

# Jesus in the Flesh

(Sermon Notes) By Warren Zehrung 12/9/2017

I would like to begin by briefly considering what the Kingdom of God will be like when we are able to see and know God.

1John 3:2 ...we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.

What is God's environment like? What is it like in the presence of God? God the Father exists in His Heavenly Kingdom in absolute righteousness and perfection. God's throne room is a perfectly peaceful place.

Isaiah 11:9 They shall not **hurt** nor **destroy** in all my holy mountain:

God's throne room is splendid, orderly, bright, palatial and grand beyond our greatest imagination. No **sin** or sinful person ever comes into the presence of God. In fact, it is **sin** that has made it **impossible** for us to approach God in the flesh because our iniquities have separated between us and our God, and our sins have caused Him to hide His face from us (Isaiah 59:2).

Try and picture what it must be like in God the Father's presence – the happiness and perfection, the exquisite beauty, the glorious majesty, the absolute truth, the complete goodness and supreme righteousness, His unlimited power and undefiled purity. God is so totally pure, and so completely undefiled, how can we ever approach Him? Our mere presence in His chambers would be like **tracking mud** across a **mink** or white ermine carpet. Whatever we touched there would be soiled and spoiled.

Our sinful presence would only sully and contaminate that which must remain forever wholesome, uncontaminated and untainted. God possesses immortality on His unapproachable throne.

1Timothy 6:15-16 ...God is King of kings, Lord of lords Who only has immortality, dwelling in the light which **no man can approach unto**; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honor and power everlasting.

**No man can approach unto** – has a dual meaning. In the Old Testament Tabernacle and Temple – no man could enter the Holy of Holies – except the High Priest – and then only once a year on the Day of Atonement. And the deeper meaning of **no man can approach unto** is that our sins have cut us off from God.

Let's take a look back when God first instructed Moses about the Tabernacle **Veil**.

Exodus 26:30 And thou shalt rear up the tabernacle according to the fashion thereof which was shewed thee in the mount.

Exodus 26:31 And thou shalt make a veil of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen of cunning work: with cherubims shall it be made:

Exodus 26:32 And thou shalt hang it upon four pillars of shittim wood overlaid with gold: their hooks shall be of gold, upon the four sockets of silver.

Exodus 26:33 And thou shalt hang up the veil under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the veil the ark of the testimony: and the veil shall divide unto you between the holy place and the most holy.

Exodus 26:34 And thou shalt put the mercy seat upon the ark of the testimony in the most holy place.

Exodus 26:35 And thou shalt set the table without the veil, and the candlestick over against the table on the side of the tabernacle toward the south:

John 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

Matthew 27:50 Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up His breath.

Matthew 27:51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom.

Brethren, how can we – you and I in sinful flesh – ever hope to be able to approach the throne of God?

Paul tells us that **Jesus made it possible** for us to be able to approach the throne of God.

Hebrews 9 shows us that in the Temple there was a veil separating the Holy of Holies with the ark of the covenant—the earthly dwelling place of God’s presence—from the rest of the worldly sanctuary where the priest worked.

Hebrews 9:2 For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary.

Hebrews 9:3 And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all;

Hebrews 9:4 Which had the golden censer, and the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold,

Hebrews 9:8 The Holy Spirit thus signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

Just as Jesus’ flesh was ripped to shreds when He was scourged (John 19:1), Isaiah tells us that every bone was exposed – the **veil** separating us from the Father was torn in two indicating the way to the Father was opened to us. The tearing of the veil at the exact moment of Jesus’ death reveals that Christ’s sacrifice, the shedding of His own blood, was the atonement for our sins. That ripped veil showed **that now** the way into the Holy of Holies in heaven is now open for those who have faith in the blood of Jesus Christ to cover their sins.

Hebrews 10:19 Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the **holiest** [Holy of Holies in the heavenly Temple] by the blood of Jesus,

Hebrews 10:20 By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh;

Hebrews 10:21 And having an high priest over the house of God;

Hebrews 10:22 **Let us draw near** [to God the Father] with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

We have access to God the Father past the veil in a new and living way only when our repentant sins have been covered by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. [Christianity]

Jesus lived in the flesh – He knows exactly what we are going through. He is our **able** advocate. Able to defend us to the Father and, more importantly, impute His righteousness to us.

