

LESSON 1



JESUS WAS HUMAN

Scripture Texts: Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:1; Galatians 4:4; 1 Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 4:15; 1 John 4:2-3; Romans 8:3-4

No greater subject can occupy our thoughts than consideration of the Lord Jesus Christ. We finite beings can never exhaust the knowledge of an infinite Being. The Bible provides endless studies of Him. We will be able to give attention to only a small portion of these this quarter. Reverent consideration of these truths of Jesus should stir feelings of attraction and belief and lead on to acts of love, worship, submission, and obedience. Christ has two sides to His identity. Today we consider one of them, His humanity. Next lesson, the other side, His divinity.

MEMORY VERSE: *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 (Romans 8:3).*

Jesus Had Fleshly Birth

Isaiah 7:14 A virgin shall conceive. This prophecy was given at least seven hundred years before Jesus was born. The mother being a virgin and the Father being God. Thus, the Son would have one human and one divine parent. He was God joined with man in one body. **Immanuel**—meaning God with us (Matthew 1:23).

Matthew 1:1 The son of David, the son of Abraham. Jesus was born into the human family. He descended through Mary from Abraham and David. He is the promised Son of David whose kingdom is to be forever (2 Samuel 7:12-13).

Galatians 4:4 At the time planned by God Jesus was **made of a woman** just as all humans are. Through His mother, He had all of human nature and attributes. Christ, the Son of God, became truly human. This had to be if He was to make atonement for human sins. We must believe and accept Him as such to be saved.

Jesus, the Mediator

First Timothy 2:5 One mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. Being God, He reached God. Being man, He reached men. God and men came together in Christ. As finite humans we must connect with the Infinite. Without Him we are lost, without hope, nothing certain, no goal, and no truth or light to guide us toward one. Only in Him Who is all wisdom, all goodness, and all love can our needs be supplied. He is the only point at which we may reach God (John 14:6). Do not be deceived, no good works, no suffering, no sacrifice, not Mary, no preacher, no organization, or form of worship, can bring us to God. Only One can, **the man Christ Jesus**.

Sin separates man from God. Sin brought death, both physical and spiritual, to all mankind. The only atonement for sin is the death of the sinner. Man must die—eternally (Ezekiel 18:4). The only escape from this end for any man is for another man to die in his place. No one but a man can take a man's place. One sinner cannot atone for another because his own sin requires all the payment his death could make. God yearned for the fellowship of His created children. The only way to free them was for God to become man and die in their place. This He did in Jesus Christ. The divine-human Jesus tasted death for every man to bring them into fellowship with God (Hebrews 2:9).

Hebrews 4:15 When in need, in trouble, or guilty, we want someone who understands us, who sympathizes and

cares. Jesus is that One. He is **touched with the feeling of our infirmities**. Being human, He was **in all points tempted**, and He understands. Being love, He cares. Being all power, He can help, as He is able to do all things. His humanity reaches our need. His divinity supplies the remedy. Praise God! He came all the way down to our level.

A Test of Spirits

First John 4:2-3 In these days of many doctrines differing from the true standard we need an immovable standard by which to judge them. Here it is. Ask, "Does this doctrine teach **that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh?**" That is, was God actually present in the man, Jesus Christ? If the spirit of a teaching answers yes, it is of God and built on a true foundation. If it denies the union of God and man in Christ, it is not of God. Avoid this spirit of antichrist. A denial of the Virgin Birth is simply a denial of this union in Jesus (1 John 2:22-23; John 1:1, 14).

Christ's Work in Man

Romans 8:3-4 **What the law could not do . . .** The law gave God's standard of life to man, but man could not live up to it. Why not? Because the law left the performance of it resting upon man's strength and ability, upon **the flesh**. God knew man could not live holy in his human strength and gave the law to teach him that fact. He wants us to depend upon His strength. This is why God sent **his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh**. Jesus lived a perfect, holy life. Looking at Him men see their sinfulness and feel condemnation. Following this conviction with repentance brings cleansing of the sin. Then if we continue to walk **after the Spirit**—in complete obedience to Him—**the righteousness of the law is fulfilled in us**. This is the purpose of Jesus Christ's incarnation—the coming of God into human flesh.

JUST A THOUGHT

Sinful thoughts will rise, but never let them reign.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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