

Becoming human- giving glory. 23 December_2018.

(PP1) Becoming human- giving glory x 51 Sunday 23 December_2018.

Christmas is a celebration that Jesus Christ came into the world to fix something that is broken in us and the world.



READ: John 1: 6 – 15. JESUS became a Glorious Human Being. (and vv16-18)

Especially verse 14 ***The Message: The WORD became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood. We saw the GLORY with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind GLORY, like Father, like Son, generous inside and out, true from start to finish.***

TEV: verse 14 and 18 The WORD became a human being and, full of grace and truth lived (tabernacle) among us. We saw his GLORY, the GLORY which he received as the Father's only Son.

This is a story of **flesh and blood incarnation**: God who is Spirit (*John 4:24*) becoming flesh and blood – God the Son born in flesh and blood, God living in flesh and blood, God dying in flesh and blood, God rising from death in flesh and blood and ascending in flesh and blood.

John who writes this Gospel did not witness the flesh and blood birth of Jesus, but no one apparently witnesses or describes an unusual or out of the ordinary birth. Angels were present – declaring God's glory in the heavens – we've thought about heavenly beings and bodies declaring God's glory. There is a very bright star that the Magi follow which appears around the time of Jesus' birth. BUT the birth is marked not by a halo around Jesus' head to mark out his grace or glory – the flesh and blood birth is remembered and hallmarked simply by the fact that Jesus is laid in a manger (because there was no room in the KATALUMATI – guest room).

Jesus in flesh and blood sweated, hurt, wept, experienced emotion and hunger like one of us – because he came as one of us and *knows what it's like to be human*.

John in the prologue to his Gospel paints a vivid theology of **JESUS as the WORD (LOGOS)** who existed before John the Baptist because he created the world and everything else. *Verse 4 Jesus brought both light and life to humanity.*

His character as he lived amongst humanity (and his close circle of disciples saw this at first hand) was throughout that of a gracious or generous human being and truth was in every part of his being and doing. In that sense he was a glorious human being. **BUT John says much more - he exceeds Moses who gave the Law and verse 18 Jesus the Word is the same as God and who “sits at God’s right hand” makes God known.**

In **verse 14** John also specifically says: ***We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father’s only Son.***

Jesus is more than a glorious (with a small g...) human being – John the Evangelist and Gospel Writer here says like John the Baptist – that Jesus is glorious like the Father God – and he and others have seen or witnessed this.

WHAT DOES HE REFER TO when he says – “we have seen his glory”?

This has to be a reference to the **Transfiguration of Jesus** which was witnessed by *John, James and Peter* – 3 of the first Apostles.

The transfiguration of Jesus is an event reported in the New Testament when Jesus is visibly changed and becomes radiant in glory upon a mountain (Tabor?). The Synoptic Gospels describe it, and the Second Epistle of Peter also refers to it. I am saying that the first chapter of the Gospel of John also alludes to it.

The Synoptic **Gospels** (*Matthew 17:1–8, Mark 9:2–8, Luke 9:28–36*) describe it, and the Second Epistle of Peter also refers to it (*2 Peter 1:16–18*).

READ MARK 9: 2 – 9. The flesh and blood birth and life of JESUS also includes incidents where his **GLORY is seen clearly –** God’s glory is seen in who Jesus **IS** (here in the Transfiguration – he is central to Moses and Elijah – fulfilment of Law and Prophets) and glory of God seen in what he **DOES** too. Glory is seen in Jesus’ life; healings and deliverances, his command of nature and especially in his bodily Resurrection.

As Christians our Christmas celebration is that the eternal LOGOS came as and by flesh and blood birth to live amongst us and to fix what is broken in human beings. Evil in the World tried to extinguish that light and life but failed.

Jesus’ GLORY was not so much toned down as “*veiled in flesh - the Godhead see... hail the incarnate deity...*”

Are we ready to see within that veil of his human flesh? Like Peter, James and John we who stay with Jesus may in the grace and gift of God begin to see something of the true glory of Jesus. (As John recorded in the *Revelation* recorded in the last pages of our Scripture).

Hope of this sighting: - **read verses 16 – 18. We have seen his glory.....**