Hebrews 4:15 For we have **not** an high priest which **cannot** be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore **come boldly unto the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Brethren, we have been warned to be on the lookout for scoffers in these last days. Peter shows what is happening now in the Church of God. There are heresies we must be aware of. Traitors are coming from within the Church and subverting brethren to follow their carnal ways. These false teachers are not led by God's Holy Spirit.

2Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as **there shall be false teachers among you**, who privately or sneakily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

**There shall be false teachers among you** – who are they? Do we have to be careful? Yes!

2Peter 2:2 And **many** shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of **truth shall be evil spoken of**.

2Peter 2:3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you:

2Peter 3:2-3 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior: Knowing this first, that **there shall come in the last days scoffers** [false teachers], walking after their own lusts.

These are the last days – where are the scoffers? Brethren, one of the many subtle heresies I've encountered recently sweeping through the minds of those who love not the truth is that of "Universal Salvation."

**Universal Salvation** is the false doctrine that all **sinful**, alienated and separated from God human beings—because of His divine love and mercy—will ultimately be reconciled to Him. It is also known as universalism.

Universalism holds that Christ's reconciliation atoned for everyone's sins and therefore, **all humankind** will eventually be saved.

The heresy goes something like this: Absolutely everyone will be saved.

"Sin is not man's fault. God is good and therefore He would never destroy anything that He created – because if He did so He would be an utter failure. Therefore, man can sin with impunity."

This teaching is finding traction among those who are reluctant to repent of all sin.

When a person has a sin that he does not wish to **deal with** – it is an attractive thought that God will simply wink at the sin and place you in His Kingdom – never having overcome the sin. When there is an unconquered sin in one's life this false teaching can be very appealing. Their argument is that God created us as sinners – so we have no choice but to sin. They say that man does not have a "free will" or "free moral agency" to really chart his or her own destiny?

Therefore we are not responsible for our sins because God Himself is ultimately responsible for everyone sinning. After all, they will reason, wasn't it God who put the tree of the knowledge of good **and evil** in the Garden of Eden? He caused us to sin.

Brethren, God has not failed me if I choose to be a **hateful and rebellious son** who despises His free gift, why else would He say:

Matthew 25:30 Cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Those who hold the doctrine of Universal Salvation quote Scriptures like:

John 3:17 God sent **not** his Son into the world to **condemn the world**: but that the world through Him might be **saved**.

They say that we teach that God has failed to save the entire world.

1 John 2:2 Jesus Christ, who died on the cross **for the sins of the whole world**.

Jesus said:

John 12:32 But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw **all men** to myself.

John 1:29 The next day John [the Baptist] sees Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which **takes away the sin of the world**.

SPS: Brethren, we should be able to **explain all these verses** that those who hold the doctrine of **universal reconciliation and salvation**, use.

Argument: They say, "It is the destiny of each and every human being and each and every demon, without a single exception, to enter the Eternal Kingdom of God as created sons of God, and be part of the one Family of God."

Colossians 1:19 For it pleased the **Father** that in Him [Jesus Christ] should all fullness dwell;

Colossians 1:20 And, having made peace through the blood of His cross, by Him to **reconcile all things unto Himself**; by him, I say, whether they be things in **earth**, or things in **heaven**.

They say that if only one person's sins remained unforgiven for eternity, then the work of the cross would have **failed**, and these scriptures would become false.

Let's continue reading where they leave off because they are only cherry-picking their Scriptures: Paul harkens back to Isaiah 59:2 about our sins separating us from God...

Colossians 1:21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet **now hath He reconciled**

Colossians 1:22 In the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:

Please notice this prerequisite:

Colossians 1:23 **If ye continue** in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister.

Not **ALL** however:

Romans 5:15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one [Adam] many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.

Romans 5:19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall **many** be made righteous. [**Not ALL**]

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Galatians 5:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

Galatians 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past,

...They which do such things **shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.**

The purveyors of **Universal Salvation** believe too, that God created Satan and his demons **as evil beings**, and that they too will ultimately be covered by the blood of Jesus Christ and given eternal life. They teach that Satan is only doing what God created him to do. Nevermind that the devil and demons **have sinned** and for them there is not the slightest intimation to be found in the Bible which extends to them any hope of salvation whatsoever.

Speaking of Satan, God clearly reveals the opposite: **God said to Satan:**

Ezekiel 28:14 Thou art the anointed cherub that covers [the throne of God in heaven]; and **I have set thee so:** thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.

