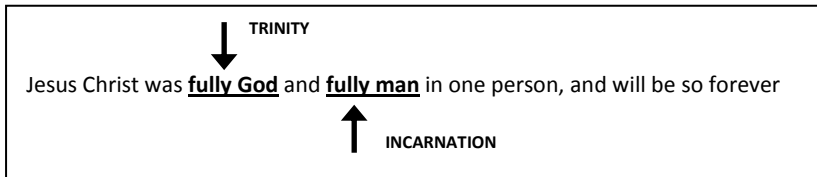


2. JESUS' INCARNATION AND OBEDIENT LIFE

HEBREWS 2:5-18

1. JESUS IS FULLY GOD AND FULLY MAN

(a) Definition:



(b) Bible texts describing the incarnation:

- Hebrews 2:9, 14, 17
- Hebrews 10:5, John 1:14, Philippians 2:7

(c) Bible texts describing the humanity of Jesus:

- His birth (Galatians 4:4) and development (Luke 2:40,42)
- Human limitations: hunger and tiredness, (Matthew 4:2, John 4:6); grief, (John 11:35, 38); the agonies of Gethsemane, (Mark 14:32-42, Luke 12:50, Hebrews 5:7-10); suffering and death on the Cross
- hometown reception: "Isn't this the carpenter's son?" (Matthew 13:55-57)
- Jesus' humanity falsely denied (1 John 4:2-3, 2 John 1:7)

(d) Bible texts describing the deity of Jesus:

- His being and deeds - Hebrews 1:3, 8, John 1:1, 18, etc.

(e) The relationship between Jesus' divine and human natures

- Cyril of Alexandria and the Council of Chalcedon (451 AD)

No mixing of the natures

No dividing of the natures

No change in God

Christ has two natures in one person (eg. Matt 8 – human fatigue... yet calms the storm)

2. WHY CHRIST HAD TO BE FULLY MAN:

HE IS THE SINLESS HEAD AND SAVIOUR OF A NEW HUMAN RACE

(a) He is the proper man who rules under God (Hebrews 2:5-9)

(b) He adopts people into his new human race (Hebrews 2:10-13)

Questions for group discussion. From Hebrews 2:10-18...

- Look at vv10-11. From these verses what do Jesus and Christians have in common? Why is this such good news?
- Look at vv14-18. From these verses what does Jesus' humanity enable him to do.
- Is there anything new here that strikes you? What particularly moves you to praise and thank Jesus?

- **Virgin Birth: Christ not “in Adam”** Matt 1:18-25, Luke 1:26-56, 2:4-7
- **Christ’s obedience in the face of temptation.** Matt 4:1-11, Luke 22:28, Matt 16:23, 26:36-46, Hebrews 4:15, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 Peter 2:22, James 1:13

(c) Jesus the man is our sufficient and sympathetic saviour (Hebrews 2:10, 14-18)

**** Jesus was made like us so that he could die for us****

3. WHY CHRIST HAD TO BE FULLY GOD

- (a) a divine priest, so he can save forever (Hebrews 7:23-25)**
- (b) God the Son, so that we might become Sons in Him (Hebrews 2:10, Romans 8:14, 17)**
- (c) An effective mediator in the presence of God (Hebrews 9:24)**
- (d) That His sacrifice might be of infinite worth**

4. HOMEWORK

For reflection:

- Read, pray and worship in the light of Hebrews 2:5-18
- Read Martin Luther's hymn on the incarnation (and the extracts below) and think about their words

1. All praise to Thee, eternal God,
Who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,
Dost take a manger for Thy throne,
While worlds on worlds are Thine alone.
Hallelujah!

2. Once did the skies before Thee bow;
A virgin's arms contain Thee now,
While angels, who in Thee rejoice,
Now listen for Thine infant voice.
Hallelujah!

3. A little Child, Thou art our Guest
That weary ones in Thee may rest;
Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth
That we may rise to heaven from earth.
Hallelujah!

4. Thou comest in the darksome night
To make us children of the light,
To make us in the realms divine,
Like Thine own angels, round Thee shine.
Hallelujah!

5. All this for us Thy love hath done;
By This to Thee our love is won;
For this our joyful songs we raise
And shout our thanks in ceaseless praise.
Hallelujah!

Author: Martin Luther (1524).
Translated: unknown (1858)

The Definition of the Council of Chalcedon (451 AD)

“Therefore, following the holy fathers, we all with one accord teach men to acknowledge one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at once complete in Godhead and complete in manhood, truly God and truly man, consisting also of a reasonable soul and body; of one substance with the Father as regards his Godhead, and at the same time of one substance with us as regards his manhood; like us in all respects, apart from sin; as regards his Godhead, begotten of the Father before the ages, but yet as regards his manhood begotten, for us men and for our salvation, of Mary the Virgin, the God-bearer; one and the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, recognized in two natures, without confusion, without change, without division, without separation; the distinction of natures being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one person and subsistence, not as parted or separated into two persons, but one and the same Son and Only-begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ; even as the prophets from earliest times spoke of him, and our Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us, and the creed of the fathers has handed down to us.

Next week:

- Our subject: What happened when Jesus died on the Cross?
- Please read 1 Peter 2:22-25 and Isaiah 52:13-53:12. According to these verses why did Jesus die?