus in 1:1 “*In the beginning was the **Word**, and the **Word** was with **God**, and the **Word** was **God.** 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made, without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of men. 5 The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.*”

Jesus was the very Word of God—the “*Let there be*”—the very creator and author of life. This passage says that “*through him all things were made, without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness....*” Remember the earlier verses talking about people walking in darkness have seen a great light? Jesus was and is that light—the

light of the world—the light that penetrates the darkness of our sinful world and our hearts—and the light that gives us a sustained glimpse of the glory of God!

- God came to be with us! Matthew 1:23 *“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel which means, ‘God with us.’”*
- God promises never to leave us! Hebrews 13:5b *“...God has said, ‘Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.’”* The author of Hebrews is quoting God’s promise to Joshua in 1:5 *“I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*
- In Revelation—the last book in the Bible—3:20a, Jesus says, *“Here I am!”*

► The rationale for the incarnation—the taking of manhood by the Son:

Hebrews 2:14-18 *“Since the children have flesh and blood, **he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—**and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. **16**For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham’s descendants. **17**For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and **that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.** **18**Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.”*

### ♥ JESUS AS FULLY MAN—no ordinary man

- The man Christ Jesus is our mediator and advocate! 1 Timothy 2:5 *“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”*
- The man Christ Jesus is able to help us in temptation, because as a man he, too, was tempted yet he had no sin. Hebrews 2:18 *“Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.”*
- **BECAUSE** the risen, ascended Lord Jesus Christ remains, today in heaven, fully God and fully man! Acts 17:31 *“For he (God) has set a day when **he will judge the world by the man he has appointed.** He has given proof of this to all men by raising **him** from the dead.”*

SON of God—sent

John 6:29 is amazing! *“The work of God is this: to believe in the One he has sent.”*

SON of Man—born, lived, died, buried, rose again and ascended to the Father

Matthew 8:20 *“Jesus said, ‘Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.’”*

“His first coming was without external pomp or show of power, and yet in truth there were few who could abide its testing might. Herod and all Jerusalem with him were stirred at the news of the wondrous birth. Those who supposed themselves to be waiting for Him, showed the fallacy of their profession by rejecting Him when He came,” said Charles Haddon Spurgeon.

Jesus did many miracles! **John 10:31-33** “Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, <sup>32</sup>but Jesus said to them, ‘**I have shown you many great miracles from the Father.** For which of these do you stone me?’

<sup>33</sup>“‘We are not stoning you for any of these,’ replied the Jews, ‘but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man (they are so wrong), claim to be God.’”

**Peter’s indictment in Acts 3:15** “You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead.”

There was the glory of his birth, the passion of his death, but what of the human life of God? What does the Word tell us about himself—what was he like?

Jesus loved people, and he loved to do his Father’s will

He liked the mountains and he liked to fish

Jesus enjoyed a good meal, and he enjoyed the company of children

He had compassion for the lost and he had compassion on the sick

Jesus had a special affinity for orphans, widows and for the alien

He had very few possessions, and he had few close friends

Jesus cooked a meal, walked on water, and had his Father’s approval

He was multi-lingual, and he was head of an international ministry

Jesus was a gentleman, a super-hero and the Supreme ‘know-it-all’



Jesus hand-picked the Twelve, and one would betray him to death!

J. I. Packer, in *Knowing God*, said, “By every human standard of reckoning, the cross was a waste—the waste of a young life, a prophet’s influence, a leader’s potential.”

John 12:44-47 “Then Jesus cried out, ‘When a man believes in me, he does not believe in me only, **but in the one who sent me.** <sup>45</sup>When he looks at me, **he sees the one who sent me.** <sup>46</sup>I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness.

<sup>47</sup>“‘As for the person who hears my words but does not keep them, I do not judge him. For I did not come (this time—mine) to judge the world, but to save it. <sup>48</sup>There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; **that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.** <sup>49</sup>For I did not speak of my own accord, but the Father who sent me commanded me what to say and how to say it. <sup>50</sup>I know that his command leads to eternal life. So whatever I say is just what the Father has told me to say.’”

The incarnation is the echo of Christ—the *Word*: we study, learn, know, and then share Him with the world. With all credit to Christ and all glory to God, the *human life of God* is the Word in the world!