

“God With Us”

Introduction.

1. One of the great and difficult statements of the Bible is found in Matthew 1:23.
2. The angel announced that Jesus would be born of Mary who was “a virgin.” See Lk. 1:26-35.
 - a. The angel assured Joseph that Mary had not been unfaithful, but was a “parthenos” [pahr **theh** nahs, a virgin].
 - b. The child would be called “Jesus” because He would “save His people from their sins.” (Matt. 1:21).
 - c. He assured Joseph that the child born to Mary would be called “Immanuel” meaning “God with us.”

MAT 1:23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."

- d. The birth of Jesus of the virgin Mary was the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy. (Matt. 1:23; Isa. 7:14).

An Awesome Fact

1. We learn here that the Son born to Mary was “God with us.”
 - a. Jesus did not have a biological father.
 - b. His conception in Mary was brought about “by the Holy Spirit.” (Matt. 1:18; Lk. 1:34, 35).

LUK 1:34 And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

LUK 1:35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.

2. “The Word became flesh.” (Jn. 1:1, 14; 1 Tim. 3:16).
 - a. “In the beginning was the Word”
 - b. “The Word was “with God.”
 - c. “The Word was God.”
 - d. “The Word became flesh.”

Important Question

1. What is meant by the words “God with us?”
 - a. Do they merely mean that God the Father was with the human Jesus and guided and protected Him?
 - b. Some believe Jesus had been stripped of His Deity when He was in the womb of Mary and was later born

in the manger,

- c. Some deny the Deity of Christ and believe that when Christ was born of Mary that He “emptied Himself” of His Deity.
 - 1) They believe He was Deity in heaven.
 - 2) They believe He was human only in this world.
 - 3) Of course, there are many who deny Jesus was Deity in heaven or on earth.
 - 4) They contend He was a mortal man only, and some even deny He ever existed.
- d. Some use Philippians 2:5-8 to support their position that Jesus was human only on this earth.

PHI 2:5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,

PHI 2:6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,

PHI 2:7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.

PHI 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- 1) Some argue “emptied” means Jesus was human only on earth.
 - 2) The words “did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped” are interpreted or twisted to have the same meaning.
2. The Greek “kenoo” [keh **nah** oh] meaning “to empty” does not mean Jesus “emptied Himself” of His Deity. (Col. 1:15; 2:9; Jn. 10:30; 14:9; 20:28).
 - a. The word “kenoo” is setting forth that Jesus came to this world as a humble servant. (Phil. 2:7).
 - b. He did not come to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give us His life for others. (Matt. 20:27, 28).

MAT 20:27 and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave;

MAT 20:28 just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many. "

3. The words “God with us” are a reference to the fact Jesus was Deity in the flesh.
4. Jesus was a man, but far more than a man.

A Mere Man Could Not Do The Following Things

1. Jesus turned water into wine. (Jn. 2:1-11).
2. Jesus revealed the past of a strange Samaritan woman who according to her own words said “He told me all things that I have ever done.” (Jn. 4:39).
3. He instantly healed a sick child in Capernaum when He was 20 miles away in Cana. (Jn. 4:46-54).
4. He said to a paralytic “your sins are forgiven.” (Lk. 5:20).
5. No mere man could still the storm on the sea. (Mk. 4:35-41).

6. No human could multiply loaves and fish for thousands of hungry people. (Matt. 14:13-23; 15:37,38).

7. No man could walk on water. (Matt. 14:24-36).

8. No man could know what other people were thinking. (Jn. 2:25; Mk. 2:8).

9. No man could raise dead people from the dead. (Lk. 7:11-17; Mk. 5:21-43; Jn. 11:1-46).

10. No mere man could raise Himself from the dead. (Jn. 2:19-21).

a. Jesus said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days **I will raise it up.**" (Jn. 2:19).

b. He did this through the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 8:11).

ROM 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.

Note:

- God created all things through Jesus. (Gen. 1:1; Jn. 1:1-3; Heb. 1:3).
- God judges through His Son. (Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; Matt. 25:31-46; 2 Tim. 4:1).
- Jesus raised Himself from the dead through the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 8:11).

How Did Christ Empty Himself

1. He took on flesh (Jn. 1:14), and for a short time became "a little lower than the angels." (Heb. 2:7).

a. Angels do not have fleshly bodies, and are not subject to death. (Lk. 20:36).

b. For the period of Jesus' incarnation He was in flesh and was subject to death and did die for man.

c. It was only in this sense that He became "a little lower than the angels."

d. In every other way He was far superior to the angels. (Heb. 1:1-14).

2. He became a servant to man. (Phil. 2:7).

3. He humbled Himself in life and to the point of death. (Phil. 2:8).

PHI 2:8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

4. Though He was the Son of God, He had few earthly possessions. (Matt. 8:20; 2 Cor. 8:9).

MAT 8:20 And Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."

