

Why God Came to Earth

Sermon 2

John 1:14; 7:37-39

May 17th, 2020

Pp 1

...And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth (John 1:14)

God climbed out of heavens throne and revealed himself to us in His essence as the Godman Jesus.

The most prefect revelation of God now in human form had come to earth... Jesus the only begotten One from the Father , full of grace and truth had come...

And it was about time as no prophet or prophesies from God had been sent for over 400 years....

From the closing words from the Old testament prophet Malachi to the opening words of Matthew, God had been silent...

The birth heard around the world broke the silence as God had come to earth.. His essence in name Jesus had come...

This is known as the "incarnation." Fancy term...

By the incarnation I do not mean that God was turned into a human or that Jesus ceased to be God while He was a man.

The incarnation means that while remaining God, Jesus, the essence God, took upon a new nature - a human nature.

The incarnation was the uniting the divine and the human into one beingone person. Jesus Christ He is was fully God and fully human.

In becoming a human being Jesus laid aside His heavenly glory to live among us.

The question is, but why? Why did He come to a world full of sin and live among those who rejected Him?

You might think, Pastor, if you don't know why we better find someone else to lead us.. Well, I do and

it is because scripture tells me so..

Let me begin by saying that the first and foremost reason was to give a further revelation of God to humanity.

In other words if you wish to know what God is like look at Jesus.

Pp 2

No one has ever seen God, but God the one and only, who is at the Father's side, (Jesus) has made Him known (John 1:18).

This verse teaches that Jesus explained God to humanity. Jesus explained God to you and me and all the world...

We need no longer wonder what God is like as Jesus is God's revealing of who He is..

The great I Am shows us who the great I Am is.

In John chapter 14 we get to look in on a dialog

between Jesus , Thomas and Phillip where Jesus is revealing who He is and where He must return to...

This is a beautiful passage of comfort and reassurance to his disciples not to be troubled at his departure.. Jesus starts...

Pp 2

John 14:1-9

"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.

(2) "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. (3) "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.

(4) "And you know the way where I am going."

Well, I guess all did but Thomas...

Pp 3

(5) Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?"

Jesus answers Thomas with an absolute/complete truth...

Pp 4

(6) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; ***no one comes to the Father but through Me.***

Jesus rebukes Thomas with an astonishing truth..

Pp 5

(7) "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; ***from now on you know Him, and have seen Him.***"

In other words, if you have seen Me, you have seen God!....Then Phillip chimes in with his wisdom...

Pp 6

(8) Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us."

Did you not hear Jesus Phillip? So now Phillip gets a talking to!

Pp 7

(9) Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

He continues...

Pp 8

"Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works (John 14:10 NASB).

I Am the Great I AM

Not only did Jesus further reveal God to us in the incarnation, but also in both words and actions as He walked this earth...

One Sabbath day Jesus passed by the pool of Bethesda known s the healing pool, where the sick blind, and lame were waiting for the waters to move as to be healed... As Jesus passed by...

pp 9

A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. (6) When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He *said to him,

"Do you wish to get well?"

(7) The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me." (8) Jesus *said to him, "Get up, pick up your pallet and walk." (John 5:5-8 NASB).

The Jews find out about this healing and were persecuting Jesus for healing on the sabbath...

You might ask pastor how does this show He is God?

Good question lets keep reading scripture to show this... Jesus answered the Jews and said...

Pp 10

... "My Father is working until now, and I Myself am working." (John 5:17)

That statement really put the hate on the plate to be served up by the Jews as we read...

Pp 11

For this reason therefore the Jews were seeking all the more to kill Him, because He not only was breaking the Sabbath, ***but also was calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God*** (John 5:18).

And Jesus answered them again saying..

Pp 12

"I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, to your amazement he will show him even greater things than these" (John 5:19-20).

Jesus' work of reaching out and His actions of compassion even to the vilest of sinners revealed the heart of God the Father.

Another reason God came to earth in the manifestation of Jesus was to Fulfill the promises of God to certain People...

God made promises to people like Noah, Abraham, and David.

To Abraham Jesus was his one descendant who would bless the world.

Pp 10

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.

To David, Jesus was the promised King that would come from His family.

Pp 11

When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom (2nd Samuel 7:12).

The coming of Jesus fulfilled this promise. The angel said to Mary.

Pp 12

You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end (Luke 1:31-43).

Jesus also came to Fulfill the Law of Moses

While delivering the sermon on the mount Jesus clarified why he had come regarding the law and prophets...

pp 13

Matthew 5:17 "Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose.

His coming also was to destroy the works of the devil and the hold he has had over humanity.

The apostle John address this beginning....

PP 14

Little children, make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He (*Jesus*) is righteous;

(8) the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:7-8)..

In revealing himself in the incarnation, also

showing who God is to humanity in actions and words, and fulfilling the law of Moses, and destroying the works of Satan...

Jesus also came to be our propitiation, an especially important word. Why? Because Jesus is our propitiation..

God's perfect sacrifice.. The lamb of God... the propitiation of God

What does that mean pastor?

The word propitiation carries the basic idea of appeasement or satisfaction, specifically toward God.

Propitiation is a two-part act that involves appeasing or removing the wrath of an offended person and being reconciled to him.

The need to appease God is something many religions have in common.

The idea is taught that man appeases God by offering various gifts or sacrifices or by doing works... Not so!

