

Lesson 47

- Jesus had to be born in order to become incarnate, and he had to be born of a woman from the human race. This was the only way he could legally enter the planet and become human. We studied how Jesus' birth was necessary for his incarnation so that he could take on flesh.
- What was the first prophecy about Jesus Christ?
 ⇒ **Genesis 3:15;** *'Jesus is the offspring (seed) of the woman who bruised off the serpent's head.'*
 Jesus was the seed of the woman, so birth was necessary.
 ⇒ **Isaiah 9:6;** *The child was born of Mary, but the son was given on the cross by God.*
- During his three years of ministry on earth, Jesus focused on, emphasized and glorified the Father who sent him rather than his mother.
 ⇒ **Luke 8:19~21**
 ⇒ **John 12:44~50**
 ⇒ **John 14:6~14**

At the wedding feast in Cana, where Jesus performed his first miracle, he replaced the reference from *'the child was born of Mary'* to *'the son was given by God'*. This marked the beginning of Jesus' career as the Son of God. From that day on, he appeared as the Messiah promised to Israel, offering the kingdom and proving his identity through signs. The Bible shows Jesus speaking several times, emphasizing the difference between *'the Child who was born and the Son of God'*.

⇒ **Luke 11:27~28**

- Jesus' human mother said: *'Do whatever he tells you'*. We must stay true to the Word of God. If Mary could see what is being done in her name, she would be very sad. Jesus had to be born of a woman, and Mary was chosen to be his mother.
- We studied the process by which Jesus' body was formed, through the union of the Word and the Holy Spirit. We also demonstrated that the process of the *'new birth'* is the same for us. Jesus, who is God and eternal, had a body formed for him; however, we already have a body. So how do we experience the same process of being born again as Jesus? Jesus' birth signifies the integration of heaven and earth. The angel brought the Word; Mary received it, and the Holy Spirit formed Jesus' body. As God lacked a human body, Jesus received one to integrate with the human race. We have a spirit, but it is dead and separated from God. Therefore, when we are born again, a new spirit is created and placed within us, and our connection with Heaven and God is restored. What was missing in us was a spirit, and it is through the Word and the Holy Spirit that God gives us a new one.

9.8. Jesus Christ is God incarnate

- Jesus is God. He needed a body, which was provided through the union of the Word and the Holy Spirit. Thus, heaven and earth were reunited. Jesus has always existed, but at the appointed time he was given a body similar to ours.

⇒ **Romans 8:3~4**; *'God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh,'*

- Jesus needed to solve the problem of sin. If he is God, why didn't he come in a glorified body? He had to take on a body like sin because he came to start a new race, to start again from scratch. Adam ruined everything, but Jesus Christ – called the '*last Adam*' – came to start again.

⇒ **I Corinthians 15:41~49**; *'The first man Adam became a living being. The last Adam became a life-giving spirit'*

- Jesus was going to start again, but first it was necessary to put right what was getting in the way. So, Jesus came, identified himself with the human race — the sinful race — and settled man's debt: the penalty of death.

⇒ **Genesis 2:16~17**; *Death entered the human race because of disobedience and because of sin.*

If Jesus did not come with a body similar to ours, how could he die? In his incarnation, Jesus' body was similar to ours; it experienced all the limitations, pain, thirst and hunger that we will see in the study.

- God's justice had to be satisfied because God's laws had been broken. If this wasn't the case, nothing could start again — there was a debt. Can the blood of goats and bulls take away sin? We have studied and found that they do not. What did the people who had sinned up to that point bring before God as atonement for their sins? The blood of goats, bulls and rams — the blood of animals. Jesus replaced those animals as an offering to God. He died for everyone in the past and made propitiation according to God's law, so that God would show mercy to humanity.

⇒ **Romans 5:12~21**; *'Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life'.*

- Have you ever thought about the day Jesus entered Heaven? He was the first man to enter heaven. God left heaven and came back as a man – what a day of victory! His life was symbolized by blood, as he offered himself in place of every human being. When Jesus died, he paid the entire debt owed by the human race to God.

⇒ **Colossians 2:13~15**; *'Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross'.*

- When Jesus rose from the dead, he began a new race.
 ⇒ **Psalms 2:7**; *'You are My Son; Today I have begotten You.'*
 ⇒ **Hebrews 1:5**

When Jesus was resurrected, God shouted from heaven, saying: *'You are My Son; Today I have begotten You.'* Do you think that Jesus was born on that day? Isn't he eternal? But why did God say that? Because, at Jesus' resurrection, a new race began, and the firstborn entered heaven. Today I have begotten You!