2CO 8:9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sake He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.

- a. As Deity everything belonged to Jesus. (Psa. 24:1).
 - b. As a human Jesus was way below the poverty level.
5. Though flesh, a servant, poor, He retained His Deity.
- a. The “fulness of God” remained in the One who had taken on flesh. (Col. 2:9).

COL 2:9 For in Him all the fulness of Deity dwells in bodily form,

- b. He emptied Himself in some ways, but **retained the fulness of Deity** here on earth.

Times When His Deity Did Not Show Itself

1. He was a baby and had to be fed and changed as a human. He had to learn to walk, to run, and to talk.
2. Deity was not circumcised, but the human Jesus was. (Lk. 2:21). See Gen. 17:9-12.
3. The Divine Nature of Jesus did not increase “in wisdom and stature,” but only the human Jesus. (Lk. 2:52).
 - a. Jesus grew from a baby to a full-grown man.
 - b. The human Jesus grew in “stature,” but not His Divine Nature that does not have flesh.
 - c. The human Jesus increased “in wisdom,” but not His Divine Nature that is omniscient.
 - d. As Deity Jesus knew every language, but as a human He had to learn the Hebrew [Aramaic] language a word at a time.
4. The human nature of Christ worked as a carpenter (Mk. 6:3), but His Divine Nature was present (though not apparent). He learned the skills of a carpenter gradually as all who took up that trade.
5. Deity cannot be tempted (Jas. 1:13), but the human nature of Jesus was tempted. (Heb. 4:15; 2:18).
 - a. Satan tempted His human nature in the wilderness. (Matt. 4:1-11).
 - b. His Divine Nature did not keep His human nature from being tempted. (Heb. 4:15).
 - c. In fact His Divine Nature could not be tempted. (Jas. 1:13).
 - d. His Divine nature could not sin (Jas. 1:13), but His human nature could.
6. Jesus’ human nature, at times, became “hungry” (Mk 11:12), and He came “eating and drinking” (Matthew 11:19),
 - a. This was impossible for His Divine Nature.
 - b. Deity does not hunger and thirst.
7. Deity does not become tired or need rest. (Jn. 4:6).

JOH 4:6 and Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied from His journey, was sitting thus by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

- a. The human nature of Jesus could become tired.
 - b. The human nature of Jesus needed sleep though Deity never sleeps.
8. Omniscient Deity would know “the day and the hour” of the second coming of Christ, but the human Jesus did not know (Mk. 13:26, 32).
- a. Knowledge of the time of His coming was a human limitation as well as an angelic limitation. (Matt. 24:36).
 - b. It is not a Divine limitation.
 - c. Deity knows everything - past, present, future.
9. Deity cannot sweat or shed blood.
- a. As a human Jesus sweated on many occasions and one instance is pointed out in the garden of Gethsemane. (Lk. 22:44).
- LUK 22:44 And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and **His sweat** became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground.
- b. Though the human Jesus likely bled on more than one occasion, His blood was shed on the cross for the sins of mankind. (Matt. 26:28; 1 Cor. 15:3; Rev. 1:5).
 - 1) Jesus would have had cuts and bruises at different times in life.
 - 2) He bled when they scourged Him and when they drove the crown of thorns into His head. (Matt. 27:26, 29, 30; Mk.15:17; Jn. 19:2, 5).
 - c. This was the blood of the human Jesus, and not the blood of Deity.
 - d. Deity is not flesh and blood. (Jn. 4:24; Matt. 16:17).
10. Deity could never exclaim, “I am thirsty,” but the human Jesus did so (Jn. 19:28).
11. Deity would never have asked, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matt. 27:46).
12. Deity cannot die, but Jesus died (Jn.19:30).
- a. The human Jesus was dead three days in the tomb.
 - b. His Divine nature was “in Paradise” (Lk. 23:46), and remained there until Sunday morning.
 - c. His Divine Nature is eternal. (Isa. 9:6,7; Mic. 5:2; Jn. 1:1-3; 1 Jn. 1:2).
13. Deity cannot be nailed to a cross, but the human Jesus could be nailed to the cross and suffer great physical pain.
14. Since Deity is Spirit [Jn. 4:24] and does not have flesh and bones it could not rot in the grave, but the human Jesus could have seen corruption if He had not been raised from the dead by the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 8:11).

Conclusion

1. As humans we cannot fully understand either the Deity or the humanity of Jesus.
2. We accept by faith that Jesus was indeed “God with us.” (Matt. 1:23).
3. How blessed we are that the Divine Word took on flesh and died for us!
4. How blessed we are that the Divine Son of God has all authority in heaven and on earth, but because He was flesh completely understands our human nature and is able to help us! (Heb. 2:18).

HEB 2:18 For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted.

"Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®,
© Copyright 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation

Used by permission." (www.Lockman.org)