

THURSDAY

Jesus Tabernacled With Humanity

John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” –

- **Second Person of Godhead/ who became Person of Jesus Christ at His incarnation = always existed** = Before time / space / matter
 - **Greek verb “was”** expresses timeless being
 - Not a beginning, but eternal existence
 - Messiah/Christ not created = not born into deity—He **is God**
- John 8:58** “Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

John 1:14 “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory...” (Grk: “tabernacled” or “pitched His tent among us”)

- Incarnation of Christ = greatest marvel of eternity
- Infinite Creator / 2nd Person of Godhead /stepping into His creation
- To become = Son of Man / covenant Son of God = in Person of Jesus
- God did not simply visit—He **moved in** = tabernacled w/us
- Taking on our flesh = to die for us = pay penalty of sin
 - Satisfy His own judgment= make us righteous by faith in Him
 - ultimate foundation = redemption / eternal communion
- He **pitched His tent** = in mud of our human story
 - so He could rescue us = bring us into His eternal kingdom
- Christ took on **real humanity-- eternal** became **temporal**
 - **invisible** became **visible** / **supernatural** entered **natural**
- Yet, He remained fully divine—**undiminished deity in human form**

1 Timothy 3:16 Paul said, “God was manifested in the flesh”

Hebrews 2:14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil

- Cornerstone of gospel: Immanuel, God with us **Matthew 1:23**
- Language of **John 1:14** “dwelt among us” = directly connects

- **Exodus 25:8**, God said: “Let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.”
 - Tent of meeting Moses set up outside camp
 - **Old Testament tabernacle/sanctuary**
 - Place of **divine presence = and human encounter**
- In Jesus, God **tabernacled personally**—not behind veil, but **in flesh**
- As Shekinah filled sanctuary = **Christ embodied God’s presence** on earth = **Colossians 2:9** For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily

John 1:14 continues “and we beheld His glory”

- His **glory** = radiant beauty = of divine character
- Just like Moses on Mount Sinai saw God's glory in His goodness
 - so in Christ we see:
 - Grace / Truth / Mercy / Patience / Compassion
- **Mount of Transfiguration** = glimpse of physical brilliance (Mt 17), but His entire life = reflected divine glory in humble form

Hebrews 1:3 AMP 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

Revelation 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

- He **knocks at door of our hearts** = seeking to abide within us

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name

- Even after His ascension, Christ **continues to tabernacle** w/His ppl
- Ephesians 3:16–19** , He dwells in our heart thru faith by power of Holy Spirit in us = so that we can be rooted in His identity = ¹⁹to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

John 14:23 “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

Colossians 1:27 Christ in you, the hope of glory

indwelling Spirit of Christ = only way to develop His character/His glory = the guarantee to each believer of future glory

- Incarnation wasn’t temporary—was **beginning of eternal intimacy**.

- **God Will Tabernacle With Us Forever**

Revelation 21:3 “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them...” –

- **Revelation 21** presents **final sanctuary**—not made w/hands,
 - not symbolic = but **real / eternal**
 - New Jerusalem is **Most Holy Place enlarged**:
 - Perfect cube (Revelation 21:16), just like inner sanctuary
 - God’s presence = in cube = Father/Son/Spirit = 1 X 1 X 1 = 1
- **Revelation 21:22** = No temple needed—because
 - **Lord God Almighty and Lamb = are its temple**
 - **Face to face**, we will live w/ God—no more distance

Hebrews 12:22 “You have come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God...”

- Like Israel journeyed from Egypt to Canaan = Christ leads us **from slavery to freedom**, from **wandering to inheritance**
- Leading us to **heavenly Jerusalem** = not fiction / our future

Called to Endure till the End Knowing this hope, how do we endure?
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- By inviting Him in (Revelation 3:20).
- By fixing our eyes on Jesus (Hebrews 12:2).
- By beholding His glory daily (2 Corinthians 3:18).
- Tabernacle journey was not easy for Israel
 - but God’s presence was w/ them every step of the way
- So it is w/ us today

Closing thought

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory...” – John 1:14

- One day, we will no longer see dimly = or thru symbols
- New Jerusalem Tabernacle —city radiant w/ God’s light
 - Filled w/His people = forever echoing w/ joy
- Until then, we live as living sanctuaries—
 - Christ in us = the hope of glory