

WHY DID MY SAVIOR COME TO EARTH?

INTRODUCTION

- A. "Why did my Savior come to earth, / And to the humble go? / Why did he choose a lowly birth?"
- B. The incarnation has been a focal point for many.
 - 1. Gregory of Nazianzus wrote, "The One without flesh has assumed flesh; / The word has taken on materiality / The Invisible has become visible; / The Untouchable is able to be touched; / The Timeless takes on a beginning; / The Son of God becomes Son of Man, / Jesus Christ, / He who is yesterday, today and forever."
 - 2. Let's look at some reasons for the incarnation.

FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY

- A. The OT taught that a Messiah was coming.
 - 1. Moses said that God would raise up another prophet (Dt. 18:15).
 - 2. Isaiah wrote about a Suffering Servant (Is. 53).
- B. Jesus taught that he came to fulfill the OT.
 - 1. Mt. 5:17.
 - 2. Lk. 24:44.

REQUIREMENT OF A SYMPATHETIC HIGH PRIEST

- A. God knows everything we go through, but before Jesus he had not experienced it first-hand.
- B. Jesus experienced first—hand the difficulties in our lives.
 - 1. Heb. 2:14, 17.
 - 2. 1 Tim. 2:5.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF REVELATION

- A. Some want us to believe that God is so far off that we cannot know anything about him.
- B. In the incarnation, Jesus revealed God to mankind.
 - 1. The name "Immanuel" means "God with us" (Mt. 1:23).
 - 2. God has spoken to us through Christ (Heb. 1:1-2).
 - 3. Jesus said the one who had seen him had seen the Father (Jn. 14:8-9).

AFFIRMS SOMETHING POSITIVE ABOUT HUMANITY

- A. We often hear about how evil mankind is.
- B. The Scriptures teach that man is made in the image of God.
 - 1. Gen. 1:26-27.
 - 2. Ps. 8:5--Hebrew "little lower than God."
- C. The fact that Jesus became flesh and dwelt among people shows mankind is valuable (Jn. 1:14).

FOR OUR REDEMPTION

- A. Jesus became flesh to redeem mankind.
 - 1. 2 Cor. 8:9.
 - 2. Gal. 4:4-5.
 - 3. Heb. 9:26.
 - 4. Mk. 10:45.
- B. The idea of redemption is that Jesus came to "buy" humanity from sin.
- C. Athanasius said, "What God has not become, he has not redeemed."

TO GIVE US A EXAMPLE OF A HOLY LIFE

- A. Jesus came and set the supreme example of a holy life.
- B. 1 Pet. 2:21.