



Presence!
The Incarnation

The Christmas Story (Daniel 9; Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 2:1-20)

What does this story tell us about God?

In this series of messages called presence we have seen how God wants mankind to share life with Him.

We have seen that despite the fall of man, God continued His quest for us to share life with Him.

- He created a plan for fallen men to share life with Him
- He chose a nation to fulfill His plan for men to share life with Him
- He called prophets from that nation to tell the world about His plan for men to share life with Him.
- He carried out His plan for men to share life with Him even though it cost Him everything.

The greatest testament to the passion that God has for us to share life with Him is the incarnation!

Incarnation means to embody or to integrate.

God is a trinity. He is one God who eternally exists as three persons that are co-equal and that share the same substance. Those three persons are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

In the beginning, God said let us make man in our own image. (Genesis 1:26)

Incarnation means that one member of the trinity was embodied or integrated into human kind.

The apostle John explained the incarnation this way...
[John 1:1-3](#)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

NKJV

John 1:10-14

10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

NKJV

Incarnation means that God descended and transcended to become the son of man so that we could share life with Him.

It means that a Perfect, Holy, Righteous, and Incorruptible God took on our corruptible human form so that we could share life with Him.

It means that an all-powerful, all knowing, and omni-present God took on our limited human capacities so that we could share life with Him.

It means that an eternal God with an eternal kingdom that has no beginning and no end would become a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger so that we could share life with Him.

It means that a glorious God whose glory is worshipped by millions of angels would make himself of no reputation and subject Himself to rejection so that we could share life with Him.

There are many examples from history of people leaving the comforts of their country and family for a great cause.

1. Missionaries



William Carey of England was the first missionary in the modern missionary movement. William Carey sought to plant the gospel among the Hindus in India. Carey endured crushing trials. Carey's young son, Peter, died of dysentery; his wife went insane; and his co-worker squandered all their money and bankrupted the mission. Sickness afflicted them all. Furthermore, after seven years of tireless toil in India, Carey still did not have a single convert!

But Carey kept on working. He published the Bengali New Testament in 1801. By 1818, there were 600 baptized and disciplined church members. Despite a devastating fire in 1812 which destroyed their print house, paper stock, and manuscripts, Carey succeeded in translating the entire Bible into six languages, the New Testament into twenty-four languages, and the gospels into thirty-four languages! Carey also successfully campaigned for legal reforms, outlawing infanticide, child prostitution, and sati (widow burning). Serampore College, which Carey established, has had a profound influence for nearly two centuries.

The first American missionaries to go overseas was Adoniram and Ann Judson. They endured debilitating tropical diseases and vicious opposition and imprisonment under the cruel king of Burma in Indonesia. They also lost children to disease and labored for seven years before seeing their first convert from Buddhism. Adoniram's wife Ann died when she was only 36 years old. Yet by the time Adoniram Judson died, there were over 100,000 baptized church members!

On average, missionaries to Africa served only eight years before dying there.

The church in Africa has literally been built upon the bones of countless missionaries and martyrs.

Most of the missionaries in the last century, particularly the wives, died young. Hudson Taylor's wife, Maria, died in childbirth. Johan Krapf, missionary to East Africa, lost his wife and both children to disease within months of arriving in Africa.

2. Explorers
3. Settlers

But none of these stories of great sacrifice compare to the incarnation. God emptied Himself to be incarnated so that we could share life with Him.

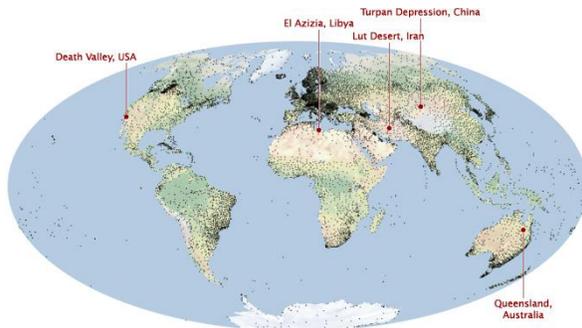
[There is no comparison that I can make that adequately reveals the sacrifice that God made in His incarnation so that we could share life with Him.](#)



If I went to live in poverty in the streets of the poorest city in the world, in Central African Republic to share life with those people, it would not compare to what God did in the incarnation so we could share life with Him.



If I went to live in the coldest city in Siberia where the winter temperatures average minus 50 C (minus 58 F) to share life with the people that live there it would not compare with what God did in the incarnation so that we could share life with Him.



If I went to live in one of the hottest places on earth where the highest temperatures have been recorded as high as 136 degrees, to share life with the people there, it would not compare to what God did in the incarnation so that we could share life with Him.

There is no comparison that I can make that adequately reveals the sacrifice that God made in His incarnation so that we could share life with Him.

How should we respond to the incarnation?

- We should surrender everything to Him.
- We should bear witness of Him.

As the famous English cricketer turned pioneer missionary, C. T. Studd, declared:

"If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him."

Jesus joyfully gave up everything and was willing to bear the sins of the world so that we could share life with Him.

We should joyfully give up everything so that others can learn how to share life with Him.

- We should make time to be alone with Him.

If through the incarnation, God made such incredible sacrifices to share life with us, shouldn't we make a daily sacrifice to share life with Him.

- We should make time to share life with others who know Him.

He has said that where two or three are gathered together in His name, there He is in the midst of them. We share life with Him by sharing life with those that are sharing life with Him.

We are human beings and not human doings. Before we will be committed to these sacrifices, we must be born again of God's Spirit.

Only a change in your being will cause a change in your doing.

When you are born of God's Spirit...

There is no one you would rather follow than Jesus Christ.

There is no one you would rather talk about than Jesus Christ.

There is no one you would rather spend time with than Jesus Christ.

There is no one you would rather gather with than those who are sharing life with Jesus.

- Have you been born again?

Will you receive Jesus today?

- Have you forsaken God's purpose for your life?

Jesus said follow men and I will make you a fisher of men.

Are you following Jesus and becoming a fisher of men?

Will you repent and become a fisher of men?