

Why Did Jesus Come  
To Earth?

II Cor. 8:9

# Introduction

- Jesus earthly life is beyond rational dispute.
  - The evidence of the sacred. (M,M,L,J) → The empty tomb.
  - The evidence of the secular. (Josephus, Suetonius, Tacitus, Pliny the Younger)
- Jesus Christ is the central figure of history.
- Jesus Christ is the central figure of the scriptures:
  - O.T. → Jesus is coming.
  - Matthew, Mark, Luke, John → Jesus is here.
  - Acts/Letters → Jesus is coming again.
- Lesson: Question: Why did Jesus leave heaven and live on this earth?
  - Though he was rich → His exalted position
  - He became poor → The nature of His existence here
  - Ye might be rich → What it means for us

- *“This Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science and learning, He shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of schools, He spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line, He set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise, than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times.” —Philip Schaff*
  
- *“I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between Him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded His empire upon love; and at this hour millions of people would die for Him.”  
—Napoleon Bonaparte*

# *“...Though He Was Rich...”*

- The exalted position of Jesus in heaven.
  - What he left behind. The nature of God’s eternal existence is far above our finite minds and experience.
  - Only one has gone to heaven and came back, and he was not allowed to reveal his observations. (II Cor. 12:2ff. Given a thorn in flesh to humble. (v-7)
  - A few texts to give us a glimpse of Jesus before He came to this earth.
    - John 1:1 → Eternal, with the Father; Deity; Creator of all things. God. (cf. Col. 1:16-18; Gen. 1:26)
    - John 17:4-5 → Glory with the Father before the world was. Majesty, honor, power, supremacy. Peter, James and John get a glimpse. (II Pet. 1:16-17)
    - Rev. 4-5 → Surrounded by and praised by all orders of heavenly beings.

# *“He Became Poor”*

- Jn. 1:14 → And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.
- Heb. 2:14 → Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same;
- Heb. 10:5 → “...a body hast thou prepared me...”
- Phil. 2:7 → “but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men; 8 and being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, becoming obedient *even* unto death, yea, the death of the cross.”

# *“He Became Poor”*

- He was born into this world as a baby. (Lk. 2:7)
- He had the same upbringing as any other Jewish boy. (Lk. 2:21-22)
- He grew like any other child – intellectually, physically, socially and spiritually. (Lk. 2:40,52) He was subject to his parents. (Lk. 2:51)
- Did not amass material possessions. (Lk. 9:57-58)
- He experienced the full range of what it meant to be a human being:
  - He grew tired. (Jn. 4:6)
  - He became thirsty. (Jn. 4:7; 19:28)
  - He became hungry. (Matt. 4:2)
  - He needed strengthened. (Lk. 22:43) An angel strengthened him.
  - He slept and rested. (Lk. 8:23)
  - He bled. (Jn. 19:34)
  - He experienced agony and anguish. (Jn. 12:27; Lk. 22:39-46; Heb. 5:7-8)
  - Jesus suffered in the days of his flesh. (Heb. 5:8)
  - Jesus was tempted as we are. (Heb. 4:15; Js. 1:13)

## *“That You By His Poverty Might Become Rich”*

- Jesus came to do the will of the Father. (Jn. 6:38)
- Jesus came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. (Jn. 10:10)
- Jesus came to reveal the Father. (Jn. 1:18; 14:7-11)
- Jesus came to give us a perfect example to pattern our lives after. (Jn. 13:15)
- Jesus came to fulfill and then take away the Law of Moses. (Matt. 5:17-18; Col. 2:14-15)
- To suffer and die in order to bring many sons to glory. (Heb. 2:9-15)
- Jesus came that we might be rich. (II Cor. 8:9; Eph. 1:3-14; I Pet. 1:3-4)
- Because of His great love for us. (I Jn. 3:16; Jn. 14:15)