What About …
The Incarnation

By Ellen DeWitt

The Apostle John wrote, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us"* (John 1:1, 14).

Jesus (God) became flesh (human). That is the Incarnation.

"When considering the Incarnation, two important truths should be realized:
(1) Christ became at the same time and in the absolute sense very God and very man, and
(2) in becoming flesh, though laying aside His glory, in no sense laid aside His deity. His full deity and complete humanity are essential to His work on the cross. If He were not man, He could not die, if He were not God, His death would not have had infinite value." [Lewis Sperry Chafer, "Major Bible Themes," p. 56]

Why did Jesus become human and dwell among us? Here are three answers the Bible gives us.

Jesus Became Human to Reveal God

• *"God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature"* (Hebrews 1:1-3).

• *"No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him"* (John 1:18).

Throughout the history of the Old Testament, God revealed Himself to mankind in many ways, such as in a burning bush, in fire, in a cloud. But now God sent Jesus, His only begotten Son, to reveal God to the world. Everything about Jesus revealed God. His life, His death, His resurrection, His ascension back to glory with the Father.

No one knows the Father as well as the Son does, who was in the bosom of the Father, and no one can explain the Father to us as well as the Son has done. The Incarnation of Jesus was the optimal revelation of God to mankind.

Jesus Became Human to Save Us

"We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. … He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time..." (Hebrews 10:10-12). As Chafer put so well, "If He were not man, He could not die, if He were not God, His death would not have had infinite value."

Jesus Became Human to Become King of Kings

In 2 Samuel 7:16, we read of God's promise to King David: *"Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."*

Luke 1:32-33 tells us that the angel Gabriel told Mary, *"the Lord God will give Him* [Jesus] *the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."*

Jesus, in His resurrected glorified body, will return to earth to reign over His kingdom. *"...and on His thigh He has a name written 'KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS'"* (Revelation 19:16).

And when that happens, the Davidic Covenant promise will be fulfilled, and *"at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth...and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father"* (Philippians 2:10-11).