

RIVERSIDE QUARTERly



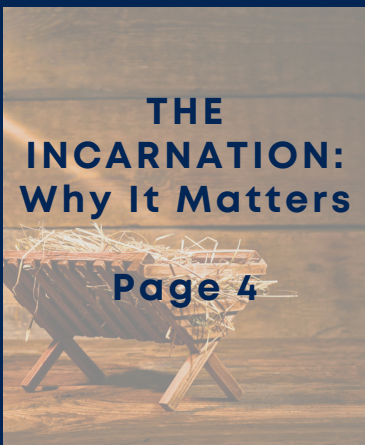
Issue

10.

Winter 24/25

THE
INCARNATION:
Why It Matters

Page 4



A SON GIVEN

Page 8





Welcome

Welcome to the winter 24/25 issue of the Riverside Quarterly. As you would expect at this time of year the theme of this edition is the coming into the world of the Lord Jesus Christ. An event that has shaped our country, our world and our calendar! Through the articles and information contained in this short magazine we are praying that Jesus Christ will become more to you than just a remarkable figure of history. He is our Lord and Saviour and the bible message goes out to everyone with the offer of free forgiveness and salvation through Him. If you have any questions, or would like to find out more, we would be delighted to help. See contact details towards the back of the magazine.

What we believe about...

The Humanity of Jesus Christ

- **Voluntary:** God the Son chose to become a Man, whilst losing nothing of His divine nature (John 1:1-18)
- **Genuine:** From birth to adult life and ultimately to death, He has fully shared in human experiences as a real Man (Heb 4:15a). The turbulences of family life, employment and friendships along with their joys and sorrows.
- **Unique:** He shares our experiences but not our flaws; remaining pure and sinless even when surrounded by wickedness. He is the only perfect Man who has ever lived exactly as God intended (Heb 7:26-27)
- **Necessary:** There was no other way to fulfil God's will and rescue sinners – He became a Man to give Himself as a substitutionary sacrifice on their behalf and provide a way of forgiveness (1 Pet 3:18)
- **Permanent:** He has completed His saving work and has risen from the dead, but He remains a Man forever; representing and blessing those who come to God through Him (Heb 7:25)

Whats on?

SUNDAY

- **9:30am** Breaking of Bread

Coffee @11:15am

**BIBLE
FOR
ALL**

11:30am

Creche available

- 4:00pm Bible Teaching
- 4:00pm Sunday School

MONDAY

- 10.00am Toddlers
- 8:00pm Prayer Meeting

WEDNESDAY

- 6:30pm Kids Club
- 8:00pm Bible Teaching

COMMUNITY LUNCH

2nd Friday of each month
12:30pm

Over 600 years before Jesus came,
the Bible said He would...

“

Behold, a virgin shall
conceive and bear a son,
and shall
call His name

Immanuel

(meaning *God* with us)

ISAIAH CH7 V14



THE INCARNATION: WHY IT MATTERS

It certainly is a great story, but is that all it is? Just a legend? Many think so. They claim that Jesus became God over time but the evidence shows that God became Jesus in time.

IS IT MYTH?

He claimed it...

There is no doubt that the Lord Jesus claimed deity for Himself. Even the most sceptical New Testament scholars concede this. Repeatedly, He claimed divine titles and privileges and demanded and accepted that which belongs to God alone.

The question then is, was He right or wrong? If He was wrong He either thought He was right but made a mistake or knew He was wrong and was telling lies. But neither of these two options fits the facts or is remotely possible. If He was mistaken think of the level of delusion – He thought He was equal with God!

If He was lying then think of the level of deception. He told people their eternal destiny hinged on their response to Him; He called on people to follow Him no matter the cost. To make this up is wicked, and yet no one who lived the way He lived, loved the way He loved, taught the way He taught and suffered the way He suffered could be an evil person.

We are left with no other option then, He wasn't wrong – He truly is the Son of God.

Written by:
PAUL MCCAULEY

"Is such an intellect – clear as the sky, bracing as the mountain air, sharp and penetrating as a sword, thoroughly healthy and vigorous, always ready and self-possessed – liable to a radical and most serious delusion concerning His own character and mission? Preposterous imagination!"

(Philip Schaff, The Person of Christ.)

His disciples proclaimed it...

It's a popular notion that the doctrine of the deity of Christ was a legendary development that reached full bloom at the Council of Nicaea. Nothing could be further from the truth. In the very earliest texts of the New Testament we find even earlier creeds, confessions and prayers all proclaiming Jesus Christ as God.

