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St. Athanasius on the Meaning of Christmas

We're sometimes asked "Are you sure the adoption of humanity is the gospel? I've never heard it before." In this light we find it helpful to look at the writings of other Christians who have expressed the gospel clearly.

Athanasius of Alexandria, writing in the 4th Century, had the following to say about the Son's incarnation:

Naturally also, through this union of the immortal Son of God with our human nature, *all men were clothed with incorruption in the promise of the resurrection*. For the solidarity of mankind is such that, by virtue of the Word's indwelling in a single human body, the corruption which goes with death has lost its power over all. You know how it is when some great king enters a large city and dwells in one of its houses; because of his dwelling in that single house, the whole city is honored, and enemies and robbers cease to molest it. Even so is it with the King of all; *He has come into our country and dwelt in one body amidst the many, and in consequence the designs of the enemy against mankind have been foiled* and the corruption of death, which formerly held them in its power, has simply ceased to be. For the human race would have perished utterly had not the Lord and Savior of all, the Son of God, come among us to put an end to death. (*On the Incarnation*, Chapter 2, paragraph 9. Emphases ours.)