

Christ

The Condescension and Incarnation of The Lord - Part 2

Introduction

In considering the condescension of our Lord some of the foremost questions are:

- a) Why did the Lord come down?
 - i) To destroy the works of the Devil (1 Jn. 3:8)
 - ii) To take away our sins (Jn. 3:5)
 - iii) That we might have life through Him (Jn. 20:31)
 - iv) To be the Saviour of the world (Jn. 4:41; 1 Jn. 4:14)
 - v) To be the propitiation for our sins (1 Jn. 4:10)
 - vi) To seek and to save that which was lost (Lk. 19:10)
 - vii) To redeem those who were under the law (Gal. 4:5)
 - viii) To destroy Him that had the power of death, that is, the devil (Heb. 2:14)
 - ix) While not using the clause, "I came etc.," the truth of why the Lord came is presented:
 - 1. I have a baptism (Lk. 12:50)
 - 2. I came not to send peace (Matt. 10:34)
 - 3. I am come to send fire on the earth (Lk. 12:49)
 - 4. To enable men to be reconciled to God (2 Cor. 5:20)
 - 5. In the fulfilment of the parable (Lk. 20:9-15a)
- b) Who came down?
 - i) The Father sent the Son.
- c) Who did He come down from?

Christ came from God	<p>The confession of Nicodemus: "The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God; for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him." (Jn. 3:2)</p> <p>The witness of the Lord: "Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me; for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me." (Jn. 8:42)</p> <p>"Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God." (Jn. 13:3)</p> <p>"For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God." (Jn. 16:27)</p>
Christ came from the Father	<p>"I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world; again, I leave the world, and go to the Father." (Jn. 16:28)</p>

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d) Where did He come down from?

<p>Christ came down from Heaven</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">“And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, [even] the Son of man which is in heaven.” (Jn. 3:13)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This is not in chronological order, for then it would be, came down, ascended, and in heaven 2. No man ascended, that is “went up” to heaven and carries the idea of personal activity. Elijah and Enoch were taken up or translated but never of their own activity went up. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Satan tried to ascend (Isa. 14:12) 3. He came down, with the intimate knowledge of the truths of God, truths that no earthly mind can naturally know or understand, irrespective of standing. 4. In Heaven. The options: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) This passage was possibly not spoken by the Lord, but written after His ascension. b) It was spoken by the Lord, but not indicating that while a man He was on earth but also in Heaven. c) It was spoken by the Lord, but indicating His constant fellowship with Heaven, He lived in its reality. <p>He then came down from heaven as the revealer of divine truth:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The need for that due to the confusion man lived in (Gal. 4:4). b) As the fulfillment of Joseph in (Gen. 41:45). c) Zaphnath-paaneah, the revealer of secrets, divine truths (Jn. 3:12) d) He not only revealed truth, but He was the truth. <p style="text-align: center;">“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.” (Jn. 6:38, 41, 42, 51, 58)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The contrast between Manna and Christ: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Manna did not give spiritual life, Christ is the Bread of Life (Jn. 6:35, 48). b) Manna was a type, Christ is the True Bread (Jn. 6:32). c) Manna was parochial, Christ is for the world (1 Jn. 2:2). d) Manna could not maintain a spiritual relationship, Christ can for us (1 Jn. 2:1; Heb. 7:25). e) Manna could not sustain physical life, Christ gives eternal life (Jn. 3:15) <p>Christ came down from heaven:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Fill the hungry with good things in perpetuity b) Lift man’s vision beyond the box of temporal and time c) Do that which the law could never do d) How gracious and kind
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**“He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all.”
(Jn. 3:31)**

1: The apparent contradiction, cometh from above is above all:
a) Christ is above all other men.

2: The contrast between John and the Lord:

- a) John the messenger, Christ is the Messiah, distinction in offices.
- b) John from the earth, Christ from above, distinction in source.
- c) John the friend, Christ the Bridegroom, distinction in relationship.
- d) John decreases, Christ increases, distinction in outcome.
- e) John the servant, Christ the Son, distinction in position.

Christ came from above and yet was above all in:

- 1. Vocation
- 2. Officialness
- 3. Communication

**“And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.”
(Jn. 8:23)**

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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