

SON OF PROMISE

WILDWOOD COLLEGE



THE SON OF PROMISE

The Incarnation



THE SON OF PROMISE


1 John 4:1-3

[1] BELOVED, DO NOT BELIEVE EVERY SPIRIT, BUT TEST THE SPIRITS TO SEE WHETHER THEY ARE FROM GOD, FOR MANY FALSE PROPHETS HAVE GONE OUT INTO THE WORLD. [2] BY THIS YOU KNOW THE SPIRIT OF GOD: EVERY SPIRIT THAT CONFESSES THAT JESUS CHRIST HAS COME IN THE FLESH IS FROM GOD, [3] AND EVERY SPIRIT THAT DOES NOT CONFESS JESUS IS NOT FROM GOD. THIS IS THE SPIRIT OF THE ANTICHRIST, WHICH YOU HEARD WAS COMING AND NOW IS IN THE WORLD ALREADY.

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To reject the incarnation is to reject
Jesus Himself.

Three crosses are visible on a hill in the background, positioned to the right of the main text. The crosses are dark and stand against the lighter, hazy background of the sky.

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Outline

1. DEFINE THE INCARNATION BIBLICALLY
2. APPLY THE INCARNATION TO OUR LIVES



Define the incarnation biblically

THE SON OF PROMISE

Matthew 1:20-21

[20] BUT AS HE CONSIDERED THESE THINGS, BEHOLD, AN ANGEL OF THE LORD APPEARED TO HIM IN A DREAM, SAYING, "JOSEPH, SON OF DAVID, DO NOT FEAR TO TAKE MARY AS YOUR WIFE, FOR THAT WHICH IS CONCEIVED IN HER IS FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT. [21] SHE WILL BEAR A SON, AND YOU SHALL CALL HIS NAME JESUS, FOR HE WILL SAVE HIS PEOPLE FROM THEIR SINS."

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"DOCETISM CHALLENGED THE CHRISTIAN AFFIRMATION THAT JESUS WAS THE TRUE INCARNATION OF GOD BY DENYING THAT JESUS WAS GENUINELY HUMAN. A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT GROUPS HELD THIS VIEW, WHICH FINDS EARLY EXPRESSION IN THOSE CONFRONTED BY THE BIBLICAL BOOK OF 1 JOHN. DOCETISM COMES FROM THE GREEK "TO APPEAR OR TO SEEM" AND WAS THE BELIEF THAT JESUS WAS NOT FULLY HUMAN OR DID NOT IDENTIFY WITH HUMANITY FULLY AND COMPLETELY. IN OTHER WORDS, JESUS ONLY "APPEARED" TO BE A HUMAN BEING, WHEN IN REALITY HE WAS ONLY A DIVINE BEING" (MCKINION, STEVEN A

- Dr. Steven McKinion

THE SON OF PROMISE

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Jesus.. not fully man?

- LUKE 2:52 - “[52] ...JESUS INCREASED IN WISDOM AND IN STATURE AND IN FAVOR WITH GOD AND MAN.”
- HEBREWS 2:14 - “[14] SINCE THEREFORE THE CHILDREN (REFERRING TO US) SHARE IN FLESH AND BLOOD, HE HIMSELF LIKEWISE PARTOOK OF THE SAME THINGS [FLESH AND BLOOD], THAT THROUGH DEATH HE MIGHT DESTROY THE ONE WHO HAS THE POWER OF DEATH...”

Jesus.. not fully man?

1 JOHN 1:1-3 - “[1] THAT WHICH WAS FROM THE BEGINNING, WHICH WE HAVE **HEARD**, WHICH WE HAVE **SEEN** WITH OUR EYES, WHICH WE **LOOKED** UPON AND HAVE **TOUCHED** WITH OUR HANDS, CONCERNING THE WORD OF LIFE— [2] THE LIFE WAS MADE **MANIFEST**, AND WE HAVE **SEEN** IT, AND TESTIFY TO IT AND PROCLAIM TO YOU THE ETERNAL LIFE, WHICH WAS WITH THE FATHER AND WAS MADE **MANIFEST** TO US— [3] THAT WHICH WE HAVE **SEEN** AND **HEARD** WE PROCLAIM ALSO TO YOU, SO THAT YOU TOO MAY HAVE FELLOWSHIP WITH US...”

