

God Put on Flesh

Աստուած Մարմին Հագաւ
Advent 1

John 1:14

Do we really understand what incarnation means? In Armenian, we say *Khorourt medz yev eskancheki*. Latin: *Magnum mysterium*; English: O great mystery.

If we look up in the Dictionary, we find:

a: (1) the embodiment of a deity or spirit in some earthly form

(2) *capitalized* : the union of divinity with humanity in Jesus Christ

b: a concrete or actual form of a quality or concept

especially : a person showing a trait or typical character to a marked degree
“She is the *incarnation* of goodness.”¹

So what is the embodiment of a deity in earthly form?

God puts on flesh, skin, or body. It is a mystery how God, who is Spirit, appears in the midst of us, on this earth, in our time and space, in flesh, skin and bone. It is a great mystery. And please be aware that this is not Greek mythology, where they describe divine beings that are half divine and half human. No, in the Christian understanding Christ is fully human and fully divine, without separation.

In the Creed of the Council of Chalcedon in 451A.D, they agreed with the wording of how to describe Christ being fully human and fully divine. “(Born) of Mary the Virgin as to the Manhood; One and the Same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten; acknowledged in Two Natures unconfusedly, unchangeably, indivisibly, inseparably.”

Paul describes this mystery saying: “**For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily**” (Colossians 2:9) Or as John says: **the Word (logos) became flesh and dwelt among us.** (John 1:14 ESV); or as Eugene Peterson translated the same verse: **The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood.** Paul in the letter to the Romans: **For God has done what the law, weakened by**

the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh,
(Romans 8:3 ESV)

Who is this Jesus? Who are we waiting for? What kind of God is Jesus that will put on bones, cells, blood, flesh, and skin...

This is the time of Advent. The season when we are waiting for the **Messiah, the Anointed One** about whom we read so much in the Old testament, from Genesis, to Isaiah, Jeremiah, Micah, Zephaniah and Malachi. We are waiting for **the Anointed One to come**. But this Anointed One, the spirit, put on flesh.

I read an illustration about this complex reality: "A little boy was trying to get to sleep but was frightened. He shouted from his upstairs bedroom: 'Dad, it's dark up here and I'm scared.' His father shouted back, 'Don't be afraid. God is with you.' After a short pause, the boy yelled again: 'Get up here, Dad - I need somebody with skin on!'" This is the reality of Incarnation.

So what can we learn from incarnation of Jesus?

1. Jesus was and is God.

God becomes a man in the person of Jesus Christ. Jesus is a not just simply a good rabbi, teacher, teaching us moral conducts. He is fully God and he has all the attributes of God.

-He existed before cosmos: **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.** (John 1:1.2)

-He created ALL THINGS: **All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.** (John 1:3); **For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.** (Colossians 1:16)

- He has ALL the POWER and Authority: **All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.** (Matthew 28:18). Authority over disease, life and death, demons, evolvment...

2. Jesus was fully human.

If you read Paul's writing to Philipppians:

Who (Jesus), though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:6-8)

Those words are so important. God emptied himself, (*Kenoo*)(kenao) without losing His deity, he takes on a new form, in flesh, body. We find Jesus as a baby, or hungry, sad, crying, in pain...all human.

Application: what does incarnation mean to us today?

1. Jesus Walked With Us and He Still Does

Jesus walked, lived, ate, sang, struggled, suffered, worked, and got tempted like all of us. He understands our situation, our struggles, or our problems.

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.” (Hebrews 4:15)

On the other hand, only through Him I can really understand who God is. Only through Him I can have a personal relationship with God. I stress this to you. I want each of us to live Christ-centered life. In this Advent season please focus on Jesus Christ, man-God incarnate flesh.

His incarnation taught us how to live our life following in His steps. **Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us**

and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Ephesians 5:1 ESV)

2. Jesus Saved us from SIN

Because of SIN, we lost our joy with God and with each other. Because of SIN, we lost our relationship with God and with each other. Only God found a way to solve this problem. His incarnation was not just an act of coming down to us so we can understand who God is. His incarnation was manifested when Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead. By believing in Christ Jesus we are saved from the penalty of sin, which was death. Our salvation through him brought to us abundant life, new life, eternal life and joyful life.

John describes it well:

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the Word (Logos) of life—² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us—³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. (1 John 1-4ESV)

3. Since God put on flesh, we can open the Table of the Lord, Eucharist.

Who can approach to table of the LORD? No one, we are not worthy. Yet, yet,

C S Lewis said: “The Son of God became a man to enable men to become sons of God.” And this so true, Jesus became one of us so we become friends with Jesus, so we become children (sons and daughters) of our heavenly Father. Now we can approach the table because we become part of HIS FAMILY.

This is the table that the Lord has prepared so that we can have communion with him and each other.

This table is an evidence of His indescribable LOVE, sacrificial love

Illustration: lately fires destroyed so many lives and homes in California. I saw this on news how one woman wanted to meet the firefighter who rescued her home.²

I love and worship my Lord Jesus. The one who puts on flesh, to walk with us, so that we can learn to walk with the Son of God, and follow God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

God walked with us and He still does. Immanuel.

1 <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/incarnation>

2. A California woman who watched on a surveillance app as a firefighter saved her home during the recent wildfires is now thanking the hero in person.

Courtney McClain was evacuated as the fire drew near her home in Oak Park, California, recently. While she was away from home following the evacuation, she was able to watch on a home security camera as a firefighter fought to fireproof her home.

"He is just my hero running in to save my house," McClain told Inside Edition.

"I was just like, 'Thank you, thank you!' I was just so grateful," she added about watching the footage. The home is still standing thanks to the efforts of that lone firefighter despite so much devastation in the neighborhood.

After the blaze passed, McClain was determined to track the man down to personally thank him.

She posted the heart-stopping video online of the rescuer and within a week she had identified him as Capt. Jason May of the Redondo Beach Fire Department.

Her wish came true as she got to thank him in person, and Inside Edition was there as she reached out to him on FaceTime Tuesday afternoon to further express her gratitude.

"You're such a gracious and nice family. You make what we do and all the sacrifices that have been made, puts a real value on that to us," he told her. <https://www.insideedition.com/lone-firefighter-braves-smoke-flames-save-womans-home-48754>