The significance of this is that all the first Christians were Jews – they believed that there was only one God and He alone was worthy of worship, and yet these God-fearing Jews were proclaiming this crucified Nazarene to be God and worshipping Him as such. They preached Him as the one way of salvation, the fulfilment of the Covenant given through Moses, and the end of all the sacrifices. There is no way they ever would have uttered such things unless there was overwhelming evidence for their truth. Jesus Christ was condemned by the Sanhedrin for His claim to be God's Son, and consequently crucified by the Romans. That would have extinguished any notion in the mind of a Jew that His claim was true, but God the Father vindicated Him by raising Him from the dead, and thus He was 'declared to be the Son of God with power . . . by the resurrection from the dead,' (Romans 1:4).

This is not a fable or fairy tale – it really happened, as one of His closest followers said, "we know that the Son of God has come" (1 John 5:20).

WHY IT MATTERS

It's a great story, and a true story, but what difference does it make to me?

If Jesus is the Son of God then it shows that **God has come to us**. We are not left to wonder if God is there, what He is like or if He is interested in us. God has been revealed fully in Christ. As another has said, "when we look at Him [Jesus], the guessing games about God stop." God is not an uncaring, distant deity. He has made contact and entered His creation.



Furthermore, it shows that **we can come to God**. Jesus didn't come merely to be a perfect example or a wise teacher. He came to be the great sacrifice for sin. Because God is infinitely holy, sin is an infinite offence and carries an infinite penalty. That means that no finite creature could ever pay it, and that's why the Son of God had to come. At Calvary He took the punishment we deserved and paid the price we could never pay so that we could be reconciled to God. He is the "one mediator between God and men" (1 Timothy 2:5).

All who acknowledge the problem of their guilt, and accept Christ as the answer to that problem, will be acquitted and accepted by God. No one else has paid sin's penalty, and that is why Jesus said, 'I am the way . . . No one comes to the Father except through Me' (John 14:6).



The four gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) are the substantive historical records of the life of Jesus Christ.

CAN WE TRUST

GOSPEL CORROBORATION

via Roman and Jewish authors hostile to Christianity:
Tacitus, Pliny the Younger & Josephus

All confirm the basic facts of the life of Christ,
All confirm the early worship of Christ as God,
All confirm the early persecution of Christians,
All confirm the rapid spread of Christianity

GOSPEL CREDIBILITY

compared with other ancient historic sources

Emperor Tiberius 4 historic works about his reign (AD.14-37); earliest manuscript 9th century

Jesus Christ 4 historic works about His life (AD.0-33); earliest partial manuscript 2nd century, full manuscripts 4th century

GOSPEL CLOSENESS

of the writers to the events recorded

2 of the gospel writers were eyewitnesses
(Matthew & John)

1 of the gospel writers was the interpreter of an eyewitness
(Mark with Peter)

1 of the gospel writers was a fact checking historian of the highest order
(Luke)

Christianity depends on the integrity of these books.
So...

THE GOSPELS?

GOSPEL COMPARISONS

to other local historic records of the time

Hundreds of substantiated geographical references

Hundreds of substantiated people name type references

Hundreds of substantiated local Jewish custom references

GOSPEL COPYING

is remarkable in quality and quantity

The New Testament was preserved for us in >25,000 manuscripts in Greek, Latin and other languages with dates ranging from 125AD to the 15th century. Non-Christian experts confirm at least 99.5% textual purity on the basis of manuscript evidence

GOSPEL CONTRADICTIONS

are not actually contradictions at all

with each claimed contradiction either being easily explained or revealing a lack of understanding of the historic biographical writing style

Main Source:
Can We Trust The Gospels?, Peter J. Williams, Crossway, 2018



You may be surrounded by people that love you at Christmas time, people that show they love you by giving valuable and precious gifts. Or maybe you are pretty lonely and maybe gifts are few.

Among all the activity in the run up to Christmas many people still take time to visit a carol service. They hear about a child born to a manger, the village of Bethlehem and the details that surround the Christmas story. Many verses in the Old Testament had pointed forward to this event and prophesied details and descriptions of the birth of Christ but one of the most quoted Christmas passages, written over 600 years before He came, gave an outstanding summary of WHO it was that was going to come:

A SON GIVEN

A SON GIVEN AT BETHLEHEM:

A Happy Day

Isaiah 9:6

“For unto us a **Child is born**, unto us a **Son is given**: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace”

Among all the awesome Names and Titles given to Him before He came is a careful statement that the Child being born was also a Son being given. Not that a Son was born, although that was true, but the far bigger picture truth that God the Son was being given at Bethlehem. This was a gift to the world like no other! If this was just the birth of a great religious leader or figure of history, it would be interesting, but we wouldn't sing about it, and we wouldn't change our calendar around it. This is the Son of God coming. This is God giving His eternal Son to be the “Saviour of the world”. The astonishing truth of Christmas is that God cares so much about this planet, about the people of this world, about you, that the Son of God came to bring hope from despair and light from darkness.

