

Incarnated Deity

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Incarnation

Definition of incarnation = a term meaning 'to enter into or become flesh.'

Incarnation refers to the Christian doctrine that the pre-existent Son of God became man in Jesus.

The term does not appear in the NT, but the elements of the doctrine are present in different stages of development throughout the scriptures. However, it is only with the fathers of the church in the third and fourth centuries, that a full-fledged theory of the incarnation develops.

God the Son assumed human nature

Jn 1:14 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.

1Ti 3:16 By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

Jesus' birth is prophesied in the OT

The prophecy of a coming ruler

Isa 9:6-7 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

The prophecy of a virgin's son

Isa 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. (Isa 9:6; Mt 1:18, 22-23; Lk 1:35)

The prophecy concerning his birthplace

Mic 5:2-5 "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity." 3 Therefore He will give them up until the time When she who is in labor has borne a child. Then the remainder of His brethren Will return to the sons of Israel. 4 And He will arise and shepherd His flock In the strength of the LORD, In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they will remain, Because at that time He will be great To the ends of the earth. 5 This One will be our peace.

"Bethlehem Ephrathah" is the village where David grew up ("the town of David")

King Herod killing babies under the age of two after the Magi visit

Jer 31:15 Thus says the LORD, "A voice is heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; She refuses to be comforted for her children, Because they are no more."

The cost of the incarnation

2Co 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich.

Phil 2:6-7 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. (Heb 2:10)

The necessity of the incarnation

Gal 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law,

Heb 2:14 Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, (Phil 2:8)

Rom 8:3 For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,

2Co 5:19 namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. (Rom 5:17-19; Col 1:22)

Only someone fully human and divine can be the mediator between God and man

1Ti 2:3-5 ... who (God our Savior) desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, 6 who gave Himself as a ransom for all, ... (Heb 2:17-18; 4:15)

The necessity of the resurrection

Rom 1:1-4 ... the gospel of God, 2 which He promised beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh, 4 who was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, ...

The Gospel of John proclaims the pre-existence of Jesus.

The pre-existent Word of God becoming flesh (Jn 1:1-17).

Jn 1:14 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.

The Gospel speaks of:

Jesus' prior existence

Jn 6:62 "What then if you see the Son of Man ascending to where He was before? (Jn 8:38)

His descent from heaven

Jn 3:13 "No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. (Jn 6:33).

His coming from God

Jn 16:27 for the Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came forth from the Father. (Jn 17:8),

His coming into the world

Jn 10:36 do you say of Him, whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? (Jn 12:46)

His being "before Abraham was, I am"

Jn 8:58 Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am."

John combats the tendency of false teachers that deny the humanity of Jesus

2Jn 7 spirit of antichrist - those who do not acknowledge (deny) Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh (1Jn 4:2-3)