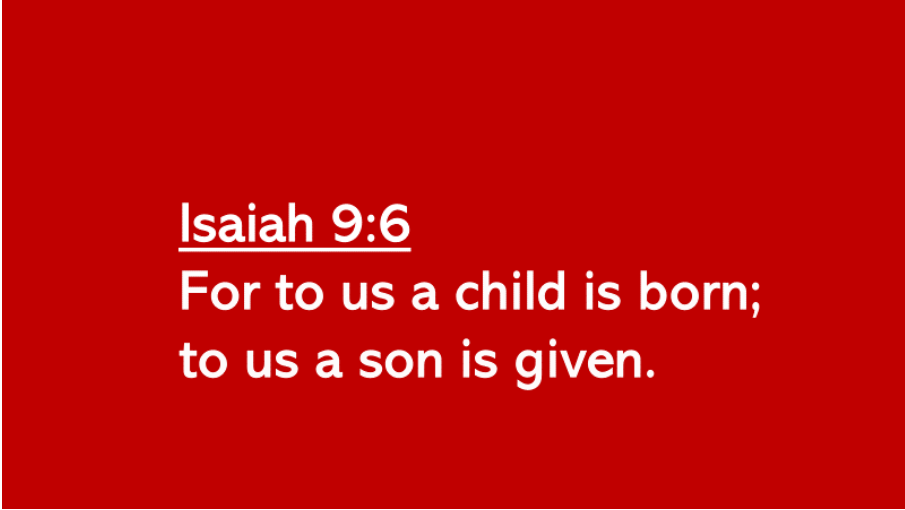




Through the prophet Isaiah the Spirit of God revealed an intriguing clue of who the Messiah, the Rescuer would be.



It would be easy to miss the significance of what God said in this verse.

But in this verse... God foretold that humanity's Rescuer, would be both human and divine.

He would be a human child.

He would be the Son of God.

Through the apostle John, the Spirit of God added even more stunning revelation as to the identity of our Rescuer.

Though these verses are familiar, please listen intently to the truth they reveal, and may this truth fill us with awe.

### John 1:1-4, 14, 18

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 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. No one has ever seen God, but the One and Only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

Wayne Grudem writes,

**“God in his wisdom, ordained a combination of human and divine influence in the birth of Christ, so that his full humanity would be evident to us from the fact of his ordinary human birth from a human mother, and his full deity would be evident from the fact of his conception in Mary's womb by the powerful work of the Holy Spirit.”**

I am grateful for the help of David Mathis.

I have drawn upon a number of articles he wrote about the humanity and deity of Jesus Christ.

The Scripture clearly and unmistakably reveals in numerous passages that God the Son became human, and none clearer than Galatians 4:4.

Galatians 4:4  
But when the time  
had fully come,  
God sent his Son,  
born of a woman...

Jesus Christ was not a spirit who looked and masqueraded as a human. He was born like every human being is born.

Look at what Luke 2:40 says.

Luke 2:40  
And the child grew and  
became strong...

Jesus' physical body grew and matured.

Jesus had a human soul, that is, he had human emotions.

Matthew 8:10  
When Jesus heard this, he was amazed...  
Luke 10:21  
At that time Jesus, full of joy...  
John 11:33  
... he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.  
John 11:35  
Jesus wept.

John Calvin wrote, "Christ has put on our feelings along with our flesh."

Jesus had a human mind.

Luke 2:52  
And Jesus grew in wisdom...

Jesus had a human will.

John 6:38  
For I have come down from heaven  
not to do my will but to do the will  
of him who sent me.

To the Jews who encountered Jesus, who heard his teachings... and saw his miracles... Jesus' identity defied all categories.  
Somehow... and here there is mystery... in the person of Jesus...



...the one true God... became flesh and lived among humankind.

In the OT the primary name which the Jews used for God was the name he had given to them – Yahweh.

This was the name revealed to Moses at the burning bush – I AM WHO I AM.

This name was so holy, so sacred, that for fear of mispronouncing it... or dishonoring it... the Jewish people used Adonai, instead, which is translated Lord.

With this understanding in mind, it is beyond remarkable to read in the NT Scriptures the confession made by Jesus' followers after his resurrection.

John 20:28

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God."

Acts 10:36

God [announced] the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all.

Romans 10:9

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

To acknowledge Jesus as Lord was to acknowledge he is God. And no one could do so without the Spirit of God shining truth into their mind.

1 Corinthians 12:3

...no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

In the person of Jesus Christ, the God of heaven became a human being. But why?

1 Timothy 2:5 answers this question.

1 Timothy 2:5

For there is one God  
and one mediator between  
God and mankind,  
the man Christ Jesus.

The early Christians grappled with this marvelous mystery... that the Messiah was both human and divine.

Their best minds endeavored to state the truth of who our Savior is and its implications so that the people of God might not veer into error.

Our creeds – the Apostles Creed and the Nicene Creed – which we read and affirm on a regular basis... express the essential truths of our faith.

But it was the Chalcedonian Creed of 451 AD that most explicitly and definitively stated the mystery of the Word who became flesh.

The Chalcedonian Creed of 451 AD

We, then, following the holy fathers,  
all with one consent teach men to confess  
one and the same Son,  
our Lord Jesus Christ,

the same perfect in Godhead  
and also perfect in manhood;

truly God and truly man,  
of a rational (true) soul and body;

The Chalcedonian Creed of 451 AD

co-essential with the Father according to the Godhead,



(having one and the same nature)

and consubstantial with us according to the manhood;



(of the same substance)

in all things like unto us, without sin;

### The Chalcedonian Creed of 451 AD

**begotten** before all ages of the Father  
according to the Godhead,

and in these latter days,  
for us and for our salvation,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
the mother of God,  
according to the manhood;

The word begotten is used in John 3:16 to describe Jesus:

**"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."**

The phrase "only begotten" translates the Greek word **monogenes**.

According to the Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature (BAGD, 3rd Edition), **monogenes** has two primary definitions. The first definition is "pertaining to being **the only one of its kind** within a specific relationship."

This is its meaning in Hebrews 11:17 when the writer refers to Isaac as Abraham's "one and only son."

Abraham had more than one son, but Isaac was the only son he had by Sarah and the only son of the covenant.

Therefore, it is the uniqueness of Isaac... among the other sons... that allows for the use of **monogenes** in that context.

The second definition is "pertaining to being **the only one of its kind or class, unique in kind.**"

This is the meaning intended in John 3:16. (see also John 1:14, 18; 3:18; 1 John 4:9).

The gospel of John is primarily concerned with demonstrating that Jesus is the Son of God (John 20:31), and uses **monogenes** to highlight Jesus as uniquely God's Son—sharing the same divine nature as God—as opposed to believers... who are God's sons and daughters by adoption (Ephesians 1:5).

gotquestions.org

The Chalcedonian Creed of 451 AD

one and the same Christ,  
Son, Lord, Only-begotten,  
to be acknowledged in two natures,  
without confusion,  
without change,  
without division,  
without separation;

The Chalcedonian Creed of 451 AD

the distinction of natures  
being by no means  
taken away by the union,  
  
but rather the property of each nature  
being preserved,  
and concurring in one person  
and **one subsistence,**

**Hypostasis** is the Greek word for subsistence.

Subsistence (or hypostasis) is the technical term for the uni-personality of Christ, whereby in the incarnation the Son of God was constituted a complex person with both a human and a divine nature.

The Chalcedonian Creed of 451 AD

not parted or divided into two persons,  
but one and the same Son,  
and only begotten,  
God the Word,  
the Lord Jesus Christ;



The Chalcedonian Creed of 451 AD

as the prophets from the beginning  
have declared concerning Him,  
and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself has taught us,  
and the creed of the holy fathers  
has handed down to us.

Jesus is “one truly spectacular person.” **David Mathis**

He is fully God and fully man.

It is important to ask again – why did God become human?

And it is equally important to state the answer again – in order to become... the  
one mediator between God and mankind.

“Jesus took a human body  
to save our bodies.  
He took a human mind  
to save our minds.  
He took on human emotion  
to save our hearts.  
He took a human will  
to save our wills.”

David Mathis

Gregory of Nazianzus said this regarding the incarnation of Jesus Christ...



That which He has not  
assumed He has not healed.

Gregory of Nazianzus

@quotefancy

Do you see the awesomeness of God’s salvation?

God sent his Son into the world... making him like us in every regard... except our sin... in order to save us – body, soul and spirit.

This reality of who God is and what he has done for us... inspires and enflames our worship.

At Halloween people put on costumes and become someone or something which they typically are not.

The humanity of Jesus was not a costume that he put on for thirty-three years and then left behind when he ascended into heaven.

At Bethlehem his humanity and divinity were forever joined.

We know this because of what the angels said to his disciples as they stood watching Jesus ascend into heaven.

Acts 1:9-11

... he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky?"

This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

When Jesus ascended into heaven, he didn't... "shed his human skin."

David Mathis

He now sits with the Father on heaven's throne... in his resurrected, glorified human body.

Do you know how we know this?

