

INCARNATION SERIES 2019

The Eternal and Coming King Dan 7:1-28 (Memory Verse: 7:14)

1. Daniel's Vision vs 1-14

- a. The four winds of heaven were churning up the sea.
- b. Four great beasts:
 - Winged Lion, with wings torn off and standing w/ mind of a man).
 - Bear up on one side w/ ribs in his mouth. Told to "eat."
 - Leopard w/ four wings, four heads, authority to rule.
 - Powerful beast w/ iron teeth, 10 horns (Among them a little horn grew up and displaced three others, spoke boastfully, had eyes like a man).
- c. Judgment Day - As Daniel looked:"
 - Thrones were set in place and the Ancient of Days took His seat.
 - * His clothing was white, hair like pure wool (Rev 1:14)
 - * His throne blazing.
 - * He was attended by an uncountable multitude (Rev 5:11).
 - Court was convened (Judgement time) - *the thing being conveyed here is authority. It is God's and none other's. He alone has the final word. (See Jn 5:19-23).*
 - * The books were opened (See Rev 20:12).
 - * The terrible beast slain and cast into the fire while the other beasts continued to live (for a time) but without their former authority.
 - One like a "son of man," coming on the clouds of heaven came (Mtt 24:30, 26:64; Mk 13:26, 14:62; Lk 21:27, Rev 1:5b-8, 13, 14:14)
 - * He approached the Ancient of Days (free access).
 - * Given (as the Son of Man - see Rom 5:12-20, 1 Cor 15:20-28) - authority, glory, sovereign power.
 - * He will be worshipped by all people everywhere.
 - * His dominion and kingdom is eternal and indestructible.

2. The Interpretation vs 15-28

- a. The beasts are four kingdoms that will arise from the earth (humanity, the "sea" of 7:3).
- b. The saints of the Most High will receive the kingdom and possess it forever! (See Dan 2:44)
- c. Daniel was curious
 - What's the deal with that fourth, terrifying beast with the iron teeth and ten horns etc.?
 - In his vision as he watched, that beast had a horn (leader) that had waged war against the saints and defeated them until God judged in favor of the saints and gave them the kingdom.
 - * That last kingdom will appear on the earth and conquer ("trample") all.
 - * The ten horns are ten kings who will arise from this kingdom.
 - * One ruler would arise who will displace three others. He will be "anti - God," speaking against Him, oppressing His saints and will try to alter what God has decreed.
 - * The saints will suffer oppression for a time, times and half a time (3.5 yrs). But God's judgement will prevail.
 - * The saints will then come into their eternal inheritance.

OK, please do not get hung up on the details of this vision/prophecy. Look at it broadly, and don't miss the "forest for the trees."

The vision here is an expansion of the king's vision recorded in Daniel chapter 2. In that vision there was a statue with four segments representing human dominion/authority. Ever since Babel humanity has been trying to do its own thing (See Ps 2). This vision says the same thing, adding a few more details.

Although this world tries to operate by its own standards, even oppressing God's people, it will not stand.

- **There is a God and His word will stand.**

- **He alone is the Judge.**

 - * And He has committed **all** judgement to the Son (Jn 5:19-23).

 - * Jesus referred to Himself as the Son of Man. It is a title.

- **He is the Creator** (Jn 1:1-5, 10; 1 Cor 8:6, Col 1:15-17, Heb 1:1-3, Rev 3:14)

- **He is our Representative, Substitute, Redeemer, Atoning Sacrifice, Advocate, Intercessor, and Lord.**

 - * Without ceasing to be God, He set aside (for a time) His power and prerogatives as God and He became human. He was God and man. The "Son of Man. Phil 2:5-11

 - * As our Representative He reconciled humanity to God.

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The Predecessor Luke 1:1-25, 57-80

1. A Promised Birth

- a. John the Baptist was born in the time of Herod etc. He was a contemporary of Jesus,
- b. He was born to a priestly family.
 - His parents were descendants of Aaron.
 - He was upright in the sight (“before, in the sight of”) of God. Their outward expression of their faith was a reflection of the genuine faith that they possessed.
 - They were childless (See also Gen 15, 25, 30, 1 Sam 1, 13). In their society at that time, children were seen as a sign of God’s blessing. To be childless was to be seen as being judged by God for some fault. It was a reproach.
 - They were “advanced in years.” God often arranges the birth of pivotal people in miraculous fashion to draw people’s attention to what He is doing.

