

EQTH105 Basic Bible Doctrine

Unit 4 Activity — Reflections on the Savior

Presented by the



LANCASTER BIBLE COLLEGE
CAPITAL SEMINARY & GRADUATE SCHOOL

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Lesson 4 Activity – Reflections on the Savior

While you might be studying this course at any time of year, one when studying the doctrine of the incarnation of Christ, it particularly meaningful to reflect on the season of Advent.

Advent is a season of the year observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for both the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas and the return of Jesus at the Second Coming. Traditions of readings and teachings Advent largely come from Catholic Church dating back to before 480 AD, but have been adopted by the Anglican, Lutheran, Moravian, Presbyterian, and Methodist denominations, as well as both Eastern and Russian Orthodoxy.

While the Sunday readings relate to the first coming of Jesus Christ as savior as well as to his Second Coming as judge, traditions vary in the relative importance of penitence and expectation during the four weeks in Advent. In addition, the focus of the weeks varies.

For our study, we are going to focus on the promise, fulfillment, and redemptive impact of Christ's incarnation is seen throughout all of Scripture, from Genesis to Revelation. This is why the celebration of Advent is worthy of reflection all year round!

Advent Readings: From Genesis to Revelation offers twenty Scripture readings categorized into four key areas of Christ's incarnation: Promise of the Savior, Anticipation of the Savior, Birth of the Savior, and Reflecting on the Savior. Summaries are included with each passage in order to help readers celebrate the unfolding of God's redemptive plan throughout Scripture.

For the complete list of the twenty Scripture readings, you can go to "Advent Readings: From Genesis to Revelation" at Blue Letter Bible. But for this activity, we are going to explore reflections on the Savior.

Reflecting on the Savior:

- Reading One - Reflecting on Christ's Incarnation (John 1:1-14)
- Reading Two - Reflecting on Christ's Redemption and Salvation (Galatians 4:4-7, Titus 3:4-8)
- Reading Three - Reflecting on Christ's Exaltation (Revelation 5:1-14)
- Reading Four - Reflecting on Christ's Promise to the Nations (Revelation 7:9-12)
- Reading Five - Reflecting on Christ's Future Restoration for Believers (Revelation 21:1-5)

Instructions:

1. Read the article, "The Importance of Doctrine."
2. Locate and reflect on each of the Scripture readings above.
3. Develop a brief synopsis of the Scripture readings as well as a 1-2 sentence description of the topic.
4. Craft a statement explaining your philosophy of the importance of this doctrine. Remember, the overall theme is the Reflections on the Savior, and then the individual theme...
5. A sample is completed for Reading 1; the Incarnation.
6. You can open this document in a text editor and insert additional lines as necessary.

Reading One - Reflecting on Christ's Incarnation (John 1:1-14)

In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-14 NIV)

Synopsis: There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the coming Messiah. John came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. He was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light.

The Light was Jesus, who was Himself God and in the beginning was with God. He created the world that we know, but then He came into the world for the sole purpose that those who believed His name would have the right to become children of God.

Summary of Christ's Incarnation: Jesus Christ is God "incarnate," we mean that the Son of God took on a fleshly, bodily form (John 1:14). When this happened in the womb of Mary, Jesus' earthly mother, He did not stop being God. Although Jesus became fully human (Hebrews 2:17), He retained His status as God (John 1:1, 14). How Jesus is able to be both man and God simultaneously is one of the great mysteries of Christianity but is nevertheless a foundation of Christian doctrine.¹

Reflection: The incarnation of God in the form of Jesus Christ is critically important to the overall doctrine of Christianity because it is rooted in the very identity of the person on whom we depend for salvation. Many claim Jesus was just a prophet or good teacher, but if this is true, then He cannot be the redeemer. He can only be the redeemer and serve as the propitiation for our sins if he is the perfect Son of God.

¹ Adapted from What Does Incarnate Mean? Got Questions. [<https://www.gotquestions.org/God-incarnate.html>]

Reading Two - Reflecting on Christ's Redemption and Salvation

(Galatians 4:4-7, Titus 3:4-8)

Synopsis of verses:

Summary of Christ's Redemption and Salvation:

Reflection:

Reading Three - Reflecting on Christ's Exaltation

(Revelation 5:1-14)

Synopsis of verses:

Summary of Christ's Exaltation

Reflection:

Reading Four - Reflecting on Christ's Promise to the Nations

(Revelation 7:9-12)

Synopsis of verses:

Summary of Christ's Promise to the Nations

Reflection:

Reading Five - Reflecting on Christ's Future Restoration for Believers

(Revelation 21:1-5)

Synopsis of verses:

Summary of Christ's Future Restoration for Believers

Reflection:

