

## **THE SAVIOR BECAME FLESH**

Our Wednesday Christmas series consists of four lessons on the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

- Dec.1 – Scripture became flesh – John 1:14
- Dec.8 – Seed became Flesh – Rom.1:1-4
- Dec.15. – Son became flesh – Rom.8:3-4
- **Dec.22 – Savior became Flesh – Luke 2:9-11**

This year the symbols of Christmas have been under attack in America like the nativity of Jesus Christ.

Therefore, I felt it important to teach several lessons on the incarnation of Jesus Christ this Christmas season. The incarnation has been the theme of our Christmas lesson on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday during the month of December.

John refers to those who deny or attack the incarnation of Jesus Christ as the antichrist (1 John 2:18, 22-23; 4:1-3).

“Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.” (2 John 7)

We will study our lesson text by the following six homiletical points.

- Holy night – 2:8
- Holy news – 2:9-11
- Holy nativity – 2:12
- Holy noel – 2:13-14
- Holy new born - 2:15-17
- Holy notification - 2:17-20

<b>This lesson will study FIVE aspects of the incarnation of Jesus Christ as the Savior Became Flesh.</b>
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**THE PLAN OF GOD CALLED FOR THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST TO AFFECT HEAVEN AND EARTH.  
How has it affected you? The lives of everyone in our story we dramatically changed.**

- 1. The message that the SAVIOR BECAME FLESH was announced by angels, sent from heaven to the Bethlehem shepherds who were keeping watch over their flock in the fields at night (2:8-11).**

“For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” (2:11)

This has been a dating clue to time of year of the birth of Jesus. Flocks were normally penned during the winter months (November through March).

- The shepherds were staying out (agrauleo / p.a.ptc / bivouac) in the field.
- They were keeping watch (phulasso / p.a.ptc / guarding) over their flock by night.
- The manger was not in use and could be used for a crib for baby Jesus (2:7,12).

Most scholars believe that Jesus was born in spring probably March-April.

Can God be trusted even when years pass of unfulfilled promises? (Heb.11:11)

**2. It was prophesied that Christ should be born in the birthplace of King David (Micah 5:2; Matt.2: 1-6).**

When the Magi came inquiring about the birth of the King of the Jews, Herod asked his religious advisors where Christ was to be born. They quoted Micah 5:2 and answered Bethlehem.

This is the same region where David as a shepherd successfully fought the lion and bear (1 Sam.17: 34-35). This is the same region that David wrote about in Psalms 23.

This was excellent sheep country. Bible scholars like Plummer taught that these were temple shepherds. The flock they were keeping watch over was the sacrificial sheep of shadow Christology (Heb.9-10; Col.2: 16-17).

It would be fitting that the Lamb of God would be born in these shepherds stable and would be the first to worship Him (John 1:29, 36; Luke 2:7,12,16).

“But with precious blood, as a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ.” (1 Pet.1:19)

**3. It was also prophesied that Christ would be born a ruling shepherd at Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).**

“For out of you shall come forth a ruler, who will shepherd My people Israel.” (Matt.2:6b)

It was only fitting the shepherds of shadow Christology should be the first to welcome the RULING SHEPHERD. They about to meet the Lord of lords and King of kings and the Shepherd of shepherds.

There are seven titles of Jesus as the messianic shepherd.

Jesus is called the Ruling Shepherd (Matt.2: 6), Good Shepherd (John 10:11-18), the Smitten Shepherd (Mark 14:27), Great Shepherd (Heb.13: 20), Chief Shepherd (1 Pet.5: 4), Guardian shepherd (1 Pet.2: 25), and the Lamb shepherd (Rev.7: 17).

**4. A new song was sung to the temple shepherds by heaven’s chorus announcing the Savior Becoming Flesh (Luke 2:14; Ps.103: 20-21; Heb.1: 6).**

This angelic production was to the shepherds what the star was to the Magi.

It was 1 of 5 hymns in Luke connected with the birth of Jesus (Elizabeth / Eulogium (1:42-45) and (Mary / Magnificat (1:46-55) and (Zacharias / Benedictus (1:67-79) and (**Angels / Gloria in Excelsis Deo (2:14)** and (Simeon / Nunc Dimittis (2:29-32).

It has been given the title, Gloria in Excelsis Deo, “**Glory to God in the highest**, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

**5. How does God’s PEACE come to men of the earth? (Matt.1:21/ Jesus)**

“God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.” (1 Cor.1: 21b) (Col.1: 19-20; Eph.1: 5-9; Rom.5: 1)

These temple shepherds went from grazing God’s sacrificial animals to praising God’s sacrificial lamb (Rev.7: 17).

“For behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all people.” (Luke 2:10)

**Note how the Bethlehem shepherds returned to work in spite of JOB phase out (Luke 2:2:20)**