

"God's Incarnate Glory"

A Study by Dennis Prutow

1. "God is not a man" (Num. 23:19).

2. God is ... "a most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts,¹ or passions"² (WCF 2:1).

¹ "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have" (Luke 24:39).

² "Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard *of*, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, and saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you" (Acts 14:14-15, KJV).

3. For our salvation, God must become a man. This is the doctrine of "consequent absolute necessity."

a. "Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives" (Heb. 2:14-15).

b. The seeming contingency of *might* shows purpose, *ἵνα* plus the subjunctive.

c. A most pure spirit, invisible, without body, parts, or passions cannot suffer and die for sinners without becoming a man.

4. And so, the Second Person of the Godhead "emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, being made in the likeness of men." And, "Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross" (Phil. 2:7-8). As a result, He was:

a. "Born of a woman" (Gal. 4:4).

b. He "continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom" (Luke 2:40).

5. He experienced very human emotions, the emotions you and I experience:

a. "After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand'" (Mark 3:5).

b. "Sighing deeply in His spirit, He said, 'Why does this generation seek for a sign?'" (Mar 8:12).

c. "When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her *also* weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled, and said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to Him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept" (John 11:33-35).

d. "And He said to them, 'My soul is deeply grieved to the point of death; remain here and keep watch'" (Mark 14:34).

e. "And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground" (Luke 22:44).

6. We call His suffering His passion:

a. " ... after having Jesus scourged ... after twisting a crown of thorns, they put it on Him ... "Hail, King of the Jews!" They kept beating His head with a reed, and spitting on Him ... they had mocked Him ... They pressed into service a passer-by coming from the country ... to bear His cross ... My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:15-21, 34).

b. "Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28).

c. After this, Jesus ... said, "I am thirsty ... It is finished!" ... He bowed His head and gave up His spirit" (John 19:28, 30).

7. God's incarnate glory; "the man, Christ Jesus" (1 Tim. 2:5).

WSC Question 21: Who is the Redeemer of God's elect?

Answer: The only Redeemer of God's elect is the Lord Jesus Christ, who, being the eternal Son of God, became man, and so was, and continueth to be, God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever.