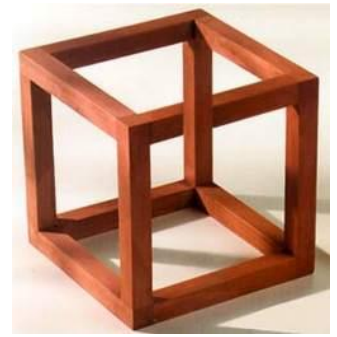


7 - Prince of Paradox

The Baby and Theology - 12/26/2010 - Jim Johnson



We love Christmas because it is by far the warmest and simplest expression of God's love, yet Christmas also confronts us with the most awesome and mysterious truth about God as well – and that is - His incarnation. Many have tried to explain it but the best definition we have goes something like this: “the Preincarnate Christ came and took to himself a human nature and remains forever undiminished Deity and true humanity united in one person forever.” How is this possible? Paul tells us that Christ emptied himself and took the form of a bond servant. (Phil 2:5-7) This means that He voluntarily chose to lay aside His prerogatives and privileges as God. When Jesus took flesh upon himself – He still retained the character and nature of God, but He turned the switch off to His super powers. He chose to live life as a man would live

God jumped _____ He left the comfort and glory of home, and jumped into our mess down here. This is what that means...

A. As Preincarnate God He was _____ (Ps 90:2)

He has always existed endlessly - backward – forward without interruption or limitation
And yet as God Incarnate He experienced both a birth and death

B. As Pre-Incarnate God He was _____ (Mal 3:6)

God never changes. He is not inconsistent nor does He grow and develop. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. And yet as God Incarnate He changed and developed on an hourly basis.

C. As Pre-Incarnate God He was _____ (Ps 139:7-8)

God is everywhere present with His whole being at all times. There is nowhere we can go where God is or is not, for He is anywhere and He is everywhere. And yet God Incarnate the shepherds were told where they could find Him.

D. As Pre-Incarnate God He was marked by His _____ (1 Kings 8:27)

God's immensity refers to the fact that he is bigger than all spatial limitations. There is not enough room in the universe to contain Him. And yet as God Incarnate there was no room for Him and his family in the inn.

E. As Pre-Incarnate God, He was _____ (Ps 147:4)

God knows everything actual and possible – effortlessly and equally well - the past, present and future. And yet as God Incarnate – as a baby He knew little to nothing.

F. As Pre-Incarnate God he was _____ (Job 11:7-8)

God is all powerful and able to do anything consistent with His own nature. The word “Almighty” is used only of God in the Scripture and used 65 times. And yet as God Incarnate the baby was completely dependent on Mary.

G. As Pre-Incarnate God His Word was Authoritative and _____ (Ps 33:6)

When God speaks – nature responds - the world was made, a river changes course, thunderstorms rage, life is created. And yet as God incarnate the baby was not able to say the first word and would not be able to speak for months

H. As Pre Incarnate God it was his _____ that most marked him. (Lev 11:44)

Because He alone is holy, it created a gap between man and God and God became unapproachable. His Holiness marked him and YET as God Incarnate it was His innocence that most marked him.

I. As Pre-Incarnate God He was distinguished by His _____

God is not a composite or compounded being – not made up of parts. Everything that is true of Him is completely true As God Incarnate He became a complicated amalgamation of Deity and Humanity and at times those natures almost seemed to be uncomfortable with each other. (Matt 26:39)

J. As Pre-Incarnate God He was _____ (Ex. 20:4)

God did not have a physical form. But as God Incarnate, He of course took on Himself a body that could be touched and seen and even depicted in pictures.

K. As Pre-Incarnate God He was _____ (Ex. 3:14)

God is independent in His being; Independent of anyone and everyone else. He is self sufficient and exists on His own. But then the eternal Word became flesh – a tiny helpless baby who was dependent upon everyone and anyone for everything.

L. As Pre-Incarnate God He was ever _____ (Ps 121:4)

God never sleeps or slumbers, and yet as God Incarnate, the baby slept as babies are prone to do.

It is inexplicable and inconceivable to our feeble human minds that God should add flesh to Himself and suffer the life and times of a man. God jumped in. Though we can't explain how it happened, we can explain why.

God jumped in - to get us _____ (John 10:10)

THE NEXT STEP

Use this section in your personal or family devotions to better apply the truth.

1. Consider the sacrifices that God has made for you? Which stands out the most?
2. What do you need to do to respond to Him?
3. Study Phil 2:5-7. What does this add to you understanding?