

A yellow decorative border frames the text. It consists of a thin yellow line forming a square, with four corner ornaments. Each ornament is a fan of five yellow lines radiating from the corner towards the center of the page.

Advent (3)

The Incarnation of
Jesus Christ

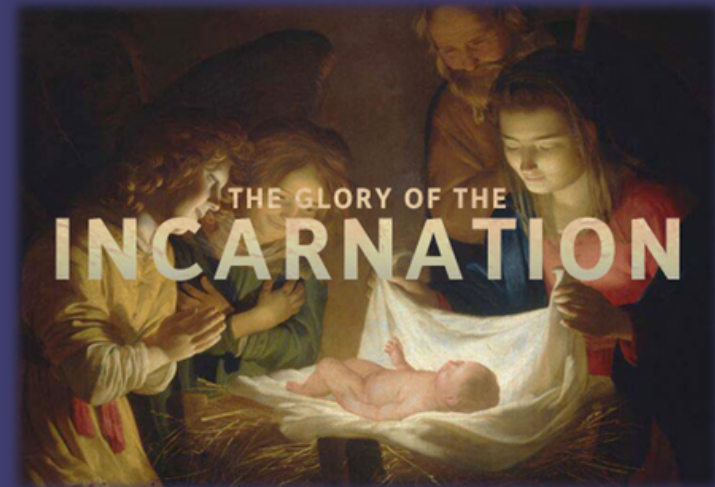
John 1:1-4

#1 The Incarnation of Jesus Christ

There's a specific term that has been used to refer to the event in which Jesus, the Son of God, came to the world in human form—incarnation.

The word incarnation derives from the Latin verb 'incarno'. Here, 'In' means in and 'caro' means flesh or the body. So, 'incarno' means to make into flesh or to be made into flesh.

Incarnation refers to the fundamental Christian belief that Jesus Christ is the Son of God in the flesh and that He came to the world by taking human form.



Jesus took the form of flesh implies that He had previously existed without a human body. Jesus had already existed long before He was born into the world.

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah... out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” (Mc 5:2)

#2 The Incarnation of Jesus Christ

John chapter 1 does a great job of explaining the incarnation of Jesus clearly.

God's Creation through His Word

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind” (Jn 1:1-4)

There's a key phrase that's repeated throughout Genesis 1: “God said... and there was...” or “God said... and it was so”

Before God spoke, there was nothing but chaos and darkness in the universe. But when God spoke, everything changed. What had not been, came to exist.

Genesis never implies that God used any materials to make things. God can make something out of nothing. Through God's Word, all things were made. That's what John emphasizes in the first passage of his gospel.

#3 The Word Was God. The Word Became Flesh.

If you closely look at how delicate, complex, but harmonious our bodies and the world are, it's actually hard not to believe that there is a great Designer who made all things according to His plan.

The Bible says that the great Designer is God. And the tool He used was His word. But John doesn't stop there. He rapidly develops the concept of God's Word by **personifying it**. What John revealed was the fact that the Word was different from words from our mouths because **it has life**.

What's much more surprising, however, is that John calls the Word not only 'Him' but 'God.' And later in the chapter, John said,

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth" (Jn 1:14)

This is the verse that most clearly shows the incarnation of Jesus Christ. **The Word, who was with God, who was God, and through whom all things were made, became flesh.**

#4 The Triune God's Act of Coming

The incarnation of Jesus Christ is one of the most essential truths we believe as Christians. It's what differentiates Christianity from other religions. Unlike other religions, Christianity says that God came down to earth to seek His people even when we didn't seek Him.

We can find some verses that show the triune God—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit—coming to the world to save His people.

1) God the Father

When people tried to build the tower of Babel that would reach to the heavens to make a name for themselves against God's will, Genesis 11:5 says, “**the Lord came down to see** the city and the tower the people were building.” (Gn 11:5)

#5 The Triune God's Act of Coming

2) God the Son

And God, who came to the world to seek His people, later sent Jesus Christ.

“The Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world”
(1Jn 4:14)

Jesus also said, “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost” (Lk 19:10)

Jesus came to seek us and save us. And, to save us, He descended from heaven to earth by taking human form to become like us.

3) God the Spirit

Before ascending to heaven, Jesus promised His disciples that He would ask the Father to send “another advocate to help you and be with you forever” (Jn 14:16) and that they “will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes” (Ac 1:8)

And, just as Jesus promised, the Holy Spirit came to the disciples with strong wind and fire.

#6 The Triune God's Act of Coming

In these three cases, we see the Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit—come to the world for our salvation.

This coming of the triune God shows that **our salvation comes from God's grace, not by our actions.** And His grace was clearly shown in His coming to the world.

That's why the incarnation of Jesus is so essential in Christian faith and our salvation. **The incarnation shows that Jesus was fully God and fully human.**

Because Jesus was God incarnate, **He could bear the full penalty for all the sins of the world.** And because Jesus was the Son of God and the Son of man, **He could mediate between us and God** both by bringing us back to God and revealing Him to us.

If Jesus weren't incarnated, we would not have salvation. The incarnation of Jesus Christ is an essential belief of Christianity that we must never lose as Christians.