

Theme: Here is the miracle of miracles - the child born of Mary, by the work of the Holy Spirit, bears both the nature of God and the nature of man. It is called the Incarnation. The God/Man Jesus Christ is alone able to accomplish God's plans for redemption and secure his promises and provide protection for us who believe.

Background: John's purpose in writing - John 20:30&31. He anticipates the questions and challenges that will come and answers those who would distort the truth about Jesus. He maintains that Jesus Christ is both man and God in one person.

## I. The Eternal Word

### A. What is the "Word?" (LOGOS)

#### 1. To the Greek

- Logos is not just a word, but the thought or reason expressed in a word
- See *The New International Dictionary of the Christian Church* (pp.600-601)

#### 2. To the Jew

- The logos (word) carried with it the sense of the divine Wisdom
- I Corinthians 1:24; Colossians 2:3
- There is little distinction between what God says and what God does (Acts 10:36-38)

### B. What is this "Word"?

#### 1. This Word is Eternal

- Asserting the preexistence of this Word
- Eternally with God

#### 2. This Word is God

- a. Not a god - a lesser god
  - There is no "a" the text
  - Not a lesser god
- b. Not The God – the entirety of the Godhead
  - There is no "the" in the text

#### 3. This Word is Life

- a. The giver of life
  - As Creator of all life
  - As Sustainer of life (Acts 17:28)
- b. Giving eternal life
  - John 3:16; 5:24; 5:40; 10:10

#### 4. This Word is "Light"

- a. The "light of men"
- b. The light exposes what is hidden in darkness
  - Darkness is not just evil men
  - But the darkness in every man and woman

#### 5. Overcoming the darkness (Following the ESV)

- a. The conflict between forces of light and darkness (3:19; 12:35)
- b. The light shines in the darkness

## II. Word Made Flesh (John 1:14) - John establishes Christ's true humanity

### A. Taking Our Nature

#### 1. In the likeness of men (Philippians 2:7)

- With a real body
- Experiencing a real human life (Hebrews 4:15)
- With its limitations and pain

- 2. Without sin
    - John 8:46; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:5; I Peter 1:18&19; 2:22
    - Through the miracle of the virgin birth
    - To do what Adam did not - render perfect obedience
  - B. Full of Glory
    - Glory of the only Son from the Father!
    - The Glory of God
- III. Sent from the Father (3:17)
- A. Veiled in the Past
    - 1. Genesis 18:1ff - Abraham and Sarah
      - One is addressed as LORD/Yahweh (Genesis 18:1, 10, 13, 14, 22, 26, 33)
      - Bringing hope as the promise keeper
    - 2. Genesis 32:24&30 - Jacob
      - Spiritual Wrestling - for God's blessing
    - 3. Joshua (Joshua 5:13-15)
      - Joshua worships the one who appears
      - Securing the land of promise
    - 4. Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego (Daniel 3:25)
      - A 4<sup>th</sup> appears
      - Deliverance from the fire of judgment
  - B. Now Revealed in Glory and Power (Why did He come?)
    - 1. Fulfilling all the promises of God
    - 2. Wrestling with principalities and powers for God's blessing
    - 3. To secure for us an eternal land and home
    - 4. To deliver us from the furnace of judgment and wrath

It is for this purpose that Christ came into the world - not veiled, but made known, so that those who have seen Jesus have seen the Father. (John 14:9)

- IV. Full of Grace and Truth
  - A. A Name above all others
  - B. With life above all others
  - C. With life in His Name (20:30-31)