



# The Incarnate Word of God

Isaiah 50:4-11   1 Timothy 2:1-7   John 1:1-14

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God has chosen to deal with His Creation --- and His People --- through **His Word**. God is always in a **Word Relationship** with us, He reveals Himself and His Will to us through **His Word**; He is a **speaking** God; that's how He has chosen to interact with all of Creation and with His People in the Holy Christian Church. Just think it through a little bit:

- God *created the world* through His mighty **Word**: He **spoke** and things came into being. He **said**, “*Let there be light, and there was light.*” Genesis 1:3”  
“*By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.*” Hebrews 11:3”
- Throughout the Old Testament times, God spoke through the **prophets**<sup>1</sup> to the Israelites; the Prophets were “*holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*” 2 Peter 1:21”
- God revealed His Will to all the world in the **Ten Words**<sup>2</sup>; which we call today the **10 COMMANDMENTS**; which God gave to Moses and then to the Israelites.
- God has gathered **His Word** throughout the centuries altogether in one place, a book we call *the Bible*. We call the Bible the “**Word of God**” because we recognize that it's God's voice in our life and it is holy, inspired, and inerrant.
- Even the word “*Gospel*” is a **verbal word**<sup>3</sup>, a spoken word. The good news of eternal salvation in the Lord Jesus Christ is **proclaimed** and **declared**; it is

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<sup>1</sup> The phrase “**Thus says the Lord**” appears over 400 times in the Old Testament of the Bible. The phrase is a technical term that indicates the accompanying quotation is the exact words of God. Google Search engine

<sup>2</sup> In Theology and Bible study, the 10 commandments are frequently referred to as the **Decalogue**, which is from Latin *decalogus*, which is from Greek *δεκάλογος*, literally, ‘ten words’).

<sup>3</sup> The word translated “Gospel” in the New Testament is “Evangelical” from the Greek *euangelion* ‘good news’: from *eu-* ‘good’ + *angelein* ‘announce’.

preached and taught. The clearest place you see that is in “**Absolution**” – which is the **public declaration** of the forgiveness of sins.

God is always in a **Word Relationship** with us<sup>4</sup>, He reveals Himself and His Will to us through His Word; He is a speaking God; that's how He has chosen to interact with His Creation and with His People in the Holy Christian Church.

Since God is always in a **Word Relationship** with us; it's no wonder that Isaiah picks up on that in his **Third Servant Song**<sup>5</sup>. The Servant Songs of Isaiah teach us about Jesus, the “Servant” God sent to rescue us from our sin.

The Lord God has given Me a well instructed tongue, to know the exact word that sustains the weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears ... Isaiah 50:4-5

Isaiah's **Servant of the Lord**, Who is the **Messiah**, whom we know as **Jesus**, is described as the One who speaks and sustains the weary. He is pictured as one who very carefully listens to His Father so He can then speak the Father's Word. **He reveals God to us!**

The **Gospel of John** affirms this and teaches us that Jesus is the WORD OF GOD *incarnate*: in flesh<sup>6</sup>!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. ... And the Word **became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, glory as of the only-begotten Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:1,2, 14

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<sup>4</sup> One of the things this means is that we do **not** believe God reveals Himself or His will to us through dreams, signs, visions, or other supernatural ways. He worked like that in the past through people in Scripture, but “now in the Last Days, He has spoken to us through His Son” (See Hebrews 1:1). “Enthusiasm” is the name of the false doctrine that teaches that God still works through dreams, signs, visions, and other supernatural ways. Martin Luther warns in the Smalcald Articles: “Accordingly, we should and must constantly maintain that God will not deal with us except through His external Word and Sacrament. Whatever is attributed to the Spirit apart from such Word and Sacrament is of the devil.” Smalcald Articles, III, viii, 9-10, in The Book of Concord, ed. T G Tappert, p. 313.

<sup>5</sup> In Isaiah, there are four chapters that are referred to as the **Four Servant Songs**. These are 4 chapters that virtually outline the mission and ministry of Jesus, they are quoted frequently in the New Testament. They teach us why the Son of God was born in Bethlehem. The Servant Songs are found in Isaiah 42:1-9; Isaiah 49:1-13; Isaiah 50:4-11; and Isaiah 52:13-53:12.

<sup>6</sup> “Incarnate (incarnation)” comes from the Latin translation of John 1:14 “became flesh.” [The Latin *incarnat*-‘made flesh’ translates the Greek *σὰρξ ἐγένετο*.] The “incarnation” is a MAJOR way that Jesus is referred to in theology → He is the Son of God incarnate; God in flesh (body and soul, a true human Man).