⇒ **Acts 13:32~39**, *'Raising Jesus.'*
 ⇒ **Romans 1:3~4**; *'Jesus was declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead'.*

- Jesus was never begotten because he is God and eternal. However, as a man, Jesus came in the likeness of sinful flesh and solved the problem of humanity, which began with Adam. Jesus satisfied God's justice by dying, and when he was resurrected, God said: 'I have begotten you today; you are the final Adam, the victor who has conquered the devil, death and sin.' Hallelujah! Jesus undid everything the devil had done. He was tempted for 40 days in the desert, but he won. He faced death, but he won. When it was all over, Jesus began a new race already victorious. We don't walk in victory simply because we choose not to. In Jesus, we are more than conquerors. The Christian life is not easy because we live in enemy territory, but it is a life of victory and glory.

⇒ **II Samuel 8:1~15**; *'And the Lord preserved David wherever he went.'*
 ⇒ **Proverbs 21:31**; *'Deliverance is of the Lord'.*
 ⇒ **Psalms 121:2**; *'Help comes from the Lord'.*
 ⇒ **I Corinthians 15:54~57**; *'Death is swallowed up in victory ... thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.'*
 ⇒ **Hebrews 2:14~18**; *'That through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.'*
 ⇒ **I John 5:4~5**; *'For whatever is born of God overcomes the world'*

- Jesus is the only figure in the universe who is both God and man; he is a *'Theanthropic'* figure. The Bible makes it clear that Jesus Christ's attributes are eternal.

⇒ **Hebrews 13:8**

Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. This means that, even after he took on human form, he remained the same. His incarnation did not diminish him in any way; rather, it added to his divinity, making him both divine and human. Jesus emptied himself of his glory; his glory was *'shadowily'* while he was incarnate on earth – otherwise he could not have taken on our likeness. Humans cannot bear the glory of God, so Jesus chose not to use his divine attributes and emptied himself of his glory to be in a human body. This is very different from saying that he didn't have them: Jesus never stopped having divine attributes; he simply chose not to use them. ⇒ **Philippians 2:5~8**

- Jesus could have used his divine attributes, but he decided not to. Thank God he didn't! When he was on the cross, people passed by and said: 'Doesn't he claim to be God? Then come down from the cross!' But Jesus endured everything like a lamb.

⇒ **Isaiah 53:1~7**

If Jesus had winked in his favor, a legion of angels would have come and no one of those people would have been left. However, Jesus Christ was the only man to come and die, saying, *'I have come to do the will of my Father'*. It wasn't that the Father wanted Jesus to die; rather, the Father wanted to save the human race, and Jesus came to achieve that.

⇒ **Matthew 26:47~56**

- We clearly see in the Word of God that the incarnate Jesus never ceased to be God before men or angels. He is addressed as God in every quotation.
 - ⇒ **Romans 9:3~5**; *'Who is over all, the eternally blessed God. Amen'*.
 - ⇒ **Isaiah 9:6**; *'Mighty God'*
 - ⇒ **Isaiah 40:3**; *'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God'*
 - ⇒ **Jeremiah 23:2**; *'Therefore thus says the Lord God of Israel'*
- The attributes of Jesus the incarnate are those that refer to him as the eternal God:
 - ⇒ **Revelation 1:7~8**; *Who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty (El-Shadai).*
- After his incarnation, Jesus became omnipresent; otherwise, he would never have been able to fulfil his promise to his disciples. Only God has the attribute of omnipresence.
 - ⇒ **Matthew 28:20**; *'I am with you always, even to the end of the age.'*
- Jesus is omniscient after his incarnation, and only God has this attribute.
 - ⇒ **Revelation 2:23**; *'I am He who searches the minds and hearts.'*
 - ⇒ **John 21:17**; *'Lord, You know all things'*
 - ⇒ **Philippians 3:21**; *'He is able even to subdue all things to Himself'*
 - ⇒ **Hebrews 13:8**; *'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever'. Immutability is an attribute unique to God.*
 - ⇒ **Colossians 1:9~20**
 - ⇒ **Mark 2:5~12**; *Only God can forgive sins.*
- Jesus showed that he was the King and Messiah. All power to judge was given to Jesus, who alone has the right to judge as described in the Bible.
 - ⇒ **Psalms 9:7~8**
 - ⇒ **John 5:19~30**; All judgment was given to Jesus.
- In his incarnation, although he revealed himself to be God, Jesus always acted through the power of the Holy Spirit. This is why he can say to us:
 - ⇒ **John 14:12**
- Jesus receives worship and no one can be worshipped but God:
 - ⇒ **Hebrews 1:6**; *'Let all the angels of God worship Him.'*
 - ⇒ **Matthew 2:11**; Mary was there and who was worshipped?
 - ⇒ **Matthew 8:2**
 - ⇒ **Matthew 9:18**

Once incarnate, it is impossible to doubt that Jesus Christ is God. He accepted and received worship before and after his incarnation.