

## TO FULFILL WHAT HAD BEEN SPOKEN #4

### “In the Flesh”

December 17-19, 2005

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and that life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. . . <sup>9</sup>The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. <sup>11</sup>He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—<sup>13</sup>children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God. <sup>14</sup>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 1:1-5, 9-14 TNIV*

<sup>14</sup>So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

*Genesis 3:14-15 TNIV*

Introduction: Among the most profound Christologies of the New Testament is the idea that Jesus is the first of a recreated human race. Because he created humanity in the beginning, only he has the power to create us anew. Across Christian history, many have regarded Genesis 3 as prophetic of this “new creation.”

#### I. The Seed of the New Creation

A. Genesis 3:14-15 is known as a “Dual Prophecy” or “Dual Reference”

1. Verse 14 clearly refers to the literal serpent.
2. Verse 15a has been considered a dual reference to the serpent and Satan, whom he symbolizes.
3. Verse 15b refers to every human descendent.
4. BUT, Verse 15b is also considered a reference to Jesus, the offspring of “the woman.”
5. Jesus is often spoken of as the one born of “the woman” whose heel Satan struck in the crucifixion, and the one who crushed Satan’s head in his resurrection.

B. That Jesus was “born of a woman” is central to nearly every Christian doctrine of salvation, as John asserts in writing, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.”

#### II. The Savior of the New Creation

A. In him was life.

1. John asserts that “the Word” (Jesus) was of God’s nature from the very beginning.
2. John also asserts that “all things were made through” Jesus in the first creation.
3. Paul teaches us that the coming of Christ brought about a “new creation.”

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ. . .

*2 Corinthians 5:17-18a*

B. Paul also tells us that Jesus is the “Second Adam.”

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a human being. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But in this order: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.

*1 Corinthians 15:20-23*

But the gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died by the trespass of the one man, how much more did God’s grace and the gift that came by the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, overflow to the many! Nor can the gift of God be compared with the result of one man’s sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation, but the gift followed many trespasses and brought justification. For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God’s abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! *Romans 5:15-17*

C. The genius of God’s plan, prophesied first in Genesis 3, then in Isaiah, Jeremiah, and elsewhere, is that we were saved through his Son born in the flesh, just as we were condemned through Adam in the flesh.

D. That “the Word became flesh and lived among us” is the heart of the Gospel and the fulfillment of prophecy, God’s promise.

Conclusion: Just as Jesus related to Nicodemus in John 3, we are “born from above” in Him, reborn as a new creation that is the redeemed remnant of the first creation. Since Christ created us the first time, He has the power to recreate us. So Paul is able to say, “‘The first Adam became a living being;’ the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man.” We have been recreated!