

# The unique understanding of the incarnation of Jesus in Christianity

John 1:1-18

## Text verses:

**V1:** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

**V2:** He was with God in the beginning

**V14:** The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the father, full of grace and truth.

**“Why is the incarnation in Christianity unique?”** Other religions also talk about incarnation in their religion. Our text this morning explains very clearly what we as Christians believe about the incarnation.

**Verse 1:** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God”. The first part of the verse is important: In the beginning was the Word, meaning that **before the world was created, the Word already existed**. The second part of this verse tells us the **Word was God** - Not anything else, but God! Therefore this verse declares that the Word always existed even before creation and that this Word was God.

**Verse 2:** “He was with God in the beginning”. This verse declares that the Word is a person. The Word is referred to as “he”. The course clearly states that “He” was with God in the beginning. The Word is given a personality.

**Verse 14:** we read that, “The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father’s only Son”. It states that this Word, now became flesh, meaning a human being; lived among humans on earth and was declared to be the Father’s Son!

If I must summarise these 3 verses we have the following about this Word: 1) the Word existed before creation and therefore the Word was not a created being. 2) The Word is God. 3) The Word is a person, has personality. 4) The Word becomes a human being and lives among humans and 5) The Word is declared to be the Father’ Son!

- Jesus is not a hybrid. He was not half human and half God. He was fully God and fully man.
- Jesus was not a boar, tortoise, etc. (theosis anthropomorphism)
- Jesus was not a demi-god. He was not a mythological being having more power than humans but less power than God.
- The incarnation of Jesus was a once and forever event, never to be repeated. There was therefore never a reincarnation.
- The appearance of Jesus on earth was not a theophany. His appearance was not a temporary form to convey a message and then disappear.
- Jesus did not seem to be human, neither was He an illusion. Therefore the docetic explanation that Jesus did not have a real or natural body, holds no substance. He was fully God and fully man.
- Jesus was not an apotheosis. He was not made into a God. He was God.
- Neither was Jesus theosis. He was not united with God. He was God.
- He died as any human being but was raised to life thus fulfilling His purpose and mission on earth and return to His abode from whence He came only to promise that He will return.

When we study the text of John 1:1-18, we understand certain doctrinal truths about the logos and incarnation that is different from the philosophers before and during the time of the Apostle John. The Apostle John puts forth an explanation of the Logos and the incarnation that is indeed unique. As such John’s understanding of the logos encapsulates the present belief of Christians that Jesus is the incarnated God, yet fully God and fully man. This incarnation is never to be repeated because God, in and through Jesus, the Logos, accomplished what had to be done once and for all, to offer salvation from eternal damnation and to life everlasting through his death and resurrection. No other forms of incarnation can make this claim. No other incarnated being died for humanity to save humanity from sin. This makes the Christian understanding of the logos and incarnation unique.

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