

# The Word Became Flesh

(Pray that All would See Him for Who He Is)

**A Few Words to the Reader:** This article is to remind you my brothers and sisters in Christ, of God's amazing love for us. And for those of you who don't know Christ, I pray that God would open your eyes to see him for who he is. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. (John 3:16) For: *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."* (Galatians 2:20)



So, whether these words are a sweet reminder or a life changing eye opener, I hope you will be blessed by this article. *"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures"* (1 Corinthians 15:3-4) Amen.

## In the Beginning was the Word

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." (Genesis 1:1)

If we would look at the word "God" in the passage above, we would see it being used in the plural form. This is a good indication that there was more than one agent involved in the act of creation. We can see this to be true in the next verse where we read: *"And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."* (Genesis 1:2). So, we see the Spirit of God being introduced to us and moving upon the dark waters of the earth. Then we hear the voice of our God calling out saying: *"Let there be light: and there was light."* (Genesis 1:3)

*"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."* (Genesis 1:26-27) So, we have our "God" again in the plural form saying, *"Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."* This again is a clear indication that more than one agent was involved in creation.

Now, in John's gospel we read: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."* (John 1:1-3) So, we see that the Word was involved in the act of creation as well. And finally, *"But now, O Jehovah, thou art our Father; we are the clay, and thou our*

*potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.” (Isaiah 64:8) So, couldn’t we conclude that the Father, the Word (which later became the man Christ Jesus) and the Spirit were all involved in the act of creation and yet being one God named Jehovah?*

Now, to go even further with this thought we read in Deuteronomy: *“Hear, O Israel: Jehovah our God is one Jehovah: and thou shalt love Jehovah thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.” (Deuteronomy 6:4-5) Again, the word “God” is in the plural form as noted earlier. However, we now have the word “one” that is a compound unity. Thus, we have two or more coming together to be as one. For we see this same word “one” being used in Genesis where we read: “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” (Genesis 2:24) So, couldn’t we conclude that the plurality of the Godhead is being presented here? “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:” (Matthew 28:19)*

- IV. IN THE BEGINNING GOD. ETERNAL, OMNIPOTENT, OMNIPRESENT, OMNISCIENT, ALL LOVING, ALL MERCIFUL, ALL GRACIOUS, ALL HOLY. A. In the Hebrew the word translated God is Elohim, which is the plural form of the Hebrew word for god which is el. 1. Thus in the first verse of the Bible you have the hint of the plurality of the Godhead. 2. We believe in One God who exists in the three persons of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 3. Later in the creation story we will find Elohim saying, “Let us make man in our image and after our likeness.” Again the use of plural pronouns. ...Very interesting because you know that the word “echad” is used. “The Lord our God is one LORD” the compound unity. The Father, Son, Holy Spirit, one Lord, one God, yet the compound unity, the three persons of the one God. It's right there in their very Shema, their chant, the foundation of their whole religious system is this verse, this scripture. And yet within it there is the idea of the compound unity of God, “The Lord our God is one LORD.” **(by the late Pastor Chuck Smith)**
- The LORD our God: In addition, even the name of God in this line suggests the plurality of God. The Hebrew word is Elohim and grammatically, it is a plural word used as if it were singular - the verbs and pronouns used with it are generally in the plural. i. Rabbi Simeon ben Joachi, commenting on the word Elohim: “Come and see the mystery of the word Elohim; there are three degrees, and each degree by itself alone, and yet notwithstanding they are all one, and joined together in one, and are not divided from each other.” Clarke adds: “He must be strangely prejudiced indeed who cannot see that the doctrine of a Trinity, and of a Trinity in unity, is expressed in the above words.” ii. Leupold quoting Luther on Elohim: “But we have clear testimony that Moses aimed to indicate the Trinity or the three persons in the one divine nature.” V. ...Christians must come to a renewed understanding of the unity of God. They must appreciate the fact that the LORD is one, not three, as 1 Corinthians 8:6 says: yet for us there is one God. We worship one God, existing in three persons, not three separate gods. iii. Yet, the statement the LORD is one certainly does not contradict the truth of the Trinity. In fact, it establishes that truth. The Hebrew word for one is echad, which speaks most literally of a compound unity, instead of using the Hebrew word yacheed, which speaks of an absolute unity or singularity (Genesis 22:2 and Psalm 25:16). iv. The very first use of echad in the Bible is in Genesis 1:5: So the evening and the morning were the firstday. Even here, we see a unity (one day) with the idea of plurality (made up of evening and morning). Genesis 2:24 uses echad in

saying the two shall become one flesh. Again, the idea of a unity (one flesh), making a plurality (the two) **(By Pastor David Guzik)**