THE SON OF PROMISE

Matthew 1:22–23

[22] ALL THIS TOOK PLACE TO FULFILL WHAT THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY THE PROPHET:

[23] “BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON,
AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL”

(WHICH MEANS, GOD WITH US).

Isaiah 7:14

[14] THEREFORE THE LORD HIMSELF WILL GIVE YOU **A SIGN**.
BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL CONCEIVE AND BEAR A SON,
AND SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL.”

Matthew 1:22-23

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Discussion Questions

1. RE-READ MATTHEW 1:20-23. GIVEN WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN SO FAR, HOW WOULD YOU DEFINE THE WORD "INCARNATION" BIBLICALLY?
2. REFLECT ON THE TRUTH THAT JESUS WAS SUPERNATURALLY CONCEIVED. BESIDES THE FACT THAT IT WAS A SIGN, WHY ELSE IS THIS IMPORTANT?
3. HOW DOES THE TRUTH THAT JESUS (TRULY GOD) BECAME TRULY MAN IMPACT YOUR WORSHIP?

**The incarnation is the eternal
Yahweh Son of God adding to His
person human flesh.**

Concerning His nature

1. THERE WERE CLEARLY THINGS ABOUT HIS DIVINITY THAT WERE VEILED (MATT. 24:36)
2. BUT SOME SCENES MAKE IT CLEAR THAT JESUS WAS STILL TRULY GOD (MATT. 17:2/LUKE 9:29/MARK 9:2-3).

“HOW ARE WE TO THINK OF THE INCARNATION? THE NEW TESTAMENT DOES NOT ENCOURAGE US TO PUZZLE OUR HEADS OVER THE PHYSICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS THAT IT RAISES, BUT TO WORSHIP GOD FOR THE LOVE THAT WAS SHOWN IN IT.”

- J.I Packer

THE SON OF PROMISE

Apply the incarnation to our lives

Three simple wooden crosses are positioned on the crest of a dark, rounded hill. The scene is dimly lit, with a soft, golden glow emanating from behind the text, creating a dramatic and somber atmosphere.

THE SON OF PROMISE

1 Corinthians 15:14-17

[14] AND IF CHRIST HAS NOT BEEN RAISED, THEN OUR PREACHING IS IN VAIN AND YOUR FAITH IS IN VAIN. [15] WE ARE EVEN FOUND TO BE MISREPRESENTING GOD, BECAUSE WE TESTIFIED ABOUT GOD THAT HE RAISED CHRIST, WHOM HE DID NOT RAISE IF IT IS TRUE THAT THE **DEAD** ARE NOT RAISED. [16] FOR IF THE **DEAD** ARE NOT RAISED, NOT EVEN CHRIST HAS BEEN RAISED. [17] AND IF CHRIST HAS NOT BEEN RAISED, YOUR FAITH IS FUTILE AND YOU ARE STILL IN YOUR SINS.

The hope of our salvation depends
upon the fact that Jesus became
man

THE SON OF PROMISE

Hebrews 4:15-16

[15] FOR WE DO NOT HAVE A HIGH PRIEST WHO IS UNABLE TO **SYMPATHIZE WITH OUR WEAKNESSES**, BUT ONE WHO IN EVERY RESPECT HAS BEEN **TEMPTED** AS WE ARE, **YET WITHOUT SIN**. [16] LET US THEN WITH CONFIDENCE DRAW NEAR TO THE THRONE OF GRACE, THAT WE MAY RECEIVE MERCY AND FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED.”

1 Corinthians 10:13

[13] NO TEMPTATION HAS OVERTAKEN YOU THAT IS NOT COMMON TO MAN. GOD IS FAITHFUL, AND HE WILL NOT LET YOU BE TEMPTED BEYOND YOUR ABILITY, BUT WITH THE TEMPTATION HE WILL ALSO PROVIDE **THE WAY OF ESCAPE**, THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO ENDURE IT

Because of His incarnation, our High Priest understands the struggle of our present temptation, and wants to empower us to turn away from it.

