



Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

Short Study 054: THE INCARNATION – ITS PURPOSE

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Read: John1:14-18

Introduction:

The dictionary definition of the word 'incarnation': A bodily manifestation of a supernatural being; The presence of God on earth in the person of Jesus Christ (read John 4:24).

1. Lost Contact.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God's instruction not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. What happened (read Genesis 3:8-10)? The contact with God was abruptly ended and the relationship broken Why do you think this happened (read Isaiah 59:2)? What was Adam feeling (v10)?

In the Old Testament we learn that God called a man, (Abraham) from whom He created a nation (Israel), to whom He gave the Law. However, The Law does not make us righteous. It cannot restore man's relationship with God. What *does* it do? (See Romans 3:20, Romans 7:7 and Gal 3:19-24).

2. Contact Restored (read Ephesians 2:4-7,15).

So, keeping the Law could not lift sinful men and women back up to God. Instead, God came down to man, which He did in the Person of His Son, Jesus. This was the Incarnation. Read Romans 8:3-4; 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 and Romans 5:17-19 and explain how it was that Jesus restored the relationship that had been broken by sin.

3. The Cost of Reconciliation

Read Col 1:22, Isaiah 53:4-6 and Philippians 2:8 and consider what it cost Jesus to restore us back into relationship with God. This was because, for Jesus to remove the sin that separates man from God, He took its punishment upon Himself on our behalf.

4. The Necessity of Incarnation.

So why did Jesus come to earth as a man? Why couldn't someone else, or animal sacrifices, do it (read Hebrews 9:11-14)?

To think about: God's response to our sin was to come Himself and put things right on our behalf. What response is He looking for from us?

To dig deeper: Read Romans 6 and discover more of what the incarnation has done for us.