Not so as the Bible teaches that God Himself has provided the only means through which His wrath can be appeased and sinful man can be reconciled to Him.

In the New Testament, the act of propitiation always refers to the work of God and not the sacrifices or gifts offered by the people.

The reason for this is that you and I are totally incapable of satisfying God's justice except by spending eternity in hell. (I got a little rough on that one)

There is no service, sacrifice, or gift that man can

offer that will appease the holy wrath of God or satisfy His perfect justice.

The only satisfaction, or propitiation, that could be acceptable to God and that could reconcile man to Him had to be made by God.

For this reason God the Son, Jesus Christ, came into the world in human flesh to be the perfect sacrifice for sin and make atonement or "propitiation for the sins of the people"

Hebrews 2:17 tells us..

Pp 15

Therefore, He (God the son) had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, **to make propitiation** for the sins of the people (Hebrews 2:17).

He became our mercy seat...spilling out His own blood, on our behalf for the atonement of our sin, which separated us from God...

The word propitiation is used in several verses to explain what Jesus accomplished through His death on the cross.

***In Romans 3:24-25 we find two verses that are really at the heart of the gospel Message..
We have in Christ have been...***

Pp 16

***“justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom **God set forth as a propitiation** by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed.”
(Romans 3:24-25).***

God in His infinite grace and mercy has provided a way that His wrath can be appeased, and we can be reconciled to Him.

That way is through the sacrificial death of His Son, Jesus Christ, as the payment for sins.

It is through faith in Jesus Christ as God's perfect sacrifice that we can be reconciled to God.

It is only because of Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection on the third day that a lost sinner deserving of hell can be reconciled to a holy God.

The precious truth of the gospel is that we are saved from God's wrath and reconciled to Him not because we loved God ...

Pp 17

... but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the ***propitiation*** for our sins. (1 John 4:10)

Jesus said,

Pp 18

"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).

The only way for God's wrath against us is to be appeased and for us to be reconciled to God is through Jesus Christ. There is no other way.

Jesus' propitiation on the cross is the only thing that can turn away God's divine condemnation of sin.

There is no other propitiation or sacrifice that can be made for sins.

That my dear friends is why God incarnate Jesus Christ came to earth satisfying the wrath of God wrath against us...

In doing so, we were reunited with God being spiritually born again to walk in the likeness of Him...

Because of His propitiation...

Pp 19

"There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus" Galatians 3:28

All, united in the body of Christ, are the living stones being built into a spiritual temple upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets with Jesus being the corner stone..

And now, because we and those before us have believed in Christ for salvation, here we are... in our event in redemptive history...

You see, we weren't left out of the scripture... You might not find your literal name in this book , but you are described in this book as the "living stones" of the church that Jesus promised to build .

As living stones, we have new life in Christ

Pp 20

2 Corinthians 5:17 NASB

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.

As integral parts of the building of God, we have security in Christ.

Pp 21

"All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. (John 6:37)

As the Master Builder, God places His living stones just where He wants us to be...

pp 22

But now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired. (1 Corinthians 12:18)

As living stones, we are connected to one another in the body of Christ .

pp 23

For just as we have many members in one body and all the members do not have the same function, (5) so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.(Romans 12:4-5)

Peter goes on to describe the function of the living stones: It even includes our job description from God..

We are... to "declare the praises" of Him who called us out of the darkness of sin into the light of

life and glory. Look with me at 1st Peter 2:5-9

Pp 24

you also, **as living stones**, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

(6) For this is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." (**OT Isaiah 28:16**)

(7) This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,"

(8) and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; (**OT Psalms 118:22**) for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

(9) But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (1 Peter 2:5-9)

The spiritual house God is building is designed for

His glory, and we, the living stones, glorify the Lord in all we do.

This is our time and place in the redemptive plan of God... Your it ... You and I are now the hands and feet and heart of God...

I mentioned a while back Your name is not literally in this book ...

Don't worry, there is another book...

Its called the Lambs book of life...

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect" (Heb. 12:22-23).

"But nothing unclean will ever enter it [the New Jerusalem on the New Earth], nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Rev. 21:27).

End sermon

More reference info for sermon....

Notes...

There was an Old Testament "book of life."

In the OT the "book of life" (or its equivalents) was a register of the citizens of the theocratic community of Israel. To have one's name written in the book of life implied the privilege of participation in the temporal blessings of the theocracy, while to be erased or blotted out of this book meant exclusion from those blessings. In other words, this book had reference to the rights of citizenship for the Jewish people (cf. Ex. 32:32; Ps. 69:28; Isa. 4:3).

"So Moses returned to the Lord and said, 'Alas, this people has sinned a great sin. They have made for themselves gods of gold. But now, if you will forgive their sin – but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.' But the Lord said to Moses, 'Whoever has sinned against me, I will blot out of my book'" (Exod. 32:31-33; cf. Ps. 69:28; Isa. 4:3).

2. The Lamb's book of life lists those who have been (and are to be) saved.

On most occasions where the Lamb's book of life is mentioned it refers to the register of those who have been chosen for salvation from eternity past. It is not temporal or earthly blessings that are in view, but participation in the eternal kingdom of God as recipients of eternal life. For example:

"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect" (Heb. 12:22-23).

"But nothing unclean will ever enter it [the New Jerusalem on the New Earth], nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life" (Rev. 21:27).