

John 1:14, “The Word Became Flesh”

Hypostatic Union. ὑπόστασις – person, substance.

A term that describes the unity of the Son of God’s humanity & divinity in one person.

Chalcedonian Creed (A.D. 451):

Therefore, following the holy fathers, we all with one accord teach men to acknowledge one and the same Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, at once **complete** in Godhead and **complete** in manhood, truly God and truly man, consisting also of a reasonable **soul and body**; of one substance with the Father as regards his Godhead, and at the same time of one substance with us as regards his manhood; like us in all respects, **apart from sin**; as regards his Godhead, **begotten of the Father before the ages**, but yet as regards his manhood **begotten, for us men and for our salvation, of Mary the Virgin**, the God-bearer; one & the same Christ, Son, Lord, Only-begotten, recognized in two natures, **without confusion, without change, without division, without separation**; the distinction of natures being in no way annulled by the union, but rather the characteristics of each nature being preserved and coming together to form one person and subsistence, not as parted or separated into two persons, but one & the same Son and Only-begotten God the Word, Lord Jesus Christ; **even as the prophets from earliest times spoke of him, and our Lord Jesus Christ himself taught us**, and the creed of the fathers has handed down to us.”

Why did God become man?

1. To bring man to God (1 Pet. 3:18), thus saving us from the wrath of God (Rom. 8:1).
2. To be able to die as the perfect sacrifice. God cannot die (Is. 40:28-29, 1 Tim. 2:5).
3. To be a sympathetic high priest (Heb. 2:17, 4:14-16).
4. To be an example for us to follow in His steps (1 Pet. 2:21).
5. To destroy the works of the devil (1 Jn. 3:8).
6. To further reveal God to man (Jn. 1:18).

Although Israel expected a Messiah, should they have expected God to show up in the flesh?

- Gen. 3:15, Eve’s seed: “*shall bruise your head (Satan’s), and you shall bruise his heel.*”
 - 2 Sam. 7:13, “*I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever...*”
 - Is. 9:6, “*His name shall be called ... **Mighty God**...increase of his government ... **no end.**”*
- *Why were they confused?? Is. 53:3, “*A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief...*”

“Dwelt among us...” The tabernacle foreshadowed Christ:

- Bronze altar for sacrifice, bronze laver for cleansing: Christ cleanses us from sin.
- Table of showbread: Christ, the Bread of life.
- Golden lampstand: Christ, the Light of the world.
- Altar of incense: Christ’s intercession for us.
- Ark of the Covenant: made of wood but covered in gold: the 2 natures of Christ.
- Mercy Seat where the blood was sprinkled: Christ poured out His own blood for us.
 - The 10 Commandments (Mosaic Covenant): Christ fulfilled the law for us.
 - Jar of manna: Christ, the Living Bread from heaven; our daily bread.
 - Aaron’s budded rod: The chosen ruler & priest of God, resurrected!

“Glory as of the only Son from the Father...” – Μονογενής. Defined in 2 ways:

- “**Only, or Unique**” – One of a kind. Promoted by most scholars (beginning in mid 20th c).
 - The Greek word could be used of an only child (a son, Lk. 7:12). Yet was it??
- “**Only begotten**” – A phrase describing the eternal generation of the Son.
 - AD 325, Nicene Creed uses this language, “begotten not made.”

How is the eternal generation of the Son possible?? Answer: “*Show me & explain to me an eternal Father, and I will show you & explain to you an eternal Son*” – Augustine.