

Believe it or Not: God became Flesh

Wylie Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – July 30, 2023

Philippians 2:3-11

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. 4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! 9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

We believe...

1. GOD BECAME ONE OF US

Matthew 1:22-23

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" — which means, "God with us." (Isa 7:14)

John 1:1, 14

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us...

John 10:30

[Jesus said] "I and the Father are one."

2. GOD SUFFERED AND DIED FOR OUR SAKE

John 19

1 Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. 2 The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head... 3 and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they struck him in the face. 4-15... 16 Finally Pilate handed him over to them to be crucified... 17-29... 30 ... Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

3. GOD ROSE AND ASCENDED IN POWER

Matthew 28:5-6

5 The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. 6 He is not here; he has risen, just as he said...

Acts 1:8-9

[Jesus said] 8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you..." 9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

Acts 5:30-32

30 The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead — whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. 31 God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior... 32 We are witnesses of these things...

4. GOD REIGNS WITH AUTHORITY AND PROMISES TO COME AGAIN

Matthew 26:63-64

63 ... The high priest said to [Jesus], "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." 64 "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

5. THERE IS POWER IN THE NAME OF JESUS

Acts 3:6,16

6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." 16 By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see. Acts 4:7-20 7 [The teachers of the law] had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "... It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. 11... 12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." 17 But to stop this thing from spreading any further among the people, we must warn these men to speak no longer to anyone in this name." 18 Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. 20 For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard."