

## **SEVEN SEALS: The Incarnation of Christ.**

The subject of Christ's incarnation is a pivotal aspect of Salvation. We read, "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil..." Further, "And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage." [Heb. 2:14-15(KJV); compare Phil. 2:5-9; Jn. 1:1, 14; 17:5; Ps. 22:9-10; 71:6 ( Ps. 40) Heb. 2: 9, 14-18; 4:15] It is important to understand the spiritual context behind the embodiment of Christ in flesh 2,000 years ago. The legitimacy and purpose of Him taking human form have implications for the validity of Salvation. To take a view that regards His humanity as being of little importance makes His temptations, suffering, death and resurrection not real, rather an act, a deception even. This undermines the authenticity of Salvation. The Devil would love that. Having failed in his rebellion, he now seeks to engineer an outcome where there would be no reward for the righteous and no punishment for the wicked. Creation would be deemed not viable and the world would return to a state of formlessness and void. In effect, no Salvation!

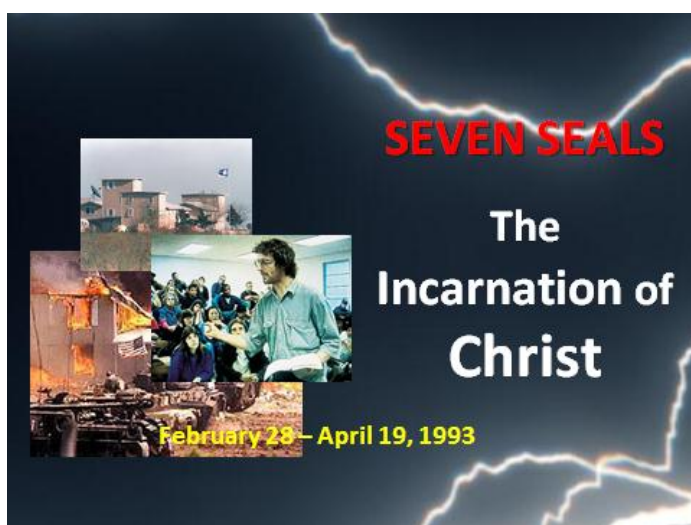
It was through the female seed (Mary) that Christ was embodied in humanity giving Him the form and feature of a Hebrew child in accord with that particular period of time and setting. The purpose was to enjoin him into humanity, not for Him to be apart from it. This is what is meant by God GAVE His only begotten Son. Christ had appeared on the earth before but he didn't come into humanity itself. At that time He came without mother and without father. He just appeared on earth. The virgin birth began the process of Him entering into fallen humanity proper, not just appearing on earth. There was to be a further phase, where He would take both our sinful flesh and fallen human nature (born of both male and female seed) as all men are now born. This is what Psalm 40 describes. All of this served a purpose.

In his rebellion in heaven, Satan argued that Man could not keep the Law, implying God was wrong to create Man. At the fall of Adam and Eve, Satan exalted pointing to this as proof despite his part in causing them to fall. Christ's incarnation would show that God's Law (His Word) can be kept. [Matt. 5:16-17; John 15:10] This would prove the fall of Man was not inevitable. It was not required of Christ to take our fallen human nature to prove this 2,000 years ago. He needed only to take Adam's pre-fall nature, hence there being no male seed involved. It is through the male seed that the fallen nature is transmitted from generation to generation. Nevertheless, He took our sinful flesh with its thousands of years of corruption. This allowed Him to know our experience. Despite this He still kept the Law. This was high stakes; Christ could have failed. The war was intense. We all know the story of His life. The Devil tried to take him out right from the time of His birth. Satan, through his cohorts among men, had all those children killed in a bid to get Him. [Matt. 2:1-18; 26:36-46ff] Still, Satan was soundly defeated. The second phase of Christ's mission was even more risky. Under deep cover, Christ would take both our fallen nature as well as sinful flesh. This would show that fallen Man could still be saved. Satan also argued that having fallen, Man could not be saved. Mankind and the world now belonged to him; this would be his domain and outpost with Man as his captive (held in darkness to Truth). [Gen. 3:1-6ff; Rev. 13:11-14ff] God, the creator of Man, was not going to give up on Mankind that easily nor suffer Satan's unjust rebellion. The depths of God's love for Mankind (His grandchildren) meant He would risk the loss of His only Son to redeem Man. Christ's success (not without suffering) showed not

only that Man could keep the Law and that creation was viable, but that fallen Man could also be saved. Satan was defeated on both counts. We see here that God does not act arbitrarily but in accord with sound eternal principles of Love, Truth, Justice and Mercy.

The Devil's last ditch effort to engineer an outcome where there would be no reward for the righteous and no punishment for the wicked would also fail. How would this satisfy Justice? It simply would not. Justice, along with mercy, would have to be discarded. Justice and Mercy are entwined. Truth also would need to be abandoned, not to mention Love. Without these eternal principles that underpin Life there would be nothing, nada, nihilism. The Devil's rebellion is here openly exposed both in heaven and on earth. It leads to nothing, no universe, no creation, nothing! We see why in the end the wicked, those who fail of Salvation through disregard and unbelief are therefore destroyed. We read, "...I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn [yourselves,] and live ye." [Ezek. 18:31-32; Rev. 20; Matt. 25:41]

We catch a glimpse here into the unseen workings of the spiritual and its manifestations in the realm of the seen – the visible evidence of its reality. These are of the deep things of God inferred in, "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? [them that are] weaned from the milk, [and] drawn from the breasts." [Isa. 28:9] We read in the Psalms, "Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet. Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I [will be] with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him. With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation." [Ps. 91: 13-16] Note where it states, "...and shew him my salvation." the prophet Daniel wrote, "Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand." [Dan. 12:10] This is not just about the Salvation of Man. There is also the righteousness of God and the defeat of the Devil. The Devil sought to set himself above all that is God, as if God had no rights. But his plan failed amounting to nothing. [Isa. 14:12-17ff (compare Phil. 2:5-11; Matt. 11:28-29); Rev. 12] We see a depiction of this with Absalom who sought to usurp the throne of his father King David. [2Sam. 15-19]



**Livingstone Fagan** is one of a few remaining survivors of the US government assault on a church community outside Waco, Texas in 1993. He met David Koresh while completing post-graduate studies at a seminary west of London. He was among a small number of survivors detained and tried a year later in 1994. Although acquitted of the false charges brought against them they were nevertheless given excessive prison terms. This was subsequently overturned by the US Supreme Court. He returned to England in the summer of 2007 after almost 15 years.