Ezekiel 28:15 You were **perfect** in thy ways from the day that thou were created, until **iniquity** was found in thee.

The proponents of **Universal Salvation** say that these verses are about a man from Tarsus.

The physical King of Tarsus was never in Eden, the garden of God, **but Satan was.** The serpent in Genesis chapter 3 was Satan.

Ezekiel 28:16 By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and **thou hast sinned:** therefore **I will cast thee as profane out** of the mountain of God: and **I will destroy thee, O covering cherub,** from the midst of the stones of fire.

God speaks to the ultimate fate of Satan – and it is **not** eternal life in the Kingdom of God.

Ezekiel 28:17 Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee.

Ezekiel 28:18 Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, **it shall devour thee,** and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.

Ezekiel 28:19 All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, **and never shalt thou be any more.**

The wanton disregard for Scripture is a trademark of the purveyors of false doctrine like Universal Salvation. Satan was created **perfect** [not evil] and he remained perfect until iniquity was found in him.

Jude 1:6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but **left** their own habitation, He hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day.

God is going to eternally judge Satan.

Revelation 20:10 And the **devil** that deceived them **was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone**, where the beast and the false prophet were cast, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

Revelation 12:8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceives the whole world: **he was cast out into the earth**, and his angels were cast out with him.

Sin originated in Satan, and it was in no way caused by God. God is not calling everyone to salvation at this time. That is where a lot of people get mixed up. There is a time order (1Corinthians 15:23). We are given the privilege of being **first fruits** with Jesus in order to reign and rule with Him during the millennium. Everyone who has not been drawn to Christ by the time of His return will have their time and opportunity to be saved later. To be in the first and better resurrection we need to be called – then chosen – and then **faithful** to the end (Revelation 17:14).

Any and all sin is able to derail the salvation process. There is no evil in God. Certainly we possess a free will to choose God's way if we want it enough and are motivated by His Spirit. It is easy to please our fleshly senses – that is why Jesus tells us to **overcome**. Be overcomers. In every case, each of us is able to be selfish, **or**, each of us can lay our life down as Jesus gave us the example. After having received a token of God's Spirit, we have the free moral agency to choose to be in the first resurrection or to follow Satan into oblivion.

Eternal death – that is what **sin causes** – not God. Choose life!

Satan is the author of the **Universal Salvation heresy** that teaches it is okay to trod on God and His law.

Satan was created perfect as were the archangels Gabriel and Michael. Satan chose poorly, and he induced Mother Eve to choose poorly with the words, "**You shall not surely die.**" That is the exact meaning of the **Universal Salvation heresy**. "You shall not surely die."

Here in Genesis 3, Eve is telling Satan what God said about the tree of the knowledge of good **and evil**:

Genesis 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Eve got that substantially correct! She added, neither shall ye touch it to God's instruction.

Genesis 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, **Ye shall not surely die**:

Satan told Eve, "God is lying to you." That is what these scoffers and purveyors of **Universal Salvation** are peddling. False ministers teach to "Be true to your humanity" – do what comes naturally with no repentance or overcoming being necessary.

We are the children of sinful Adam and Eve with Satan as our father (John 8:44) until we choose God as our Father. And choosing God as our Father – first requires **repentance** of sin and **faith** in Jesus Christ and **His blood** to cover our sins.

Over and over the Church of God has been alerted through Biblical warnings to beware of **false doctrine**. God knows that **false doctrine** is a clear and present danger to us. Why are we so **oblivious** to the **false doctrine** around us?

Jude 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ..

“Turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness,” means that there are things being done among the brethren – both in conduct and appearance – that are morally reprehensible in God’s sight.

Jude 1:16 These are murmurers, complainers, walking after **their own lusts**; and their mouth speaks great swelling words.

When a person is striving to follow God’s perfect way, he will increase more and more in Godly wisdom. It is a spiritual principle that the world is unwilling to believe. Put simply, when we are **sinning** we cannot increase in grace and knowledge – but when we walk in God’s statutes and laws we will increase in Godly wisdom and understanding. To follow after Godly Wisdom is to put every principle, virtue, attitude and value of Jesus Christ into every aspect of our daily lives.

There are those who teach “**easy**” gospels, or “**Be true to your humanity**” gospels, or “**go with the flow**” gospels, or “**we have all the time in the world**” gospels or “**God will overlook your sins**” gospels. “**Be true to your humanity**” – that one came directly out of the Pasadena apostasy. Don’t you believe it, brethren. But, God tells us to expect it.