## The Word became Flesh

And the Word was made 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." (John 1:14)

Now, most of us know that the "Word" who became flesh is none other than Jesus Christ, the Son of God. And we know that he became flesh to show us the way to God our Father and to take upon himself the sins of the world. Therefore, he had to be made just like us, for we read: *"Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Hebrews 14-18)*

Now, did you notice in that passage above that it says "in every way" he had to be made like us? Jesus had to become flesh and blood just like us with all of life's limitations. *"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:3-4)* Therefore, fellow Christians; we read that Jesus "emptied himself" of all his heavenly attributes when he became flesh like us. For we read: *"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. (Philippians 2:5-7)*

- The Word was named Jesus by His mother at birth, and announced by angels as Christ. 1. Jesus Christ is the Word. "AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US."...But made himself of no reputation [or in the Greek, emptied Himself], and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men (Philippians 2:7): Well, we see now the steps downward as He emptied Himself: starting with God, equal with God, and yet, He emptied Himself and He came in the form of a servant, and was made like men. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Philippians 2:7-8). **(By Pastor Chuck Smith)**

## A Prophet – Like unto Me

"Jehovah thy God will raise up unto thee a prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken" (Deuteronomy 18:15)

According to that passage above, Jesus was to be a prophet like Moses. Now, was Moses both the same nature as God and of man? For I don't see this anywhere proclaimed in the scriptures. So, this should make it clear that Jesus was fully man when he came in the flesh. For he took on a body like ours to show us the way to God our Father and to take upon himself the sins of the world. *"Therefore, in all*

*things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.” (Hebrews 2:17-18)*

So then, *“Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 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 4:14-15)* We see this to be true when: *“Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. (Matthew 4:1)* However, we know that God himself cannot be tempted. For scripture says: *“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man” (James 1:13)*

Therefore, if Jesus was still of the same nature as God with all his attributes, all these passages above would not only be pointless, but contradicting as well. And let’s remember what the Apostle Peter said: *“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know” (Acts 2:22)* So, we see that it was God who was doing the works through Jesus. Therefore, brothers and sisters in Christ, let’s always test what we hear with Scripture itself. (1 Timothy 2:16) And let’s take heed to John the apostles warning in which he said: *“For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.” (2 John 1:7)*

## In Closing

That all being said, we should not count Jesus as some ordinary prophet that came and went. For as said above, he was the Word that was with God and was God as well. However, because he loved us, he willingly gave himself for us, taking on the sins of the world upon himself. Therefore: *“have this mindset in you that was also in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, considered being equal with God not something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men; and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! And therefore God raised him to the highest place of honor and gave him the name that is above every name, in order that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow—in heaven and on earth and under the earth—and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:5-11)*

- GOD PROMISED TO SEND ANOTHER PROPHET LIKE MOSES TO SPEAK THE WORD OF GOD TO THEM. A. To the present day the Jews recognize this passage to be a promise of the Messiah. 1. In fact the Rabbi's today say that the main reason they reject Jesus as the Messiah is because He claimed to be the Son of God and the promised Messiah was to be a man as Moses was a man. 2. They of course ignore such passages as: PSA 2:2 The kings of the earth and the rulers have taken counsel together, against the LORD, and against his Anointed one. (the Hebrew word translated Anointed One, is Meshiyach.) **(The late Pastor Church Smith)**
- (Deu 18:15-19) The promise of a true Prophet to come. The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, "Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die." And the LORD said to me: "What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you

from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him." a. The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me: Moses, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, promised a prophet to come; a prophet that would first be like me - that is, like Moses. b. From your midst, from your brethren: Like Moses, this Prophet would be from the midst of Israel. This not only meant that He would be an Israelite, but that He would be a "man of the people" - He would be one of them. c. Him you shall hear: Like Moses, this Prophet would command the attention of the nation. This means both that Israel should listen to this Prophet, and that they would listen to this Prophet. d. According to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb: Like Moses, this Prophet would be a mediator, representing God to the people, and representing the people before God. e. Will put My words in His mouth: Like Moses, this Prophet would speak God's Word. f. I will require it of him: Like Moses, this Prophet's message would only be rejected at a great penalty. g. I will raise up for them a Prophet: People looked for this Prophet in Jesus' day (John 6:14, 7:40) and some thought that John the Baptist might be this Prophet (John 1:19-21). But the New Testament plainly tells us that Jesus is this Prophet (Acts 3:19-26, Acts 7:37). **(Pastor David Guzik)**