

THE MANGER MYSTERY **(I Tim. 3:16 “..God was manifest in the flesh..)**

The bible has many mysteries that are sometimes revealed and sometimes hidden. There is the mystery of the Rapture-(**I Cor. 15:51**). There is the mystery of the union between Christ and His church-(**Eph. 5:32**). We see the mystery of the Gentile world getting access to heaven in-(**Eph. 3:1-3**). However, the greatest mystery that the bible reveals to us is the mystery of the incarnation of Christ.

THE MYSTERY REJECTED

John 5:18 He was rejected by the Jews because he told them He was the Son of God.

Luke 5:21 The Scribes and Pharisees rejected Him because He said He could forgive sins.

Matthew 27:39-40 The people at Calvary rejected Him because they misunderstood the things he taught, and also because he had told them He was God's Son.

Luke 23:35 The rulers rejected Him because He would not save Himself from the cross and also because he had taught them that He was their Messiah.

Mark 15:31-32 The chief priests rejected Him because they wanted Him to show them more signs or miracles to prove He was Christ the Messiah.

THE MYSTERY REQUIREMENTS

I Timothy 2:5 Scripture teaches us that sinners need a mediator that can stand between the sinner and God the Father. That mediator would be Christ the Messiah but He would have to be a man.

Isaiah 7:14; 9:6 God's prophet had written that God would miraculously bring forth a God-Man child that would be the Messiah and King of the Jews.

Isaiah 53:9 The Messiah would not only have to be a human man but also a sinless man.

Isaiah 53:4-8 The perfect Messiah would have to suffer and die for all sinners.

Isaiah 53:10-11 The Messiah would have to bear the sins of many, shed His blood as an acceptable offering and die as God's requirement for the payment of sins.

THE MYSTERY FULFILLED

Luke 2:7; John 1:14 Not only Jewish writers but Jewish believers and non-believers witnessed the birth of Jesus Christ at the exact location and exact time the prophets had foretold of His birth.

I Peter 2:21-22 Along with many verses in the bible, the Apostle Peter, who lived with Jesus for over three years testifies to the fact that Jesus never sinned one time in His earthly life.

I Peter 3:18 Jesus suffered and died for ours sins and for the sins of the whole world (**I Jn.2:2**).

Hebrews 9:11-12 Jesus Christ fulfilled the requirement of shedding His perfect blood as the atonement necessary for the payment of sin. Jesus also obtained eternal redemption for those that will believe on Him.

I Timothy 3:16 The mystery of the incarnation was declared to be fulfilled not only by the witness of those that lived and walked with Him, but it has been declared by the life and martyred deaths of not only His Apostles but millions of believers that have lived and died trusting the living word of God through the past two thousand years.

Let each of us take special time this Christmas season to meditate, pray, and give humble thanks for this great bible mystery, the incarnation of our wonderful Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