Jesus came in the flesh in order to **condemned sin** in the flesh. Jesus came in the flesh in order to overcome sin. Eternal life and presence with God the Father will be given only to those who **repent** of their sins and **overcome** this world.

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of **life in Christ** Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of **sinful flesh**, and for sin, **condemned sin in the flesh**:

Romans 8:4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

What kind of life does a Christian live? Is it one that would have him **invited** to come into God the Father’s **spotless** throne room?

Romans 8:5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is **life and peace**.

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

God will not have that carnal mind mentality in His presence.

Romans 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.

Romans 8:10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of Him [God the Father] that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwells in you.

Revelation 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: **be thou faithful unto death**, and I will give thee a **crown of life**.

Jesus said:

Revelation 3:21 **To him that overcomes** [not everyone] will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as **I also overcame**, and am set down with my Father **in His throne**.

Revelation 3:22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

John 16:32 Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; **I have overcome the world**.

Brethren, we are to walk in His steps.

1Timothy 2:4 Who wills [desires] all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

God has done His part in sending His Son. This is God's will, and God makes it entirely possible through His Spirit: Not all men will avail themselves of the good graces of God.

Malachi 4:1 For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the **proud**, yea, and all that do **wickedly**, shall be **stubble**: and the day that cometh shall **burn them up**, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

Malachi 4:2 But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

Malachi 4:3 And ye shall tread down the **wicked**; for they **shall be ashes under the soles of your feet** in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.

One day this **physical earth** will be replaced by New Jerusalem. Peter writes:

2Peter 3:11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

2Peter 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

2Peter 3:13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, **wherein dwells righteousness**.

Those who choose to continue in their sins will not be there.

2Peter 3:14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, **without spot**, and blameless.

Yes, we have trials and tribulations...

2Peter 3:15 And account that the **longsuffering of our Lord is salvation...**

2Peter 3:17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the **error of the wicked**, fall from your own steadfastness.

2Peter 3:18 But **grow** in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.

You are going to hear a lot of this in the last few weeks of December: Brethren, while this dying world thinks that they know the "Reason for the Season," let's remember the real reason that **Jesus came in the flesh**. The world is missing the truth of the Father and why He sent His son to this earth. This world is in a state of confusion when it comes to the birth of Jesus Christ. The confusion goes much deeper than the date of the birth of Jesus, the number of wise men from the East, and the pagan christmas tree.

Why did Jesus come in the flesh? What this world cannot understand is that the Son of God **came in the flesh** so that we, in the flesh, might become **Children of God**.

Matthew 1:21 And [Mary] shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall **save His people from their sins**.

Not the incorrigibly wicked and evil men.

Matthew 1:22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Let's talk about why Jesus came in the flesh. Paul said:

2Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the **simplicity** that is in Christ.

The Truth is not a secret code – requiring confidential knowledge. Peter, speaking of Jesus Christ, said:

1Peter 2:24 Who His own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, **should live unto righteousness**:

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

It was because Jesus took upon Himself all sin - Mine – yours – and that caused Him to be separated from the Father who cannot abide sin. Paul explains the process in 2Corinthians 5:

2Corinthians 5:21 For He [Father] hath made Him [Jesus] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made **the righteousness of God in Him** [Jesus].

1John 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

1John 4:2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ is come **in the flesh** is of God:

Jesus was really a man in the flesh. Brethren, God does not die. God is immortal. Jesus had to die for our sins – and He had to be **flesh** to do so. But after he died – He had to be made **alive** again. All those ministers who went along with the teaching of the Apostasy – that Jesus raised Himself – lacked this understanding. They are the ones whom John is addressing because Jesus was really dead!

1Corinthians 15:16 For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

1Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; **ye are yet in your sins.**

Are we sure that Jesus was **raised by His Father**? How many places can you find it in the Scriptures? Ephesians 1 is the best of two dozen places. Notice, We start off talking about God the Father.

Ephesians 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him:

Ephesians 1:18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of **His inheritance in the saints,**

Not the evil and the demons...

Ephesians 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward **who believe**, according to the working of his mighty power,

Ephesians 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places,

Here is a technical point we need to understand:

Romans 3:25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

Hebrew 10:26 For if we sin willfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remains no more sacrifice for sins,

Hebrew 10:27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, **which shall devour the adversaries.**

End: Jesus in the Flesh