

THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST

[BIBLE TEXT](#): [John 1:1-14](#)

LESSON 208 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "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 s it in the world" (I John 4:3).

[BIBLE TEXT in King James Version](#)

John 1:1-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² The same was in the beginning with God.

³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

⁴ In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John.

⁷ The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all *men* through him might believe.

⁸ He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light.

⁹ *That* was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, *even* to them that believe on his name:

¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

[BIBLE REFERENCES:](#)

I The Pre-existent Christ

1 Jesus, equal with God and one of the Trinity, is the eternal Son of God, John 1:1, 2, 15;

John 8:58

⁵⁸ Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

John 17:5

⁵ And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

John 17:11

¹¹ And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we *are*.

John 17:21

²¹ That they all may be one; as thou, Father, *art* in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

John 17:24

²⁴ Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

Isaiah 9:6

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

Revelation 22:13

¹³ I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

1 John 1:1-2

¹ That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

² (For the life was manifested, and we have seen *it*, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

2 Jesus, in perfect unity of action as well as of purpose with God the Father and the Holy Ghost, created the universe, John 1:3, 10;

Colossians 1:15-17

¹⁵ Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

Hebrews 1:1-3

¹ God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son,

whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

³ Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

1 Corinthians 8:6

⁶ But to us *there is but* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom *are* all things, and we by him.

Ephesians 3:9

⁹ And to make all *men* see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

3 His principal mission is to bring eternal life to all mankind, John 1:4, 5;

John 10:10

¹⁰ The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

John 11:25

²⁵ Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Romans 5:21

²¹ That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:10

¹⁰ But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

1 John 1:6

⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

1 John 5:12

¹² He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

II Jesus Christ, the Light of the World

1 John the Baptist was sent as a forerunner of Christ, to announce the coming of the Messiah, John 1:6-8, 15, 19-34;

Isaiah 40:3

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.

Malachi 3:1

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.

Matthew 3:1-17

¹ In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

² And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

³ For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.

⁴ And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat

was locusts and wild honey.

⁵ Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

⁶ And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷ But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

⁸ Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

⁹ And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

¹⁰ And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire:

¹² Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

¹³ Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

¹⁴ But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

¹⁵ And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be* so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

¹⁶ And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

¹⁷ And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

Matthew 11:10

¹⁰ For this is *he*, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

2 *Jesus* is the Light of the world, John 1:9;

John 8:12

¹² Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

Isaiah 9:2

² The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Isaiah 42:6

⁶ I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

Matthew 4:16

¹⁶ The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

Luke 1:79

⁷⁹ To give light to them that sit in darkness and *in* the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Ephesians 5:14

¹⁴ Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

1 John 1:7

⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

1 John 2:8

⁸ Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which

thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

Revelation 21:23

²³ And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.

3 Jesus came to deliver sinners but was rejected by Jew and Gentile alike, John 1:10, 11;

John 12:48

⁴⁸ He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

Matthew 1:21-23

²¹ And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

²² Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

²³ Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Psalms 2:2-4

² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, *saying*,

³ Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

⁴ He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Acts 4:27

²⁷ For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

4 The glorious privilege of being sons of God is extended to all who receive Jesus as the Christ, John 1:12, 13, 16, 17;

Romans 8:14

¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Galatians 4:7

⁷ Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Philippians 2:15

¹⁵ That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

1 John 3:1

¹ Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

5 Jesus is the Incarnate Word of God, John 1:14, 18;

1 Timothy 3:16

¹⁶ And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

1 John 5:7

⁷ For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

Revelation 19:13

¹³ And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

NOTES:

"Who is Jesus?"

Questions similar to that expressed in our subtitle have been asked over and over during the past two thousand years. Jesus asked also His own disciples, "Whom do men say that **I** the Son of man am?" This question is an important one to consider because our eternal state can be determined by the answer we give.

The Bible has made it very clear to us that the Lord Jesus Christ was not merely a prophet, a godly teacher, or an individual gifted with certain miraculous powers. It has stated many times that He is the Son of God and that He **always has been** the Son of God. He did not have His beginning at the time of His birth in Bethlehem. He began His existence as the **Son of man** at Bethlehem, but He has existed as **the Son of God** from "the beginning."

Our Lord Jesus Christ is therefore known as God the Son. He was with God the Father and God the Holy Ghost before the world was created. He is one of the eternal Godhead, equal with and in absolute unity and perfect oneness with God the Father and God the Holy Ghost. All the natural and moral attributes that are present in God the Father and God the Holy Ghost are found in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, in the same infinite character and extent as they are found in these others of the eternal Godhead; for the Bible states, of Christ, that "in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9).

Scores of titles, names, and descriptions applying to Christ are contained in the Word of God. But all these fail to describe fully the infinite, eternal character of the One "who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." The Holy Spirit has further spoken of Christ, in this regard, and said, "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow ... and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:6-11).

