

CONTEMPLATIONS ON THE INCARNATION

122020A

INTRODUCTION

1. Incarnation: prefix "in-" & suffix "-tion" on "carn": bodily manifestation of that wh/ is immaterial. Son of God incarnated for our benefit.
2. Aquinas: "Indeed, among divine works, this most esp'ly exceeds [our] reason: for nothg can be thot of wh/ is more marvelous than this divine accomplishment: that the true God, the Son of God, shld become true man."
3. My contemplations are doctrinal assertions.

1st: Contemplate Who is the Deity Who Was Incarnated: God the Son

1. We are Trinitarians: 1 God existing in 3 Persons.
2. We confess Jesus as *my Lord & my God* [Jn 20:28]. Jesus' baptism [Mat 3:16-17]; our baptism [Mat 28:19]; our benediction [2C 13:14].
3. Every act of God is Trinitarian [LBC 2:3]: Creator & Savior. One God described w/ "Trinitarian grammar". Challenging.
 - i. All Persons act in undivided unity; yet emphasis is given on a Person but not to the exclusion of the other Persons: "Doct of Appropriations"
 - ii. "All thgs proceed from the Father, are accompl'd by the Son, & are completed by the HS." All is *from* the Father; *by* the Son; *in* the HS.
4. Incarn is the work of Triune God appropriated to Son. THB p.674 LBC 8:2

2nd: Contemplate Who is the Incarnated Son of God: Jesus

1. Look at the embodied Son of God. Who is He? Lk 1:31-35
 - i. v31 - to conceive & bear *a son* [human son] - name: *Jesus*
 - ii. v32 - THE Son of Most High [Human title]; throne of David = "X"
 - iii. v33 - eternal kingdom - divine Messiah [Isa 9:6-7]
 - iv. v34 - virgin: how? v35 - recall previous exegesis
 - a. conception by HS [*the power of Most High*: divine Person]
 - b. *the child will be called holy b/c He is the Son of God*
 - c. The divine Son of God is conceived in womb & Mary births her human son: Jesus - the incarnate Son of God.
2. Mat 1:18-25 Same message to Joseph. Jesus: YHWH Saves - Isa 7:14
3. Who is the incarn'd Son of God? "Jesus". The *person* who is Jesus is Son of God. Jesus does not have 2 persons: 1 person, 2 natures. Jesus is God
4. THB p.674 LBC 8:2 & 8:3. The Lord Jesus Christ is the person of the Son.

3rd: Contemplate Creation as the Paradigm for the Incarnation

1. Jn 1:1-3 2nd Person - *the Word* [Logos] distinct from *God* [Father]: thru whom all thgs *came into being* - cf Prv 8 Wisdom of God; Col 1:15ff.
 - i. v3 *all thgs came into being* [2x]. "Ontology" study of "being" = frontline in contemporary rebellion [being male & female]. We're told "existence precedes essence" - not so. Essence determines existence.
2. *Life & light* is revealed *in Him* [v4] who made world but rejected - yet those who receive Him do so b/c they *were born of God* [v12-13] = a life not of original creation - yet integrally joined to *the Word*.
 - i. This *life & light* [creation vocab] is given by *Word* who comes into world - occasions a birthing of God's children to life of new creation.
3. v14 *Word became flesh* = *Word came into being flesh*: an act similar to original creation wh/ *came into being* - a new creation.
 - i. *dwelt* among us = tabernacled: Immanuel - God w/ us
 - ii. *only begotten* - concerns Word - Deity [cf. v18]
 - iii. Jn [*we*] *saw His glory* - when? Transfiguration & ascension [miracles]
4. Fallen creation is given a new Adam who brings creation into Sabbath Rest.

4th: Contemplate the Implications of the Incarnation

1. God's revelation of Himself climaxes in the incarnation: Hb 1:1-3
 - i. Jesus = precise reproduction of God's *nature* [Grk: hypostasis; Latin: persona]; upholds all thgs - enthroned & reigning
2. Phil 2:3-11 incarn, obed life, sac'al death, res, enthronement & 2nd coming What is the implication? v3-5 for us!
3. The incarnation is for us - united to all that Jesus is & accomplishes.
4. What is the implication of the incarnation? We will be like Him & we will see His glory - 1Jn 3:2-3.