

# **We Have Seen His Glory!**

## ***John 1:14***

***Thought for the Day:*** In and through Jesus Christ, we can know and understand God, and have a personal relationship with Him.

Remember that in verses 1-18, John is introducing the Word to us, and he explains Who He is and Why He came to planet earth.

- Verses 1-3 – The Word is God, the Creator of the universe and everything in it.
- Verse 14 – God became a Man, the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Verse 18 – God became a Man, Jesus Christ, in order to reveal God to Man, to make Him known (to make Him knowable) to us.

### **14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...**

- This is the incarnation of Jesus Christ, God becoming a Man and living among us.
- In the first century, the idea that God would become a human being was shocking and unbelievable!
  - God is spirit; He is absolutely pure, holy, undefiled, and uncontaminated.
  - Flesh, on the other hand, is physical, material, and therefore corrupt.
  - It was unimaginable, inconceivable, that God would defile Himself by becoming a human being!
  - Paraphrase: "And the Word became *meat* and dwelt among us..."
    - The root of "incarnation" is carne = meat.
    - The incarnation is literally, the in-meat-ment = spirit becoming flesh; God becoming a Man.
- God became a Man and dwelt among us.
  - Jesus Christ was and is fully God and fully Man. (Colossians 2:9)
  - In His Incarnation, Jesus did not give up any of His divinity—did not in any way cease to be God—but in fact, He added humanity to His deity.
  - He voluntarily laid aside His divine rights and privileges. (Philippians 2:5-7)
  - In submission to the Father's will, He subjected Himself to human limitations.
    - He limited the exercise of His divine power and knowledge and conducted His ministry in submission to and dependence on the Father and the Holy Spirit.
  - "[Jesus] had always existed as the Son of God with the Father in heaven, but now chose to come into the world in a human body. He dwelt among us. It was not just a short appearance, about which there might be some mistake or misunderstanding. God actually came to this earth and lived here as a Man among men. The word 'dwelt' means 'tabernacled' or 'pitched His tent.' His body was the tent in which He lived among men for thirty-three years." (*MacDonald, p. 1421*)
  - Jesus Christ was the perfect expression of God in human form.
  - Because He was a man, His disciples could see Him, hear Him, examine Him closely, and actually touch Him—He was not a ghost or a figment of their imagination!

- The incarnation was all for the purpose of having fellowship with God and His Son Jesus Christ. (1 John 1:1-3; John 17:3)
- "In Christ, God came to meet with people; through Christ we can come to meet with God." (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)

**...and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

- "Glory" speaks of the perfections of the character and nature of God. In Christ's life and ministry, we see the character and nature of God on full display. (Hebrews 1:1-3)
- "When the Lord Jesus was here on earth, He veiled His glory in a body of flesh. But there were two ways in which His glory *was* revealed. First, there was His *moral* **glory**. By this, we mean the radiance of His perfect life and character. There was no flaw or blemish in Him. He was perfect in all His ways. Every virtue was manifested in His life in exquisite balance. John and the other disciples beheld the wonder of an absolutely perfect life lived on this earth.

"Then there was the visible outshining of His **glory** which took place on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:1, 2). At that time, Peter, James, and John saw His face shining like the sun, and His garments gleaming like bright light. These three disciples were given a preview of the splendor which the Lord Jesus will have when He comes back to the earth and reigns for a thousand years. The **glory** which the disciples saw indicated to them that He was truly the Son of God. Jesus is **the only begotten of the Father**, that is, Christ is God's unique Son." (*MacDonald, p. 1421*)

- Jesus is the only Son from the Father...
  - "The Greek word for 'only begotten' (*monogenous*) suggests a one and only son. The Son of God was the Father's one and only, his unique Son. Although all believers are called "children" and said to be "born of God" (John 1:12-13), Jesus is one of a kind and enjoys a special relationship with God." (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)
  - Jesus is not Michael, the archangel—a created being (Jehovah's Witnesses).
  - He is not the brother of Lucifer (Mormons).
  - He is certainly not a space alien or an alien-human hybrid, as voices coming out of the Vatican are beginning to suggest! (<https://exemplore.com/ufos-aliens/An-Alien-God-is-Coming-and-Vatican-is-Ready-for-Him>)
  - He is the unique, one-of-a-kind, Son of God, God in human flesh!
- Grace is "lovingkindness, mercy, and compassion."
- Truth is "reality, genuineness."

**Our faith is built on the testimony of those who were eyewitnesses of the events they recorded.** (Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1-5; 2 Peter 1:16-18; 1 John 4:13-14)

- The personal knowledge and experience of the New Testament writers inspires confidence that what they recorded is the truth.
- "I am glad that my knowledge of eternal life is not built on the speculations of philosophers or even theologians but on the unimpeachable testimony of those who heard, saw, gazed at, and handled Him in whom it was incarnate. It is not merely a lovely dream, but solid fact, carefully observed and an accurately recorded fact." (*Unknown author quoted by MacDonald, Commentary, p. 2409*)