



WOW: Word Of the Week

Incarnation

December 21, 2022

Traditional, normal, expected – our word this week should be Christmas. People want to hear about Christmas. Incarnation is not so appealing, not so exciting. Some will not bother to listen. Many are excited about Christmas, less so about the rest of the story.

The Incarnation is at the very center of John's account of Jesus' coming into this world. "The Word became flesh." Incarnation occurred at Jesus' birth. The eternal, divine Word, logos, became human, took on human form, Son of Man. That is the meaning of Incarnation – enfleshed. Jesus came to live among us as a human being.

John's record of Jesus' coming to earth climaxes in the last part of John 1:14: and we beheld his glory...full of grace and truth. Some well-meaning believers would have us ignore the story of Jesus' birth. They discourage, even forbid celebration. Some would suggest that my mention of his birth at this season of the year suggests that I am celebrating Christmas.

Question! If Jesus' was not glorious at his birth, the fulfillment of grace and truth, at what point in his life did he move from non-glory to glory? When did he begin to be the unique Son of God, full of grace and truth? When did he transition? At his baptism? At the transfiguration? What event in his life would you point to?

Back to the Bible. The glory of the Lord shone upon the shepherds at the announcement of Jesus' birth. The heavenly host praised God, "Glory to God in the highest." Simeon saw in the baby Jesus "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel."

The Incarnation is a great truth of Scripture, worthy of our study. Phil. 2:8, taking human form, is a description of the Incarnation. Heb. 2:14, he became like us, is Incarnation. Jesus was Immanuel, God with us, fulfilling Isa. 7:14, even at his birth.

At a time of year when much of the world is focused on the fact that Jesus came to this earth as a human being and lived among us, let us not hesitate to declare the rest of the story, the whole story. Let us say what Scripture says, without additions. But for some, an equal temptation deserves is worthy of a word of warning: let us not subtract from the story of Jesus in our refusal to speak of certain biblical truths because everyone else is talking about them. Now, of all times, is a time to announce clearly the great truth of the Incarnation!