Many gifts we receive at Christmas time are unwanted and some are unneeded. Rarely would we tell the giver, but sometimes we can hardly hide our disappointment! If they had only known us better then the gift could have matched us perfectly. When it comes to God and the giving of His Son at Bethlehem. We are seeing a gift from the God who knows every detail of our life, every fact of our history and every beating of our heart. He knows us and He knows exactly what we need. Whether we want His gift however is the real challenging question of the Christmas story.

Written by Iain Lewis
Riverside Christian Assembly

A SON GIVEN AT JERUSALEM:

A Sad Day

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that **He gave his only begotten Son**, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

33 years later, on the side of a busy highway, outside the city wall of Jerusalem, a young Man hung on a cross. The Child born in Bethlehem, had been raised in Nazareth, had preached throughout Israel, and now was rejected, falsely charged and sentenced to death by crucifixion. The Babe of Bethlehem is now the Man of Calvary. The happy day of a newborn Child was a distant memory, the sad day of crucifixion had arrived. In another very well-known bible verse we learn that on the cross a Son was given. Bethlehem really only has significance for us because it led to Jerusalem, to the cross outside the city wall. Because there on the cross Jesus Christ became a sacrifice for sin. It was a solemn day, a momentous day. The earth quaked, rocks smashed and the whole scene was covered in darkness while Jesus Christ died to bring forgiveness, died to pay the price that sinners deserved to pay. John 3:16 says that this is how God loved the world, He didn't just give His son to Bethlehem, but He gave His Son to Calvary, outside Jerusalem.

You may be surrounded by people that love you at Christmas time, people that show they love you by giving valuable and precious gifts. Or maybe you are pretty lonely and maybe gifts are few. God wants you to know that you are loved and His gift to you is priceless, the offer of sins forgiven through Jesus Christ the Saviour. When anyone gives you something there is an expectation of a response. And this is the greatest gift you could ever be given. When Jesus Christ came there were many responses but none of them neutral. You couldn't take or leave Him. He claimed and still claims to be the Saviour of the world. Some hated Him, some were angry with Him, some received Him and loved Him, and it is still the same today. Will you receive the Son given?

Q & A

with our youngest and oldest church members

Lucy & Earleen

Age

14 91

When and how did you become a Christian?

I have had the privilege of growing up in a Christian home and at the age of 7 I put my faith and trust in the Lord Jesus and took Him to be my personal Saviour.

When I was 9 years old, I trusted Christ during a childrens' meeting at Victoria Hall in Torry.

When did you become a member of Riverside?

(or formally Woodside)

At the age of 13, I was baptised and about a year later, at the end of August 2024, I became a member of the Church. It is so encouraging to know that I have a Christian family who will always be there to support me through my life.

When I was 17, I joined the assembly at Fountain Hall in Woodside. We moved to our new building and new name Riverside Christian Assembly in 2022.

What is your favourite Bible verse?

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your paths.

Proverbs ch3 v5-6

Both Earleen and Lucy chose these verses!

What is your favourite hymn or Christian song?

'I Can Only Imagine' written by MercyMe.

'Face to Face with Christ My Saviour' written by Carrie Breck.



WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU?

Get in touch if you would like

- a free Bible
- a study course
- to find out more

WWW.THERIVERSIDE.CHURCH

Visit our website where you can



Contact us



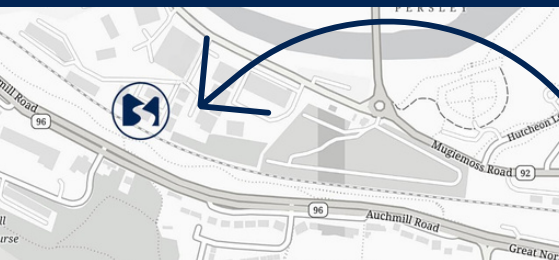
Find out more about us and what we believe



Learn more about what's on



View previous Quarterlys and sign up to our mailing list



RIVERSIDE
Christian Assembly

Unit 20
Spire Business Park
Mugiemoss Road
AB21 9BG



Riverside Christian
Assembly



riversidechristianassemblyaberdeen



riverside_christian_assembly



riverside_rca

WE WOULD LOVE YOU TO JOIN US ON
SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER - 11:30AM

**BIBLE
FOR
ALL**

This is our regular service but with a message about Christ's coming into the world.

Festive refreshments served from 11:15am.

AND

TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER - 6:00PM

CAROL SERVICE

Our Christmas Eve Service will have lots of carol singing, festive refreshments and a message from the Bible about the birth of Christ.

All ages welcome!