2. A Promised Ministry

- a. Zechariah was serving at the temple with his division of priests (He was chosen by lot to burn incense). See Ex 30:7 - It was done twice a day (Before the morning sacrifice and after the evening sacrifice).
- b. Zechariah was visited by an angel (Gabriel, “In the Might of God,” or “Strong Man,” “Hero,” “Warrior” + God). Gabe got around - see Dan 8-9. He appeared at the right side of the altar of incense.
 - Zechariah was startled and fearful.
 - Gabriel reassured him.
- c. God had a message for Zechariah:
 - His prayer had been heard (for a child).
 - His wife would bear a son and he was to call him John (“YHWH is Gracious,” or “The Favor of YHWH”).
 - * He would be a joy and delight to Zech.
 - * Many would rejoice in his birth *for* He would be great in the sight of God.
 - * He would be a Nazarite (dedicated to God - see Nu 6).
 - * He would be filled with the Holy Spirit from birth (“*even from his mother’s womb*”).
 - * God would use him to turn many Israelites (“Sons of Israel”) to the Lord.
 - * He would go on before Him (the Lord) in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare people for the Lord. (See Is 40:1-11, Mal 2:17-3:5, 4:5-6, Mtt 11:14).

3. A Promise Fulfilled

- a. Elizabeth delivered a son (Her family and neighbors rejoiced).
- b. On the 8th day it was time to circumcise and name the child.
 - They (relatives/neighbors) wanted to name him after Zechariah.
 - Mom said John (and got an argument).
 - Zechariah obeyed God and named his son John.
- c. The moment Zechariah acted in obedience to God his ability to speak was restored. The first words he uttered were a prophecy regarding not his son, but regarding the One his son would point people to, Jesus.
 - Redemption has come!
 - In fulfillment of God's promises through the prophets, He has raise up a horn of salvation ("*strong savior*") for us in the house of David.
 - * Salvation from enemies and haters.
 - * Mercy to our ancestors, fulfilling His covenant.
 - * Rescue from enemies and fruitful, acceptable service. (Rom 12:1-2).

Some things to take away from this message:

- * God has a plan. His plan for you is no less important than His plan for John (Phil 3:12)
- * John was born with a purpose as were we. Do not get to concerned about the meaning of your life. Pursue your purpose!
- * God sent us a Savior. John's calling was to know God and point people to Him.

INCARNATION SERIES 2019
“God With Us”
Matt 1:18-25

It Came About Like This:

1. Jesus’ mother was pledged (Or “betrothed” *A formal state - legally recognized as husband and wife. It would take a divorce to dissolve it). During term of the betrothal, the bride would remain in her parent’s home until her groom had everything in readiness. During that time they were not to see one another. He worked to get their future home ready. Then when everything was ready, he would come for her and the wedding and feast would take place.*

- a. Mary (“beloved,” or “myrrh”) was pledged to marry Joseph (Whose name means “to add”).
- b. Before the completion of their engagement Mary was found to be pregnant.
 - Joseph was a righteous (“just” - one who observed the law). He also seems to have been merciful and elected not to subject her to public shame and punishment but rather, to divorce (“release, let go, send away”) her quietly by giving her a writ/bill of divorcement without stipulating the reason.
 - He knew one thing - the child was not his.

2. God had a message for Joseph (He sent an angel to appear to him in a dream)

- a. He was not to fear to take Mary home as his wife. Why might he be afraid?
 - If he took her as his wife what would everyone think of him?
 - If Mary had proven immoral, could he ever trust her going forward?
 - Did he really want to support and rear the child of an adulterer?
- b. What was conceived in Mary was from the Holy Spirit.
- c. She would give birth to a son and they were to “call him” Jesus, because “He will save His people from their sins.”

3. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “*The virgin shall be with child and will give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel.*” *Is 7:14* Which means, “*God With Us.*” E.g., this was part of God’s plan and will.

- a. In Isaiah 7, God had a message for the king of Judah but he wouldn’t listen. So God gave him a sign with both a near and far fulfillment.
- b. What he feared would not take place - he’d get something worse. An Assyrian invasion. A child would be conceived and born in the immediate future. And before he could eat “toddler food” the nations that he feared would be destroyed.
- c. God had another sign for the nation - The Emmanuel was coming.

4. Joseph obeyed

- a. He took Mary home as his wife.
- b. He and Mary did not have a sexual relationship until after the birth of Jesus (See Mtt 13:55-56, Mk 6:3, Lk 4:22, Jn 7:3).
- c. And he gave Him the name Jesus.

Consider the cost of obedience: In Lk 1:26-38 Mary was given a message from God. His will revealed to her the coming pregnancy. She accepted God's will knowing she was in for a rough time. Joseph was told to take as his wife, a woman who was bearing a child that he knew was not his, that was conceived while they were engaged. And, by taking her home as his wife, he knew that everyone would assume that he was the father.

- People were no more apt to believe them then, than they would be today.
- They offered up to God their comfort, reputation, family ties etc.
- Questions for us is this are: Are we obedient to God only when it is convenient for us? Only if it doesn't cost us much if anything?

We like to remember the gift of God at Christmas; Christ's incarnation. But what we frequently miss is that God worked through people to accomplish His will. As He worked then He still works. Are we available and willing to pay the price of obedience?