The Incarnation of God

John 1:14-18

Introduction:

John started this chapter with an explanation of the deity of the Word, The Lord Jesus Christ. In verses 1-13 he proved that the Word was fully God. That is a very important point. He used the word “Word” four times in verse one. He did not use it again until v. 14.

In verses 14-18 John proves that Jesus Christ is fully man. He did not just add a body. He also added a human nature. He was just as human as you are. But, He did not add the sin of man. Sin is not a part of the human being that God created in the Garden of Eden.

I. Materialization – 1:14

A. The Word Became Man – 1:14a

“And the Word ﻿﻿became ﻿﻿flesh and dwelt among us,”

Philippians 2:5-7

1. God became Man

“And the Word ﻿﻿became ﻿﻿flesh”

a. He laid aside His glory -- He didn’t look like God.

b. He laid aside the USE of His Omni attributes -- He didn’t Act Like God

* Omni-potence- All power
* Omni-science – All knowledge
* Omni-presence – Everywhere present, all the time.

2. He Lived as a Man -

“dwelt (ἐσκήνωσεν) among us”

“Dwelt” means to tent or tabernacle. It was a temporary visitation. Approximately three years.”

B. Man Beheld the Word – 1:14b

“and ﻿﻿we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, ﻿﻿full of grace and truth.”

1. He was the Glory of the Old Testament

a. He Dwelt between the Cherubim above the Ark in the Tabernacle and the Temple.

James calls him the “Glory”,

“My brethren, do not hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, ﻿﻿*the* glory, (SRV-Sellers Revised Version) with ﻿﻿partiality. (2:1)

b. He Departed from the Temple - Ezekiel 10

Ark – temple – the eastern Gate – Mt. on the east (Olives) – up to heaven.

c. He will Return to the Temple – Ezekiel 43:1-5

Mt. on the East (Olives), East gate, filled the temple.

John says, “We beheld His glory.” The "glory" that John and the other disciples observed as eyewitnesses refers to the god-like characteristics of Jesus (cf. Exod. 33:22; Deut. 5:22; Isa. 60:1)

1 John 1:1-2

“That ﻿﻿which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have ﻿﻿seen with our eyes, ﻿﻿which we have looked upon, and ﻿﻿our hands have handled, concerning the ﻿﻿Word of life—﻿﻿the life ﻿﻿was manifested, and we have seen, ﻿﻿and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was ﻿﻿with the Father and was manifested to us.”

Probably the greatest revelation of His glory was the “transfiguration” (Matt. 17)

2. He is the “only begotten” (μονογενοῦς) of the Father.

“μονογενοῦς” is made up of 2 words mono - one and genos – kind – one of a kind. It has nothing to do with being born. In the Old Testament it refers to an only child.

In Hebrews Isaac is called μονογενοῦς son of Abraham. (11:17) Abraham had many sons, Ishmael and six sons by his second wife Keturah. Isaac was unique son of Abe and Sarah.

The angels are called sons of God. Believers also. But the Word is - the only-one-of-a-kind son.

II. Recognition – 1:15

A. Person – 1:15a

﻿

“John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said,”

John the apostle reports that John the Baptist said, “This is He of Whom I spoke”

B. Preference – 1:15b

“He who comes after me ﻿﻿is preferred before me,”

"In a society where age and precedence bestowed peculiar honor that might have been taken by superficial observers to mean John the Baptist was greater than Jesus.” (D.A. Carson)

In many cultures, priority is preference – Seniority. I was taught to obey all elders. If an adult told you to do something, do it (unless you know it to be wrong).

C. Priority – 1:15c

﻿

“for (ὅτι - because) He was before me.”

He told them in verse one about the Word’s pre-existence. He had priority.

III. Accreditation – 1:16

“And of His ﻿﻿fullness we have all received, and grace for grace.”

“Fullness” refers to a sum total of all the attributes and powers of God (Col.1:19, 2:9, etc.) “and you are complete in Him.” From Him we receive “Grace upon Grace.

Like the waves of the ocean, they keep coming – one upon the other.

IV. Realization – 1:17

“For ﻿﻿the law was given through Moses, *but* ﻿﻿grace and ﻿﻿truth came through Jesus Christ.”

A. The Law Was Sent –

“For ﻿﻿the law was given through Moses.”

The giving of the Law was God’s condescension to the weakness of the nation. It was rigid and frigid.

B. Grace and Truth were Brought

*“but* ﻿﻿grace and ﻿﻿truth came through Jesus Christ.”

Jesus modeled the grace and truth that He brought. Peter said that, “Jesus went about doing good”.

At the giving of the Law, Moses said, “I exceedingly did fear and quake.” (Hebrews 12:21)

The people said of Jesus, “Never man spoke like this man.”

God’s first plague through Moses was water into blood Jesus’ first miracle by Jesus was water into wine.

V. Explanation – 1:18

A. No One Has Seen God – 1:18a

﻿“No one has seen God at any time.”

﻿God told Moses that no one could see Him and live (Ex. 33:20)

Many saw manifestations of God, the glory of the Lord, the angel of the Lord, but no one saw His Face. I’ll take John’s word for it. No one has seen God’s essential nature.

B. The Son has Explained Him – 1:18b

1. He, Himself, is God.

2. He is in the Closest Relationship Possible.

1. The Only Begotten God

b. He is at the Father’s Side (bosom)

This shows the intimacy between the Father and the Son.

c. He has Explained Him.

“ἐξηγήσατο” to explain or describe – exegete.

Jesus explained the invisible Father He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?

Conclusion: