

The Incarnation: Tradition and Truth Believing and Receiving the True Light

Light, Power and a New Birth *John 1:9-13*

A. True Light Comes To The World *John 1:9-11*

1. **Jesus is the LIGHT** and He brings light to all
 - a. Who is the one coming in verse 9? NIV has it best!
Isaiah 60:1-3; Gen 1:1-3

2. What is “true” light?

- Truth here means ‘perfect’ or ‘complete’ so that there is nothing lacking.
- The earthly temple verses the heavenly temple
Heb 8:1-2; 8:24

3. What ‘light’ is in you? *Matt 6:22-23; Rev 21:22-23*

All other lights aside from Christ are either imitations, representations or deceptions of the TRUE LIGHT—they are NOT the true LIGHT of Christ.

4. The world rejects the true Light *John 1:10-11*

- He was in the world
- The world was made through Him
- The world did not know Him
- He came to His own
- His own did not receive Him

B. Believe and Receive the Light *John 1:12-13*

- **Question:** Why does John the disciple introduce the believers NEW BIRTH in the middle of introducing the incarnation?
- **Answer:** Because the incarnation (Christ’s birth) and our new birth are **both a work of God**.

Our ‘new birthright’ is established verse 12

- Believing and receiving are the same...
- Our right is to become children of God...
- Like Christ—we are born...
- Unlike Christ—we did not preexist...
- We are NOT born Christians...
- Our new birth is not by the will of man...
- Our new birth is by the will of God...

Children of God are born (begotten) verse 13

- Not of blood (*descent-ancestry*)
- Nor of the will of the flesh (*desire*)
- Nor of the will of man (*human power*)

But by the will of God...

***The miracle of the incarnation makes possible
the miracle of my own new birth in Christ.***



Arise, shine; for
your light has
come! And the
glory of the
Lord is risen
upon you.
Isaiah 60:1

John 1:9-13 NIV

- :9** The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.
- :10** He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him.
- :11** He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.
- :12** Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—
- :13** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

John 1:9-13 KJV

- :9** That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.
- :10** He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.
- :11** He came unto his own, and his own received him not.
- :12** But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
- :13** Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

The Incarnation: Tradition and Truth Have you Beheld the Glory of Christ the Messiah?

*The Word was with God...
The Word became flesh...
We beheld His glory...
Of His fullness we have received...
...Have you?*

1. God Tabernacles with Man *John 1:14*

The Old Testament Tabernacle and the Incarnation



And the Word became flesh and dwelt (tabernacled) among us...

Exo 25:8-9; Exo 40:34-38; 1 Cor 3:16

Christ is the locus of God's dwelling with Israel as He had dwelled with them in the tabernacle in the desert.

The Incarnation: Jesus left his usual place [with God] and accepted the conditions of

human life and chose NOT to use His divine attributes.

Philippians 2:5-11

As believers we now become partakers of His divine nature and to the extent that He will permit us—we can use and experience His power! *2 Peter 1:2-4*

2. The Glory of God *John 1:14*

...and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father...

The glory was Jesus Himself—God in the flesh. When John and the rest of the disciples looked at Him—they saw the glory of God. The ‘tabernacle’ of God among men. *Revelation 21:3*



3. The Fullness of God *John 1:14; :16 — Col 2:9-10; Col 1:19*

...full of grace and truth... (:14)

And of His fullness we have all received... (:16)

- **Full of grace and truth:** In these two words, ‘grace’ and ‘truth’ the character of divine revelation is summed up.
- **And of His fullness we have all received:** When we receive Christ as savior we receive the fullness [or completeness] of His ‘grace’ and ‘truth.’ *Eph 3:19; 4:13*

4. Grace for grace! *John 1:16*

The expression ‘**grace for grace**’ probably means “**grace upon grace**” or “abundant grace.” Here grace means God's gracious favor which He showers on His beloved children.



Grace upon grace is like the ‘**manna**’ from heaven—it just kept coming: **manna for manna**. The incarnation brought the true manna to earth—Jesus the bread of life.

Psalms 78:24; John 6:35

And the Word
became flesh...

:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

:2 He was in the beginning with God. :3 All things were made through Him, and with-

out Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. :5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. :7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. :8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. :9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. :10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. :11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. :12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: :13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

:14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. :15 John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.'" :16 And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. :17 For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. :18 No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

John 1:1-18 NKJV