Hebrews 12:1-2

[1] THEREFORE... LET US ALSO LAY ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT, AND SIN WHICH CLINGS SO CLOSELY, AND LET US RUN WITH ENDURANCE THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US, [2] LOOKING TO JESUS, THE FOUNDER AND PERFECTER OF OUR FAITH, WHO FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING THE SHAME, AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD."

**Because of His incarnation, Jesus lived
the model life of Godly-joy-fueled
living for us to follow.**

Hebrews 12:18-22

[18] FOR YOU HAVE NOT COME TO WHAT MAY BE TOUCHED, A BLAZING FIRE AND DARKNESS AND GLOOM AND A TEMPEST [19] AND THE SOUND OF A TRUMPET AND A VOICE WHOSE WORDS MADE THE HEARERS BEG THAT NO FURTHER MESSAGES BE SPOKEN TO THEM. [20] FOR THEY COULD NOT ENDURE THE ORDER THAT WAS GIVEN, "IF EVEN A BEAST TOUCHES THE MOUNTAIN, IT SHALL BE STONED." [21] INDEED, SO TERRIFYING WAS THE SIGHT THAT MOSES SAID, "I TREMBLE WITH FEAR." [22] BUT YOU HAVE COME TO MOUNT ZION...

THE SON OF PROMISE

Because of His incarnation, Jesus made the holy God approachable by sinful humans who come to God by faith in Him.

Philippians 2:5-7

[5] HAVE THIS MIND AMONG YOURSELVES, WHICH IS YOURS IN CHRIST JESUS, [6] WHO, THOUGH HE WAS IN THE FORM OF GOD, DID NOT COUNT EQUALITY WITH GOD A THING TO BE GRASPED, [7] BUT EMPTIED HIMSELF, BY **TAKING THE FORM OF A SERVANT**, BEING BORN IN THE LIKENESS OF MEN.

Because of the incarnation, the infinitely glorious God infinitely humbled Himself to become man and serve His people. There is nothing too low for you to humble yourself to do in service for Him.

Acts 17:30-31

[30] THE TIMES OF IGNORANCE GOD OVERLOOKED, BUT NOW HE COMMANDS ALL PEOPLE EVERYWHERE TO REPENT, [31] BECAUSE HE HAS FIXED A DAY ON WHICH HE WILL JUDGE THE WORLD IN RIGHTEOUSNESS BY A MAN WHOM HE HAS APPOINTED; AND OF THIS HE HAS GIVEN ASSURANCE TO ALL BY RAISING HIM FROM THE DEAD."

Because of the incarnation, Jesus will surely judge the world with a perfectly righteous standard.

Acts 17:32-34

1. [32] NOW WHEN THEY HEARD OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD, SOME MOCKED...
2. [32]... BUT OTHERS SAID, "WE WILL HEAR YOU AGAIN ABOUT THIS.."
3. [34] BUT SOME MEN JOINED HIM AND BELIEVED...

Discussion Questions

1. RE-READ HEBREWS 4:14-16. PRACTICALLY, WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO "DRAW NEAR TO THE THRONE OF GRACE, THAT [YOU] MAY RECEIVE MERCY AND FIND GRACE TO HELP IN TIME OF NEED"? SHARE EXAMPLES OF THIS. IF YOU'RE COMFORTABLE, SHARE PRAYER REQUESTS WITH YOUR TABLE FOR WAYS YOU ARE STRUGGLING WITH THIS.
2. HOW DOES THE TRUTH THAT JESUS "ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING THE SHAME" "FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM" ENCOURAGE OR CHALLENGE YOU IN YOUR OWN HANDLING OF TRIALS IN YOUR LIFE?
3. RE-READ PHILIPPIANS 2:5-7. HOW DOES THIS TRUTH EMPOWER YOU TO GO AND SERVE THE LORD MORE HUMBLY TODAY? IS THE LORD MOVING YOU INTO A SPECIFIC SERVICE IN THIS REGARD RIGHT NOW?