

John 1:9–14

- ⁹ That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.
- ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him.
- ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
- ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:
- ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.
- ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

John's Nativity Account

John 1:14

INTRO:

In the prologue to the Gospel of John, we read first of the Logos, the Word of God. In 1-3 we learn He, the Logos, is from the beginning, with God and God at the same time, He was creator of all things. Following this introduction of the pre-incarnate Christ, John wrote of the purpose that God the Father fulfilled in the Son, (**verses 9-13**). ***“That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”*** The Word came to save those who come unto Him by faith. How would this be possible? It is possible because of John’s short Nativity passage. ***“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth”*** (John 1:14).

I. The Word Became Flesh

II. We Beheld His Glory

I. The Word Became Flesh

John 1:14 ***“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”***

A. John finally has arrived at the event he has been working toward all of the way through his prologue. The Logos became flesh. What happened when the Word became Flesh?

1. He Who was from the beginning, He Who existed before time itself existed, He Who always existed in an eternal relationship with God, He Who was and is the eternal God, and He Who created all things, became incarnate in human flesh. In short, God the Son, stepped into the flow of human history!

2. The thought itself is mind boggling. How is this possible? How could God become a man?

B. Paul wrote to convey to us the magnitude of this event in **Philippians 2:5-8**.

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”

What was involved for our Savior to be willing to become flesh, to live among us, and to die on a cross for our sins?

1. First, it involved the Lord giving up something to become incarnate in human flesh. The Greek word translated by the phrase, ***“made Himself of no reputation,”*** means literally to empty Himself. It involved the limiting of His glory.

Jesus prayed in **John 17:5**,

“And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.”

2. It involved His condescending to become a servant. He came to be the Servant of the LORD. In fulfilling the Biblical type He also became the servant of men. Remember **John 13**? What was the lesson? Jesus underlined the reality that if the Lord and Master of the Universe was willing to humble Himself to serve them, it was a small thing for them to serve each other for His sake.

3. The incarnation involved His willingness to go to the cross. He had to be willing to endure the incredible pain of our sin. He had to endure the rejection of His Father, which purchased for us our eternal salvation.

C. What a miracle it was that the eternal God of the Universe entered into the flow of history as a baby. The Logos, the self-expression of God, took upon Himself human flesh.

II. We Beheld His Glory

A. How did they see His Glory?

1. When John said, ***“We beheld His glory,”*** he was not talking about the Mount of Transfiguration. John did not record this event. He talked about Christ’s Glory in terms of what He did, His miracles, and His death burial and resurrection. Let’s look at several verses.

2. They saw His glory through the things He did.

When Jesus turned the water into wine, we read in **John 2:11**, ***“This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.”***

John 11:4 ***“When Jesus heard that, He said, ‘This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.’”***

3. They also witnessed His Glory through Christ’s death and exaltation

When Phillip and Andrew told Jesus the Gentiles wanted to see Him, ***“Jesus answered them, saying, ‘The hour has come that the Son of Man should be glorified.’”*** John 12:23

John 13:31–32 ***“So, when [Judas] had gone out, Jesus said, ‘Now the Son of Man is glorified, and God is glorified in Him. If God is glorified in Him, God will also glorify Him in Himself, and glorify Him immediately.’”***

John 17:1 ***“Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: ‘Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You.’”***

What do we take away from this?

1. Beloved, have you seen the Glory of God in Jesus Christ?

2 Corinthians 4:6 ***“For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”***

This is what salvation is all about.

2. If we have seen His glory, we need to be living our lives in such a way that we shine that light to the darkened world around us. We are to be salt and light. May the light of His glory shine in us and through us.