

## THE GREAT DECEPTION

# Does it Make a Difference the Nature in which Christ came? Part 1

*How is the faithful city become a harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. Isaiah 1:21*

Can a person be saved who does not believe that Christ came in our fallen nature? And further, can such persons really have the Spirit of God? (1 John 4:2, 3). But aren't there many good sincere Christians who do not know or have ever heard of this truth? Finally, what difference does it make whether Christ took the fallen nature of man or the nature of Adam before the fall?

From the time of the apostles in the first century who proclaimed this truth to the present there have been many voices proclaiming and acclaiming the truth that Christ took the fallen nature of humanity. But does it matter one way or the other if he did not come in the nature of fallen man? The question then arises; could he really understand us if he was not like us.

The nature of Christ (Christology) and his saving work (Soteriology) are inseparably linked. To speak of one is automatically speaking of the other, for wherever the salvation of Christ is spoken of in the Bible it is linked to his human nature. In order for his saving work to be effective for us and in us he must experience all things that pertains to our situation and that can only occur if he is like us in our sinful fallen human nature.

*For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. Heb. 2:16, 17*

Behooved – Strong's Concordance G3784 (opheilo) pronounced of-i'-lo and according the outline in Bible usage means ought, obligation, indebted, duty etc.

*Therefore, it was a must (a duty, debt owed, obligated, ought for him to do) in order to be our high priest and reconcile us to God he must be of the same nature as we. "This was obligatory. It is a duty he owes and must not avoid. He cannot make reconciliation for men unless he takes his place with them and in all things become like them and in all things become like them [i.e. in the flesh] It is not a question of choice. He should, he must, he ought, he is under obligation to, he owes it. Unless he has to struggle with the same temptations men do, he cannot sympathize with them." M.L. Andreason Letters to the Churches page 3*

So does it make a difference what nature he came in if he is to help us? It sure does. He was under obligation to be in the nature of the seed of Abraham if we were to be helped, and the plan of redemption to be effective. If he came in the nature of Adam before the fall it would be inconsequential to us who live after the fall, for he would not be able to experience what we experience. This is the big lie with which Satan has deceived humanity and that led to the following away in the early church and has led to the corruption of truth in God's church today (Isaiah 1:21).

*The great burden-bearer, who took our nature that he might understand how to sympathize with our frailty, and with our temptations, knows how to succor those that are tempted.*

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If he did not take our fallen nature, he could not be our example in victoriously living above sin as we are admonished. In order for us to know how to overcome we must have a pattern set before us of overcoming whose human nature was the same as ours. A nature beset with the same temptations, passions (strong emotions) and evil propensities (inclinations, tendency) as ours.

*"That your passions and appetites may be subject to the control of reason ... Our natural propensities must be controlled, or we can never overcome as Christ overcame." 4T 235.1*

*"The whole teaching of Holy Scripture places the incarnation at the center of the methods of God with a sinning race. Toward that incarnation everything moved until its*

*accomplishment, finding therein fulfillment and explanation. The messages of the prophets and seers and the songs of the psalmists trembled with more or less certainty toward the final music which announced the coming of Christ: All the results also of these partial and broken messages of the past led toward the incarnation." W.W. Prescott,*

**TDOC 51.2**

So does it make a difference which nature he came in? It sure does for if he did not come in our sinful fallen human nature there could be no redemption for humanity who lives in a sinful fallen flesh and blood nature. Therefore, the human nature of Christ and his redemptive work are inextricably bound together and mean everything to us.

*Next time we shall examine the omega of which E.G. White said, "I knew that the omega would follow in a little while; and I trembled for our people." 1 SM 203.2*

What could this omega be, and does it have anything to do with this doctrine?

**Yours in the Service of God**

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