

Why Christians Believe That Jesus Christ is God Incarnate

The belief that Jesus Christ is God incarnate is not new. This doctrine is rooted in Scripture and spans both the Old and New Testaments. When Christians speak of Jesus as God incarnate, we mean that He has the nature of God and Man. God took on human flesh to pay the penalty for our sins that we could not pay. Although several biblical passages discuss the incarnation, there is one passage that sets forth these two natures of Jesus Christ in unmistakable terms—Philippians 2:6-7.

“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.”

These verses clearly present us with the two natures of Jesus—the nature of God and man. Let’s look closer.

Verse 6: *Who, being in the form of God* – The word “form” here is the Greek word *morphe*, meaning form, nature, or attributes. Jesus, in His pre-human nature was none other than God. ***Thought it not robbery to be equal with God***—this means that He did not take the Divine nature that was already His. “Equal” (*isa*, in Greek) means the He is coequal as God.

Verse 7: *But made himself of no reputation* – This speaks of Christ’s humility. ***And took upon him the form of a servant*** – This second occurrence of *morphe*, (form), tells us that Jesus acquired manhood. He is the *form* of God and took upon himself another *form*, that of man. ***And was made in the likeness of men*** – His nature as a man was not altered by the fact that his person was God, neither was his nature as God altered in any way when He became incarnate as man.

Several direct statements attest to Christ’s deity.

Isaiah 7:14 - Immanuel means “God with us,” a name that describes His person.

Isaiah 9:6 - He is the mighty God. See 10:22, the mighty God is Israel’s God.

Zechariah 12:10 - In this verse Jehovah is the speaker, yet He is pierced for our sins.

Matthew 1:23 - He is God with us.

Matthew 22:41-45 - Jesus is David’s Lord—but David lived 1,200 years before Christ said this!

Mark 2:7-10 - Jesus forgave sins as only God can do.

John 1:1, 14 - The Word was God who became a man.

John 1:18 - The Greek text says “Only begotten God.”

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