Jesus is the Son of God! Jesus is the Christ — the Anointed One, the Messiah! Jesus is the hope of everyone who is striving to be made holy, righteous, and acceptable to the Father; for He is our Advocate, our Substitute, the Firstfruits of our resurrection, and our coming King!

"What shall I do with Jesus?"

At this time of year our thoughts naturally go back to the simple and humble, yet glorious, first coming of Christ to this earth, when He was born in Bethlehem and was laid in a manger because there was no room for Him in the inn. There were many so-called worshipers of God in those days who knew that Christ was to come, who knew how He was to come, and who had the means of knowing that His coming was very near. But the great majority of these would not acknowledge Jesus as the Christ nor accept Him as the Savior.

We can easily picture the few who did acknowledge and accept Him at His birth. We remember the story of the few shepherds who heard the angelic choir announce His birth, and who came to pay homage to the Savior of mankind. We all know the stories of the wise men who came from the East, of Simeon, of Anna who served God in the Temple, and of the way the Spirit of God led them and helped them to recognize the tiny Babe's divine characteristics that thousands of men and women failed to see during His entire ministry on earth. These few saw the real identity of that holy Babe. They did not look upon Him as an ordinary child. They worshiped Him because they knew Him to be the Son of God, the long-looked-for hope of mankind.

How often this picture is repeated, in a certain sense, even today. There are many who come to His Temple nominally to worship Him, who are never found in the ranks of the actual disciples who follow Him to **the** cross! There are many who follow Him in a merely nominal sense who will not actually walk in His steps! There are many who fail to see Him as the Son of God, because He is to them only a teacher, a prophet, or a good example. But there are still the "shepherds," the "wise men," and the faithful servants who are led by the Spirit of God, who see Him as He is — the Son of God, the Savior of mankind.

"What did Jesus do?"

The Holy Spirit, through the Apostle, has told us that Jesus came to His own but that they did not receive Him. Jesus came to bring deliverance from sin. He came to heal the sick and raise the dead. He came **to** pay the price of our redemption and to open the way that we might be reconciled to God. He came to teach us how to live, to show us the full meaning of the law of God. And to those who receive Him, He gives power to become the sons of God and to be joint-heirs with Him of many eternal blessings.

Christ came to bring Light. He is called the "light of the world." The Light He brought gives eternal life and perfect peace with God. He placed no restrictions upon it, outside of our receiving Him as Savior, Lord, and King through simple and appropriating faith in the promises of God. People of every nationality, color, class, or time are entitled to that Light and its privileges. And God's mercy and justice have so arranged the Plan of Salvation so everyone is enlightened in a measure sufficient to guarantee his eternal salvation if he will receive that salvation, walking in the Light made manifest to him. But now, as in the time of His incarnation, Jesus comes and is not received; He speaks and is not heard; He pleads and is not answered; He invites and is continuously rejected.

"Why did He come?"

There is much about the Plan of Salvation that is not understood by the natural mind of man, for the things of the Spirit are only discerned through the Spirit. "Why did Christ come?" is a question that can be answered only by considering the infinite love, mercy, goodness, and longsuffering of the Almighty God. But it is not necessary that we be able to comprehend intellectually the answer to this question in order to be saved. We need only to sincerely believe that He did come and pay the price for our salvation.

Those who do not believe Him, who say He did not come in the flesh, and who discount His miracles or doubt His teachings, are in a class of *//* people who will eventually be dominated by a diabolical ruler, during the Great Tribulation, who is known as the Antichrist. There is no middle ground. We cannot successfully declare ourselves to be neutral, for we must either receive Christ as our Lord and Savior, walk in His Light, and obtain His gift of eternal life, or reject and refuse Him and be in open rebellion against Him.

To those who receive Him He gives eternal life, power to become the sons of God, and the ability to be laborers in His vineyard here on earth. Those who reject Him have no alternative but to spend an entire eternity with all the other Christ-rejecters — the filthy, the liars, the murderers, and the thieves — as well as the devil and his angels.

How infinite the Plan! How complete and thorough its

administrations! How all-inclusive its provisions It reaches from the beginning to the very end of time, from the highest to the very lowest class of men, and from the most ows.' to the most degenerate! It was made possible because Jesus humbly came to earth to live, to suffer, to die, and to rise from the dead that He might ascend on High! "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift" — the Christ, the Incarnate Word of God!

QUESTIONS

- 1 What phase of Christ's complete existence began when He was born?
- 2 Did Christ exist prior to His birth in Bethlehem? Quote some passages of Scripture to substantiate your answer.
- 3 Give some of the names applied to Christ, in the Bible.
- 4 Is the Godhead one Person or more than one?
- 5 What was the principal mission of Christ to this world?
- 6 Who was the forerunner of Christ?
- 7 Why is Jesus called the "light of the world"?
- 8 What glorious privilege is given to all who receive Christ?
- 9 To whom did Christ come? and did they receive Him?
- 10 What restrictions are placed upon the invitation to receive God's salvation?