

# Jesus: Birth and the Beginning...

## WEEK TEN

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MATTHEW 1-4, 13  
LUKE 1-2, 4

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# Christology

## THE PERSON OF CHRIST

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## Christology: Person of Christ

- Jesus is fully God & and fully human.
- Early Christian Heresies:
  - Docetism
    - Only seemed (*dokesis*) to be Human
    - Divine spirit in a human "husk" (terminator!)
    - Fully Divine
    - Reflected in 1 John 2:22 (Jesus not Christ)

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### **Christology: Person of Christ**

- Socianism
  - Version of Arianism
  - Jesus was (only) an extraordinary man
  - From latin word *socius* meaning “companion”
  - Fully Human
  - Seen today in Unitarians and Jehovah’s Witnesses

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### **Christology: Person of Christ**

- Nestorianism
  - Nestorius, Patriarch of Antioch
  - Christ had two natures: Divine & Human
  - Natures remained separate during earthly life
  - Two separate persons in one body
  - Seen today—even in the Church!
    - Did Jesus act out of his divine side or human side? (e.g., miracles, parables)

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### **Christology: Person of Christ**

- Earliest Christian Understanding
  - Philippians 2:6-8 (hymn quoted by Paul)
  - “who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.”

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## **Christology: Person of Christ**

- Earliest Christian Understanding
  - Philippians 2:6-8
  - *Kenosis* Theory (v. 7)
    - “Emptied” or “Set aside”—equality with God
    - Divine *Self*-limitation (function not nature)
    - Purpose: Love for and Salvation of Humanity
    - Result: Exaltation by God (Phil. 2:9-11)
- Jesus is fully God and fully Human!

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## **The World of Jesus**

### **FIRST-CENTURY ISRAEL & JUDAISM**

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## **The World of Jesus**

- Pillars of Judaism (Jesus was Jewish!)
  - Monotheism (worship of one God)
  - Election (Jews elected by birth)
  - Divine origin of “Torah” (i.e., Law)
  - Promise of the Land (divinely given)
  - Future Hope (for Messiah and God’s Kingdom)

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## **The World of Jesus**

- **Jesus' Context**
  - Living under a pagan superpower
  - Oppression under the Romans
  - Maintaining Traditions (Temple, Scripture)
  - Rich & Poor
  - Longing for Change
  - Religious Division

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