**The Word became flesh**  dkm Dec2023

‘The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth’ (John 1:14). This is my favourite Bible verse for this time of the year when we especially remember the birth of Jesus Christ. ‘The Word’ in this verse refers to Jesus; he is the Word who was with God in the beginning, and was God (John 1:1). Do not listen to false teachers like the JWs who translate, ‘The word was a god’. Jesus truly is Emmanuel, God with us (Mat 1:23).

John, the last of the NT writers, adopted this term ‘*Logos*’ when speaking of Jesus here in John 1. Greek philosophers used this word to refer to the ‘rational principle by which everything exists’, or to ‘reason’ or even ‘science’. The translation ‘word’ meaning speech or message is good. John may have been trying to communicate to the secular world, but more likely was reflecting on the account of creation in Genesis 1. ‘In the beginning’ God spoke everything into existence. The God of creation is also the God of redemption. In his only begotten Son he is ‘speaking’ our salvation, although this salvation required more than a word, it required the cross. In the past God spoke through the prophets but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son (Heb 1:2). ‘The Son is the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being’ (Heb 1:3 NIV).

But John declares that ‘the Word became flesh’; the Word that was with God came into this world in the birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem just over 2000 years ago. Jesus was born of the virgin Mary just like any other baby. He was fully flesh or fully man while remaining fully God. He dwelt among us, among the people of God in this world. He grew up in a family, eating and sleeping and working until he began his ministry. He remained a man even though demonstrating divine power, healing the sick and raising the dead.

Jesus spoke the truth and acted with grace such that ‘we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father’. In Jesus we become adopted children but Jesus is the only begotten Son and eternal with the Father. The grace brought by Jesus contrasted with the law that was given through Moses. No one was ever saved through the law because salvation is only through Jesus Christ, ‘born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power’, the power of the resurrection. (Rom 1:3, 4).

*I thank you for your prayers and fellowship during 2023, as we together in Christ ‘press on towards the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus’. May you and your family enjoy peace, the peace of God that passes all understanding as you remember the glory of incarnation, God becoming man and dwelling among us.*