

Woodland Baptist Church
Morning Worship - March 10, 2013
John 1:13-18, The Word Became Flesh

1. **Vs. 14** The _____ Christ _____ visible flesh
 - a. **14 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.**
 - b. **The word** [logos] **became** [egeneto] **flesh** [sarx] - **logos** - sarx
 - c. John's choice of words is VERY interesting:
 - d. **Word** [logos] - reason...**Became** - [egeneto] - expresses that a person or thing changes its property and enters into a new condition...**Flesh** - [sardz] - all of the human person in creaturely existence as distinct from God.
 - e. John is fighting a form of **docetism**, a teaching that denied that Jesus Christ had 'come in the flesh' and _____ the earthly Jesus from the heavenly Christ. In today's spiritual climate, the opposite would hold, we would argue that Jesus came in flesh, but that he was indeed not God, but a good man, a master teacher, but certainly not God in flesh.
 - f. He would point out in his letters this very reality: 1 Jn 4:2 & 2 Jn 7
 - g. Other thoughts of the very unique use of vocabulary:
 - i. God enters the world he has made in a manner for which humans are totally _____.
 - ii. The Greek philosophical meaning of the term, "word" as "reason" could refer to anything that wasn't flesh. To say "the Word became flesh" broke all the rules.
 - iii. John's way of describing Jesus' nature would have been _____ for Greeks who held to a spirit/matter dualism and could hardly have imagined immaterial Reason becoming a physical being.
 2. **and Dwelt** [eskenosen] **among us** - same word used to describe how God "tabernacles" among the Israelites. There is no doubt that John sees Jesus as the glory of God coming to dwell in flesh as he had before in the Tabernacle Tent and the Temple built by Solomon. Jesus had to come in flesh to save us.
 - a. **Philippians 2:5-11**
 - b. **Dwelt or Tabernacled** - takes us straight to the Exodus
 - i. **Exodus 25:8-9** -8 And let them make me a sanctuary, that I may dwell in their midst. 9 Exactly as I show you concerning the pattern of the tabernacle, and of all its furniture, so you shall make it.
 - c. This brings to mind some other related terms:
 - i. _____ - "Shekinah" was the visible presence of God that would actually appear and come to rest in the Tabernacle and the Temple. The glory which shone in the incarnate Word was glory such as a father bestows on his best-loved son. This Shekinah glory was Christ.
 - ii. We can see possible echoes of the Exodus and the Sinai covenant in verse 14. When Moses asked to see the glory of the Lord [Ex 33:18], the Lord warned him that "you cannot look at my face, for no one can look at my face and live." Moses will be mentioned by name in verse 17 and reminded explicitly of what God told him on the mountain.
 - d. **Exodus 40:34-38**
3. **We** [John and the Apostles] **have seen his glory** [doxan]
 - a. **glory** [doxan] - the quality of a splendid, remarkable appearance that provokes praise, honor and distinction.
 - b. We have seen his "glory" in _____: we saw people raised from the dead, we saw him heal lepers and cripples, we saw him take a few pieces of bread and fish that would barely feed us and he multiplied it and it feed over 5,000, we saw him calm the storm by the words of his mouth, we saw him endure the cross, we saw the empty tomb, we saw Him in his resurrected body...we saw him ascend back to the Father. Transfiguration - **Matthew 17:1-8**
4. **The glory of the only** [monogenous] **Son from the Father full of grace** [charis] **and truth** [alethia] - Galatians 4:6-7 - Abba Father!
 - a. The greek words grace and truth are recognizable as a rendering of the last phrase of Exodus 34:6 - 'abounding in steadfast love [hesed] and faithfulness [emeth]. The glory seen in the incarnate Word was the glory which was revealed to Moses when the name of Yahweh was sounded in his ears; but now that glory has been _____ on earth in a human life, 'full of grace and truth.'