TUESDAY **The Incarnation of Christ**

- Most important question any person will ever answer
    - **"Who is Jesus?"**
- Some regard Jesus merely as / great teacher / prophet
    - moral leader / miracle worker / inspiring historical figure
- Scripture presents / far greater truth: **Jesus Christ is God revealed in human flesh—the eternal Person of Godhead who came from Heaven to become = Son of Man / Covenant Son of God**
- In John's day = false teachers claimed Jesus only appeared human
- Denying that = Divine Person of Godhead truly took human flesh

1 John 4:2, 3 "Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God"

- Believing in His incarnation = means more than acknowledging
    - that Jesus once lived on earth
- Means accepting / complete biblical truth about **who Jesus is**
    - **what He accomplished / what He is doing now**
    - **what He has promised to do in / future**
- True prophets / genuine spiritual messages
    - will always direct attention to Jesus
- They will not exalt human personalities / build private followings
- Three core truths = incarnation of Messiah/Christ

1. God Came From Heaven and Became One of Us

John 1:1, **14** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God…Word became flesh/dwelt among us

- **The Word was eternal God = God came from heaven to become Person of Jesus Christ =** amazing condescension described:

Philippians 2:5–8 "Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled

Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."

- Messiah/Christ did not begin His existence in Bethlehem
- Existed eternally = He willingly laid aside privileges / glory of heaven
- Entered our human experience = position of servant as = **Son of Man**
- Representative of humanity / Last Adam /new Head of human family
    - Where Adam failed / Christ overcame
    - Obeying the Father perfectly on our behalf
- Messiah/Christ also became = **covenant Son of God**
- Firstborn = meaning **PREEMINENT**—surpassing all others
- Only Begotten = **unique, one-of-a-kind, Son of promise**
    - rightful heir to covenant blessings
- Messiah/Christ did not cease to be God when He became human
- Thru Jesus = **God came near** = see exactly what God is like

John 14:9 "He who has seen Me has seen the Father"

- Incarnation teaches us that God = not distant /cold / unconcerned

2. Jesus became our Covenant Substitute

- Incarnation cannot be separated from / cross
- Purpose of His coming = not merely to teach us how to live
- Came to save us from sin = child Jesus born in Bethlehem
    - came to become Lamb of God at Calvary
- Jesus lived sinless life = perfectly obeyed Father = resisted every temptation = remained spotless in thought / word / action
- As Son of Man / covenant Representative
    - Fulfilled obedience / God's covenant required
- Then = at cross = willingly stood in our place

Isaiah 53:5 "He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities."

1 Peter 2:24 says Jesus: "Bore our sins in His own body on the tree."

- Jesus = w/o sin = died for ours = to satisfy His own justice
- He bore our guilt / condemnation / and penalty so that we
    - could receive His forgiveness / righteousness / eternal life

2 Corinthians 5:21 describes great exchange of salvation:

> "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

- This substitutionary sacrifice = heart of gospel
    - Reveals astonishing depth of God's love for us
- Our assurance rests in = work of Jesus Christ
- When we accept Him as Savior/Lord
    - His righteousness is credited to us
    - His Spirit begins transforming us
    - We stand accepted before the Father

3. Jesus rose / ministers for us in Heaven / Is Coming Again

- Truth about Jesus does not end at / cross
- Resurrection proves that Jesus has defeated death

John 11:25 "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live" = we have hope beyond grave

- Now our risen Savior = serves as = our heavenly High Priest
    - Jesus represents us before the Father

Hebrews 4:14, 15 "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold f/ast our confession. We do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize w/our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet w/o sin

- Jesus understands temptation / loneliness / betrayal
    - exhaustion / grief / pain
- Whatever burden we carry = we can come boldly to His throne of grace = knowing He understands
- And His heavenly ministry is moving toward glorious conclusion
    - **Jesus is coming again**

John 14:2, 3 "I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again"

- Messiah/Christ must be center/circumference of prophet's msg
- Their teaching should lead ppl to saving relationship w/Him

God came in the flesh as Person of Jesus Christ
Died for our sins / rose from the grave
Covers us w/His righteousness = ministers for us today
And Jesus is coming again