

Introduction: Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ; the time when Jesus-the Eternal God became a human. Today we take a brief look at Jesus' incredible journey from heaven to earth.

I. The Birth of Christ, the Incarnation - God became flesh!

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . ." (Jn 1:1)
*"And the Word became 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).*

A. Jesus Christ is the Word

1. *"In the beginning was the Word"* - *"And the Word became flesh"*
 - a. In the beginning, before anything else . . . The Word was existing.
 - b. Out of the infinite, into the finite – From timelessness, to 'time and space'
 - c. From God, to God/man; the Word became flesh.
2. *"And the Word was with God"* - *"And dwelt among us"*
 - a. Speaks of the Tri-unity of the Godhead
 - b. From the heavenly home, to God dwelling among men.
 - c. Emmanuel, God with us! Dwelling with man - identifying with human nature.
3. *"And the Word was God"* - *"Full of grace and truth"*
 - a. The Word was God...And God's glory seen in the 'only begotten Son.'
 - b. Grace and truth declaring character aspects of God.

II. From Heaven to Earth - Jesus' Incredible Journey

"Christ Jesus, Who, being in (existing in) the form of God, did not consider it robbery (a thing to be grasped) to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation (emptied Himself), taking on the form of a servant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross." (Phil.2:6-8).

A. The Journey...

1. Jesus existed as God - Equality within the Godhead.
 - a. He didn't grasp (try to hold on to) His right of equality (v.6)
2. He emptied Himself - (made Himself of no reputation) (v.7)
 - a. Setting aside one form of manifestation for another
 - b. He did not lay aside the essential fact of His Deity, just took on a form in which the obviousness of His Godhood was hidden.
3. Jesus took the form of a servant...
 - a. From Sovereignty of equality to the submission of subservience
4. ... in the likeness of men (v.8)
 - a. From the form of God to the likeness of men.
 - b. For man's redemption, He laid aside the form as existed "the Word", and took a new form (flesh) for manifesting the same God, a form which men could see, and through which they might come to know the Eternal God.
5. He humbled Himself...obedient to the will of His Father...even to the death of the cross.
 - a. The Word - Jesus - passed from independent cooperation in the equality of Deity to dependent submission to the will of God.

B. The incarnation is not an end in itself, but a means to an end - and that end is the redemption of the lost through the Lord Jesus' death on the cross (Heb.2:14, 1Jn.3:5, Mat. 20:28, Heb. 9:26).

*Therefore, let us come today, as wise men did centuries ago,
 with praise and worship to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!*