

# Incarnation: Incarnate Forever

## Intro

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Ravi Zacharias: there are 4 fundamental questions of life. The questions come from 4 important topics. They boil down to this: ~~origin, meaning, morality, destiny~~

*Purpose, origin, morality, destiny*

**Purpose – Why are we here?**

**Origin – How did we get here?**

**Morality – How should we live?**

**Destiny – Where are we going?**

For Christians, three of these questions can be personalized and re-worded with a future-orientation. Our origin is in the past, but the others are very much forward-looking.

*FORWARD-LOOKING + FOUNDATIONAL*

**Purpose – Will I fulfill my purpose in life?**

**Morality – What sort of person should I become?**

**Destiny – How does this all end?**

*↓  
NEW YEAR*

The Incarnation of God the Son addresses these foundational questions of life. The answers to these questions are found as we consider the incarnation.

**1 Corinthians 15:49 ESV** Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. → *purpose, morality, destiny*

Our purpose in life, the kind of people we are to be, and the end result of our lives can all be summed up in the idea of being image bearers of the Incarnate Son.

The incarnation of God the Son was necessary for three future-oriented objectives: to fulfill God's original purpose for man, to provide an example for living as God's children, and to supply a pattern for redeemed bodies.

## Fulfilling God's Purpose – Will I fulfill my purpose in life?

**What is our purpose?** ⇒ **MACBETH** "life is a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, signifying nothing."

**Genesis 1:26-28 ESV** Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth."

### Kingdom through Covenant:

"The human community must express obedient sonship in faithful loyal love to the creator God and rule over the creation with humble servanthood and responsible stewardship."

"To sum up, the term "the image of god" in the culture and language of the ancient Near East in the fifteenth century B.C. would have communicated two main ideas: (1) rulership and (2) sonship. The king is the image of god because he has a relationship to the deity as the son of god and a relationship to the world as ruler for the god. We ought to assume that the meaning in the Bible is identical or at least similar, unless the biblical text clearly distinguishes its meaning from the surrounding culture."

"Man is the divine image. As servant king and son of God mankind will mediate God's rule to the creation in the context of a covenant relationship with God on the one hand and the earth on the other."

**God's original purpose for mankind was for them to reign on the earth as God's children.**

**Sin destroyed that purpose for all humans save one.**

**Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, Solomon...all were unfaithful, disobedient Sons who fell far short of obedience as sons and reigning over the earth.**

**The Incarnate Son, being both God and man, would fulfill mankind's purpose to be an obedient Son and reign over the earth.**

### **Jesus was obedient:**

**John 5:19 ESV** So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

**Hebrews 4:15 ESV** For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

### **Jesus reigns:**

**Hebrews 2:5-9 ESV** For it was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere,

"What is man, that you are mindful of him,  
or the son of man, that you care for him?  
You made him for a little while lower than the angels;  
you have crowned him with glory and honor,  
putting everything in subjection under his feet."

Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. At present, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

**Jesus, because he was human, was able to fulfill our original purpose as human beings by being an obedient son and ruling over the earth. Due to our union with him, we too will ultimately fulfill God's purpose for us in Christ.**

**The incarnation answers the question of fulfilling our purpose because in Christ, we will be the obedient sons who reign:**

**1 John 3:2-3 ESV** Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure. *→ WE WILL BE LIKE HIM IN OUR FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE AS SONS*

**2 Timothy 2:11-12 ESV** The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;  
if we endure, we will also reign with him;

*We can fulfill our purpose because of the INCARNATION*

Providing an Example – What sort of person should I become?

**Because the Second Member of the Godhead became a man, he provides an example for us in terms of the type of people we should become. The Bible declares we are to be like Christ!** *⇒ NOT COOKIE CUTTER → Katie's gingerbread  
⇒ Picture of the alphabet*

**1 Peter 2:21 ESV** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. *→ HE IS AN EXAMPLE*

**1 John 2:6 ESV** Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. *⇒ WE OUGHT TO FOLLOW*

**2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV** And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. *⇒ IT IS A PROCESS*

If Jesus were only a man, he would sin and not be the perfect example we need. If he were only God, he would be perfect but hardly someone we could use as a pattern for the type of people we should be. But as the God-man, he is the perfect example of the type of people we are to become.

Supplying a Pattern – How does it all end?

The question of “how it all ends” is also answered by the incarnation. Because the Son of God became the man Jesus Christ, his resurrection supplies a pattern for how our lives end.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 ESV So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

1 Corinthians 15:23 ESV But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

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We can be reassured that our end is an eternal existence in a glorified body with our risen Lord. His taking on flesh allows us to see what the resurrection of dead humans looks like. This should give us great hope.

Philippians 3:20-21 ESV But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

In the incarnation, Jesus Christ fulfills the original purpose for all mankind and as we are found IN CHRIST, we too will fulfill our purpose in life by one day reigning as obedient sons.

In the incarnation, Jesus Christ provides an example of what sort of people we should become. To be LIKE CHRIST is the calling on all those who serve him as Lord.

In the incarnation, Jesus Christ supplies the pattern for how our life can end. We will be WITH CHRIST, our incarnate God, for all eternity.

The great questions of life are answered as we consider the incarnation. Our answers are experienced as we are found IN CHRIST, LIKE CHRIST, and finally WITH CHRIST. So how do we get to be in, like, and with Christ? GOSPEL

*\* Space: the final frontier. These are the voyages of the Starship ENTERPRISE. It's 5 year mission: to explore strange new worlds, to seek out new life and new civilizations, to boldly go...*

## Sermon Series Summary

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**We began working towards and understanding of the doctrine of the incarnation; God became a man <sup>and</sup> taking on human flesh and a human nature. We consider the impact of the incarnation in the past, particularly in the mediatorial work of Christ on the cross that reconciled us to God. We developed the impact of the incarnation in the very daily-ness of our lives as we looked at the humanness of Christ as one who sympathizes with us and therefore encourages us and enables us to draw near to God. And today we looked forward to the influence the incarnation has in our futures, helping us fulfill our purpose, providing an example of the kind of people we are to become, and supplying as pattern for what the end of our lives look like.**

- ↳ grow in our understanding of the incarnation
- ↳ grow in our affections for the INCARNATE ONE
- ↳ grow in our likeness to Jesus CHRIST the Incarnate Son of God