In Revelation 4-5, John was permitted to see into the throne room of heaven.

He saw the Father seated on the throne.

But look at what he saw next.

Revelation 5:6

Then I saw a Lamb,  
looking as if it had been slain,  
standing at the center of the throne,  
encircled by the four living creatures  
and the elders.

John saw the scars... on the resurrected, glorified human body of Jesus Christ. He saw the scars in Jesus' hands, his feet and his side. These were the same scars which Jesus had shown to his disciples on his resurrection day.

Luke 24:39-40

Jesus said to them,  
"Why are you troubled,  
and why do doubts rise in your minds?  
Look at my hands and my feet.  
It is I myself!  
Touch me and see;  
a ghost does not have flesh and bones,  
as you see I have.

When Jesus ascended into heaven, he did so as the God-man... as the Word who became flesh.

And the angels assured his disciples... he will return in the same way.

Again I quote David Mathis:

**"God is clearly up to something that goes far beyond anything that we might be able to imagine. But among other things, this means that if God has invested Himself in this way in the future of the human race, it follows that the future of the human race must be stupefyingly glorious."**

Philippians 3:20 provides us with a clue.

Philippians 3:20

But our citizenship is in heaven.  
And we eagerly await a Savior from there,  
the Lord Jesus Christ,  
who, by the power that enables him  
to bring everything under his control,  
will transform our lowly bodies so that  
they will be like his glorious body.

In the beginning God created humankind in his likeness.  
When our first parents fell and human nature were corrupted, God stated that he would rescue and save us.  
And he did so through the Word who became flesh.

By grace through faith in Christ alone, those who receive Jesus and believe in him are born of the Spirit – they become a new creation.  
And what God does in us by grace through faith in Christ alone, he will complete.

He will save us body, soul and spirit, as well as, make all things new.

We live in a culture amidst a people whose inner persons are starving and thirsting, but who ... do not know for what.  
Scan the horizon of our culture and you will see a myriad of options that people look to... money, possessions, power, success, influence, sex.

But none of these things can take the place of God.  
They cannot fill the emptiness of the human heart, nor the vacuum that exists because of the absence of God.

The book of Ecclesiastes says that God has put eternity in the human heart.  
This is why finite things can never truly satisfy.  
This is why the human heart is ever restless.  
There is only One... who can captivate the human heart.  
Only One... who can quench the soul's thirst and hunger.

That One is Jesus... the Word who became flesh.

“His fully human nature joined to his eternally divine nature is permanent proof... that Jesus... in perfect harmony with his Father... is unstoppably for us.”

David Mathis

While we were sinners, he died for us, paying our sin debt in full. Romans 5:8

**If God is for us, who can be against us?**

**He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all – how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?**

**Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?**

**It is God who justifies.**

**When then is the one who condemns?**

**No one.**

**Christ Jesus who died – more than that – who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.**

**Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?**

**Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No.**

**In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.**

**For I am convinced that neither death nor life,  
neither angels nor demons,  
neither the present nor the future,  
nor any powers,  
neither height nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Romans 8:31-39

The truth that the Word became flesh is good news of great joy for all people.

The Savior has been born.

The Savior has lived upon this earth.

The Savior has given his life in sacrifice and died our death.

The Savior has risen from the dead.

This good news is for....

... the broken- hearted

... the hopeless

... those gripped by fear

... those racked by doubt and unbelief

... those enslaved by their addictions

... those who've lost their way

... the weary

... those whose hearts are heavy with the guilt of their sin

... everyone

... all peoples.

This good news invites you and I...

... to come to Jesus...

... to agree with him that we are a sinner...

... to receive him into our lives to be the One in charge...

... to believe in him – that he died in our place, and that by his power he can make us to be a new creation...

The Word became flesh so that you and I might come home to God.

If you are not yet in relationship with God, will you receive Jesus and believe in him, and let rescue begin?

And if you do know Jesus, if you have received him and believed in him, come and adore him, come and worship him...

...who is full of grace and truth...

...who gave his life in sacrifice to save you from your sin...

... who did everything necessary that you might become his adopted daughter or son.

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised!

## **Prayers of the People**

We acknowledge that you are here with us, O God.  
As we stand here before you, please quiet our hearts,  
that we might hear your voice.

You, O Lord, are our healer.  
Please mend within us what has troubled our hearts  
and minds.

May you, who has overcome the world,  
bring your peace to us.

May you guard our hearts from hardening.

Please touch our discouragement with your hope.  
Please replace our weariness with your strength.  
Please displace our doubts with faith in you.

We receive your grace with gratitude.

We speak these things to you in the name of Jesus  
who rose from the dead.