

1 **On the Incarnation**

PART 2 OF 4:

THE DIVINE DILEMMA & ITS SOLUTION IN THE INCARNATION

2 **The Real Catastrophe of the Fall**

"For these reasons, then, with death holding greater sway and corruption remaining fast against human beings, the race of humans was perishing, and the human being, made rational and in the image, was disappearing, and the work of God was being obliterated."

3 **The Divine Dilemma of Death**

"What happened was truly both absurd and improper. It was absurd, on the one hand, that, having spoken, God should prove to be lying . . . For God would not be true is, after saying he would die, the human being did not die. On the other hand, it was improper that what had once been made rational and partakers of the Word should perish, and once again return to non-being through corruption."

4 **What Should God Do?**

- 1 ► Permit the corruption prevailing against them and death to seize them?
 - It was most absurd that His works should be destroyed, and especially before the sight of the Maker . . . This would be improper to and unworthy of the goodness of God.
- 2 ► Demand repentance from human beings for their transgression?
 - Repentance would neither have preserved the consistency of God (He would not have remained true if human beings were not held fast by death), nor does repentance recall human beings from what is natural.

5 **Solution!**

For this purpose, then, the incorruptible and immaterial Word of God comes into our realm. Seeing . . .

1. The rational race perishing, and death reigning over them through corruption
2. That it was absurd for the law to be dissolved before being fulfilled
3. The very things of which He Himself was the Creator were disappearing
4. The excessive wickedness of human beings

And having mercy on our race and pity on our weakness, He takes to Himself a body.

6 **What He Accomplished**

By taking a body like ours, yet without sin . . .

Since all were liable to the corruption of death, delivering it over to death on behalf of all, He offered it up to the Father, doing this in His love for human beings, so that . . .

1. With all dying in Him, the law concerning corruption in human beings might be undone
2. He might turn them again to incorruptibility and give them life from death

7 **No Other Way**

► "For the Word, realizing that in no other way would the corruption of human beings be undone, except, simply, by dying, yet being immortal and the Son of the Father the Word was not able to die, for this reason He takes to Himself a body capable of death, in order that it, participating in the Word who is above all, might be sufficient for death on behalf of

all . . ."

8 **Death No Longer Holds Ground**

- ▶ "And now the very corruption of death no longer holds ground against human beings because of the indwelling Word . . . The corruption of death, which had prevailed formerly against them, perished. For the race of human beings would have been utterly dissolved had not the Master and Savior of all, the Son of God, come for the completion of death."

9 **The King & His City**

- 1 King Brings Honor
- 2 ▶ "When a king has entered some large city . . . Such a city is certainly made worthy of high honor . . . It is reckoned worthy of all care because of the King's having taken up residence."
- 3 King Defends and Reclaims
- 4 ▶ "If a king constructed a city, and it is attacked by bandits because of the carelessness of its inhabitants, he in no way abandons it, but avenges and saves it as his own work."

10 **The Divine Dilemma of Knowledge**

- 1 God Desires to Be Known
- 2 ▶ "being good, He did not leave them without knowledge of Himself, lest their being should be profitless"
- ▶ "being good, He bestowed on them of His own image, our Lord Jesus Christ, and made them according to His own image and according to the likeness."

11 **After the Fall . . .**

- ▶ "The grace of being in the image of God was sufficient to know the God Word, and through Him the Father. But knowing the weakness . . ."
- ▶ God left evidence of Himself to be plainly seen in Creation (Psalm 19; Romans 1:19-21)
- ▶ God sent prophets to give His people His word.
- ▶ The Law of God was given not only for the Jews but for the nations, that they may know the Holy God who made them.

12 **A King . . .**

- ▶ "Does not allow lands established under Him to pass to and serve others"
- ▶ If he saw His people in a city overthrown in their knowledge of Him and led astray to a false allegiance, what would he do?
- ▶ *Voyage of the Dawn Treader?*
- ▶ "How much more will God . . ."

13 **And thus . . .**