Jesus is the WORD OF GOD *incarnate*: in flesh! The One born in Bethlehem is the ultimate example of God's **Word Relationship** with us. **He reveals God to us!**

Jesus is the **GREATEST PROPHET** of all:

Jesus speaks the Word of God

Because He is the Son of God!

- It is now through Jesus that we learn who God is and what He is like.
- It is now through Jesus that God will reveal Himself and His Will.
- It is now through Jesus where we will find forgiveness of sins and eternal life.
- It is now through Jesus that God will speak to us and interact with us.

Jesus said to him, "I AM the Way, and the Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." John 14:6

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these Last Days He has spoken to us by His Son, Hebrews 1:1-2

For there is one God, and there is one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, Who gave Himself as a ransom for all 1 Timothy 2:5-6

Jesus is the *incarnate* Word of God who was born in Bethlehem to reveal God to us. As the *incarnate* **Word of God**, we learn from Jesus that God is *loving and kind, merciful and compassionate* to us. Jesus has revealed that God is **not** an angry judge just waiting to punish you, **nor** is He a distant Creator who does not care about you.

Jesus reveals that God is your **Father In Heaven**, Who knows you, and cares about every single detail of your life. He has promised to use His mighty power and strength to help you and not to hurt you. Because we know Jesus through faith, we know the Father in Heaven as well. Jesus has revealed that you are loved by God, that you are well pleasing to Him through faith. Jesus teaches us who God is and what He is like.

Jesus is the *incarnate* Word of God who was born in Bethlehem to reconcile us with God the Father. Jesus came into the world to *suffer and die* on a cross in order to rescue us from our sin. Through His death on the cross you are

reconciled with God the Father. *What that means is* that your sins have been dealt with; they have been removed from you; and they are no longer a barrier between you and God. Because of Jesus and His work on the cross, you have an absolutely perfect relationship with God the Father every moment of every day of your life. Jesus was born in Bethlehem to reconcile you with God the Father.

Jesus is the *incarnate* word of God who was born in Bethlehem to forgive you! He not only reveals God's love to you, and reconciles you to the Father, but He brings God's forgiveness, love and mercy to you!

- ➔ The Lord Jesus continues to work through **His Word**, which is **Holy Scriptures, the Bible**. He speaks His word of Law and it convicts you of sin and He speaks His word of Gospel which forgives you all of your sins. **God's Word** is proclaimed to you in worship, in Bible study, in conversations with other Christians, and most clearly in the words of Absolution, where you hear that your sins are forgiven in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- ➔ The Lord Jesus continues to work through **His Word**, found in the water of **Holy Baptism**. Baptism washes your sins away, creates faith, and gives the Holy Spirit. Baptism brought you into God's Kingdom, His Family, and the Holy Christian Church.
- ➔ The Lord Jesus continues to work through **His Word** found in bread and wine of **Holy Communion**, where He gives you His very Body and Blood for the forgiveness of your sins, for the guarantee of eternal life and resurrected life, and where He promises to abide in you and you in Him.

One of the themes of Advent is realizing that Jesus is the *incarnate* **Word of God**. What that means is that

- † Jesus **reveals** God's love, mercy and kindness to you;
- † Jesus **reconciles** you to the Father through His life, death, and resurrection;
- † Jesus **continues to speak** Words of forgiveness, life and hope to you through **His Word and Sacraments**.

Amen!

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God the Father, we thank you for the prophet Isaiah, who foretold about Your Son, the Lord Jesus, born in Bethlehem. Father, we believe Jesus is the only mediator between you and us. Help us to hear His Word with open hearts and open ears, so that we can learn about You, Your love for us, Your work of salvation for us, and Your will for our lives. Give us zeal and a desire for your word and your Kingdom. We pray this in Jesus, our Mediator's Name, Amen.

# Isaiah 50:4-11

The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. 5 The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. 6 I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. 7 But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. 8 He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. 9 Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. 10 Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of his servant Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God. 11 Behold, all you who kindle a fire, who equip yourselves with burning torches! Walk by the light of your fire, and by the torches that you have kindled! This you have from my hand: you shall lie down in torment.

## 1 Timothy 2:1-7

2 First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, <sup>2</sup> for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. <sup>3</sup> This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, <sup>4</sup> who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. <sup>5</sup> For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. <sup>7</sup> For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

# John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.<sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God.<sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.<sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men.<sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.<sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him.<sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world.<sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him.<sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him.<sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,<sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.<sup>15</sup> (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) <sup>16</sup> For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.<sup>17</sup> For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.<sup>18</sup> No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.