



The Life of Christ

Understanding the Trinity

Unitarian Groups

Islam

Judaism

The Unitarian Church

Jehovah's Witnesses

Tri-Theism and Arianism

Mormonism

The Gospels

- ▣ Not a Biography
- ▣ Written for a very specific purpose
- ▣ Not always chronological
- ▣ Written for different audiences
 - Matthew – Jews – a lot of fulfilment of prophecy
 - Mark – to the Romans – Lots of action
 - Luke – to the Greeks – Lots of detail
 - John – to everyone

Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-23

Mary found to be with Child by the Holy Spirit

Joseph a just man

Joseph's dream

Will be called Jesus

Matthew – the fulfillment of prophecy

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-23

Vs. 25

ἕως héōs, heh'-oce; of uncertain affinity; a conjunction, preposition and adverb of continuance, until (of time and place):—even (until, unto), (as) far (as), how long, (un-)til(-l), (hither-, un-, up) to, while(-s).

Born in Bethlehem – Micah 5:2

Wise men from the east - μάγος

How many?

Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-23

Herod instructs the Wise Men

The Star

The Wise Men present gifts

Warned in a dream

An angel warns Joseph

Flight to Egypt (why is this not unusual?)

Massacre of the Innocents – Jeremiah 31:15

Consistent with Herod's previous behavior

Return to Nazareth – Called a Nazarene (Nazirite – Numbers 6)



Luke 1 and 2

The angels announcement to Zacharias

prayers are answered

will have a son and name him John

will drink neither wine or strong drink (Nazarite?)

filled with the Holy Spirit

turn many to God

Zacharias mute

Luke 1 and 2

Announcement to Mary in Nazareth

 betrothed to Joseph

 house of David

 nothing is impossible with God

Mary visits Elizabeth

 “the babe leaped in my womb for joy”

Song of Mary

Birth of John the Baptist

Circumcision of John

Zacharias' Prophecy

Luke 1 and 2

Birth of Jesus

Decree to be registered – Quirinius was governing Syria

From Nazareth to Bethlehem

No room in the Inn

Shepherds in the fields

Circumcision

Presentation at the Temple

Simeon

Anna

The Word Becomes Flesh

Understanding the
Incarnation





The Problem of the Incarnation

- Deity

- Eternal
- Omniscient
- Omnipresent
- Omnipotent

Humanity

- Mortal
- Finite in Knowledge
- Finite in Space
- Finite in Power

Why is this important?

The Scriptures make it important

Hebrews 4

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The Incarnation

Not transforming into a man – incarnation not transformation

Monophysite (one nature) – Apollinarius (d. 390) – Bishop of Laodicea

Logos(soul) put on flesh

Problem – quod non est assumptum non est Sanatum

“What has not been assumed has not been healed”, and if Christ had not been “endowed with a rational mind, how could he have been a man?” - Gregory Nazianzen

Condemned as Heresy at Synod of Rome 377

The Incarnation

Dyophysite

Human Soul with a Divine Soul

Problems

Possession?

Two souls should be two people, two sons, not one

Nestorius – patriarch of Constantinople 428

The Incarnation

Kenotic Christology

19th Century

Κενόω

Phil 2:7 - ...but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

Kenotic Christology – how can you give up divinity and still be divine?

The Incarnation

Proposed Christology

- 1) One person with two natures – the characteristic is in respect to one nature and not the other.
- 2) The Logos was the rational Soul of Jesus (Reformed Apollinarianism)

The Logos did contain (before the incarnation) the non-physical properties of man

The Incarnation

Genesis 1:26 Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all[b] the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” 27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

The Incarnation

3) The Sublimation of the Divine

Just as we have a subconscious with thoughts, feelings, abilities and knowledge under the surface of our conscious minds so also Christ had much of His divine nature sublimated while in human form.