

GOD IN A MANGER

TEXT: (Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV)

⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

INTRODUCTION:

A. The Incarnation

1. "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form" (Colossians 2:9, NIV).
2. "For in [Christ] dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9, KJV).

B. The Promise

1. "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel" (Genesis 3:15, NIV).
2. "'See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,' says the LORD Almighty" (Malachi 3:1, NIV).
3. "The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne" (Psalm 132:11, KJV).
4. "Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne" (Acts 2:30, KJV).

I. MANIFESTATIONS OF GOD

A. God Is a Spirit

1. "God is a Spirit" (John 4:24, NIV).
2. "[Christ] is the radiance of [God's] glory and the representation of his essence (substance), sustaining all *things* by the word of power" (Hebrews 1:3, LEB).
3. "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power" (Hebrews 1:3, ESV).
4. "He is the sole expression of the glory of God [the Light-being, the out-raying or radiance of the divine], and He is the perfect imprint *and* very image of [God's] nature, upholding *and* maintaining *and* guiding *and* propelling the universe by His mighty word of power" (Hebrews 1:3, AMPC).

B. God in a Burning Bush

1. "When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, 'Moses! Moses!'
And Moses said, 'Here I am.'
'Do not come any closer,' God said. 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.' Then he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.' At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God" (Exodus 3:4-6, NIV).

C. God in Humanity

1. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son" (John 1:18, KJV).
2. "For to us a child is born (begotten), to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6, NIV).

3. "For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation" (II Corinthians 5:19, NLT).
4. "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9, KJV).
5. "God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (I Timothy 3:16, KJV).

II. THE DEITY OF CHRIST

A. Conceived by the Holy Ghost

1. "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 1:18, KJV).
2. "'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?'
The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God'" (Luke 1:34-35, NIV).

B. The Image (Icon) of God

1. "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word" (Hebrews 1:3, NIV).
2. "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation" (Colossians 1:15, NIV).
3. "For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him...For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form" (Colossians 1:19, 2:9, NIV).

III. THE HUMANITY OF JESUS

1. "Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant being made in human likeness" (Philippians 2:6-7, NIV).

A. Jesus Had a Fully Human Body

1. "Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: 'Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me'" (Hebrews 10:5, NIV).
2. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin" (Hebrews 4:15, NIV).

B. Truly Man and Truly God

1. "I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins" (John 8:24, NIV).

CONCLUSION

A. Jesus Is Our Mediator

1. "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (I Timothy 2:5, NIV).
2. "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed" (I Peter 2:24, NIV).