

“The Word Became Flesh”

(John 1:14)

Dr. Richard S. Koole
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I. Introduction

A. What did Jesus look like?

1. No cameras...
2. Letter to Roman Senate (#2683)

The following is a translation of a letter sent by Publius Lentulus to the Roman Senate during the Roman Empire period.

“There appeared in these days a man of great virtue, named Jesus Christ, who is yet among us; of the Gentiles accepted for a prophet of truth; but his disciples call him the Son of God. He raises the dead and cures all manner of disease. A man of stature somewhat tall and comely, with a very reverend countenance, such as the beholder must both love and fear.

“His hair the color of a chestnut full ripe, plain to the ears, whence, downward, it is more orient, curling and waving about his shoulders.

“In reproving, he is terrible; in admonishing, courteous and fair-spoken; pleasant in conversation, mixed with gravity. It cannot be remembered that any have seen him laugh, but many have seen him weep; in proportion of body most excellent; his hands and arms delectable to behold; in speaking, very temperate, modest and wise; a man of singular beauty, surpassing the children of men.”

3. Don't know what He looked like physically
4. But we do know who he was and why he came

B. The mystery of Christmas

1. I Timothy 3:16

Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

2. Greatest moment in history
3. When God penetrated human history

C. The promise of a Savior

1. The words of the Prophets
 - a. Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

- b. Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

2. The long wait
3. And then a man named Jesus was born
 - a. He claimed to be the Messiah

D. The Big Question....Was Jesus really the one?

1. Josh McDowell's book, "*Liar, Lunatic or Lord*"
 - a. Jesus claimed he was the son of God...the Messiah
 - b. He either was...or he wasn't
 - c. If he wasn't:
 1. ...and he knew it...he was a liar
 2. ...and he didn't know it...he was a lunatic
 - e. But if he was...he was the Lord!
2. The purpose of the **Gospel of John** was to answer that one question
 - a. To prove that Jesus was the Lord
3. How John concluded the Gospel of John

a. John 20:30-31

(30) Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. (31) But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

b. Wow! Pretty clear

3. Let's see how he started the Gospel

II. Text

A. John 1:1-5

(1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was with God in the beginning. (3) Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

1. Some incredible statements about “The Word”

- a. He has always existed...Eternal
- b. He is God...Divine
- c. He created everything....Creator

2. So who is “the Word?”

B. The answer is found a few verses later

1. John 1:14

(14) The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of Grace and truth.

2. This is obviously referring to Jesus

3. Substitute “Jesus” for “Word”

(1) In the beginning was Jesus, and Jesus was with God, and Jesus was God. (2) Jesus was with God in the beginning. (3) Through Jesus all things were made; without Jesus nothing was made that has been made. (4) In Jesus was life, and that life was the light of men. (5) Jesus shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

4. Christmas Eve....celebrate the day God invaded the natural

- a. Creator became part of the creation
 - b. Spirit became flesh
 - c. Supernatural became natural
 - d. Glorious became humble
5. It happened in the little town of Bethlehem 2000 years ago

III. What we know about Jesus

1. Jesus has always existed (John 1:1-2)

(1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

- a. *“In the beginning was the Word”*
 - 1. Before all else—He was there
 - 2. Jesus was there before God created the world
- b. *“The Word was with God”*
 - 1. Literally—face to face with God
 - 2. The most intimate of relationships
 - 3. The fact of the Trinity
 - a. Separate and distinct from the Father
 - b. Difficult to understand
 - c. Distinct...yet the same
 - 4. Yet, willing to give it up to become a man

2. Jesus is God (vs. 1-2)

(1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was with God in the beginning.

- a. Not only with God...He was God

1. He claimed to be
 2. That's why they crucified Him
- b. Fully God...yet fully human
- c. To deny this truth is the ultimate blasphemy
1. II John 7

(7) Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.

3. Jesus created everything (v. 3)

(3) Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

- a. "Through him all things were made"
1. Out of nothing
- b. Kepler....."Nobody Made It!" (#1893)

Kepler, the astronomer, was troubled by one of his friends who denied the existence of God and took the view of the universe which prevails in some circles today, namely, that it came into being itself by mechanical methods. Kepler, in order to convince his friend, constructed a model of the sun with the planets circling round it.

When his friend came into the Observatory and saw the beautiful model, he exclaimed with delight, "How beautiful it is! *Who made it?*" And Kepler carelessly answered, "*No one made it; it made itself.*" His friend looked at him and said, "*Nonsense, tell me who made it.*" Kepler then replied, "*Friend, you say that this little toy could not make itself. It is but a very weak imitation of this great universe which, I understood, you believe did make itself.*" —A. Naismith

4. Jesus became one of us (v. 14)

(14) The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

- a. *He had to come down to our level*
1. Made his dwelling with us

- a. Chose to live among us
- b. In a humble little town
- 2. Not born in a palace--wouldn't have understood
 - 1. A manger
 - 2. In poverty
 - 3. Suffered scorn

b. He had to feel the sting of temptation

- 1. Hebrews 4:15

(15) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who had been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin.

- 2. He felt the lure of sin
 - a. He knows what we endure
 - b. He was one of us!

5. Jesus displayed God's Glory (v. 14-16)

(14) The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of Grace and truth.

- a. How could mankind see the glories of God?

(18) No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, had made him known

- b. We couldn't go to Him
 - 1. We are bound by time and space
 - 2. Natural can't invade supernatural
- c. He had to come to us

6 Jesus came to save us from our sins

- a. The problem that existed

1. Nothing we could do!

b. But, God had a plan!!

c. Colossians 1:19-22

(19) For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, (20) and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (21) Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. (22) But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation

d. That's why He came!!