



Advent: The Great Mystery of Our Faith

John 1:14 & I Tim 3:16

The Incarnation

- **The great mystery...**

Without question, this is the great mystery of our faith: Christ appeared in the flesh...

I Tim 3:16 NLT

- ‘mystery’ = something that we would not have known if God had not revealed it
- E.g. Col 1:25-27 (also Rom 11:25; Eph 3:3)
- An even greater mystery:
God becomes man!

This
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The Incarnation

- The great mystery...

...that makes sense of everything else!

The stable, not the cross or the empty tomb, is the great miracle and mystery of the faith!

– *the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ is the central fact of Christianity* Walvoord

– *The really staggering Christian claim is that Jesus of Nazareth was God made man.... The more you think about it, the more staggering it gets. Nothing in fiction is so fantastic as this truth of the incarnation... The incarnation is in itself an unfathomable mystery, but it makes sense of everything else that the New Testament contains.*

J.I. Packer

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The Incarnation

- The great mystery...
...that makes sense of everything else!
- I Tim 3:16
“He who was revealed in the flesh”
 - The ultimate and final revelation from God
Heb 1:1-3
 - The eternally pre-existent One
John 8:58; 17:5
 - Was made manifest in the flesh
Phil 2:6,7; Heb 2:14,17; Heb 4:15

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The Incarnation

- The great mystery...
...that makes sense of everything else!
- I Tim 3:16
“He who was revealed in the flesh”
- John 1:14 “The word became flesh”
 - Totally contradicts dualism – the assumption that the material world and the spiritual world are incompatible.
 - God the Son, the 2nd Person of the Trinity, took on humanity ... forever.

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The Incarnation

- The great mystery...
...that makes sense of everything else!
- I Tim 3:16
“He who was revealed in the flesh”
- John 1:14 “The word became flesh”
- An inscrutable mystery!
 - God the Son learned, grew, obeyed, suffered, was tempted, did not demand to be seen for who He was, became sin for us.
 - For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. II Cor 8:9

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The Incarnation

- The great mystery...
...that makes sense of everything else!
- I Tim 3:16
“He who was revealed in the flesh”
- John 1:14 “The word became flesh”
- An inscrutable mystery!
 - Christ incarnate is fully God (possess all attributes of deity) and perfect (sinless) man, united forever in one person (not two) without mixture, division or separation.

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The Incarnation made personal...

- I will dwell in a literal, physical body on a literal, physical New Earth forever...
- Jesus understands me...
- Salvation for all who receive Him by faith...



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