

Theology II: Person of Christ (Part 3)

Session 3 - Dr. Jeremy Kimble

Christology: Person Christ... Prophetised... Born... **Lived**... Died
Rose... Ascended (intercedes for us) ... Return.

- While the Gospels could easily be sufficient material for a lifetime of study, we will limit our exploration to several key points in His life and three aspects of His ministry.
 - Baptism
 - Temptation
 - Ministry and miracles
 - Transfiguration

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION: LIFE

- Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:31-34)
 - **This event is recorded in all three** Synoptic Gospels and is alluded to in the gospel of John. This is the point at which Jesus began His **public ministry**. And it is a ministry characterized by identification. In coming to John, Jesus identified Himself with the ministry of His forerunner. In coming for baptism, He identified Himself with **sinful humanity**; and in His response, God the Father, quoting from Psalm 2:7 and Isaiah 42:1, identified His Son as Messiah, but a Messiah who would live and die as a Suffering Servant.
- Period of temptation (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13).

*Then Jesus was led up by the **Spirit** into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (Who else spent time in the wilderness? Elijah, John, Israel) **After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.** The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these **stones to become bread.**" Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' Deut 8:3 " Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "**throw yourself down.** For it is written: "'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" (Satan quotes Psalm 91) Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Deut 6:15 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will **bow down and worship me.**" Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Deut 6:13 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.*

Matt 4:1-11

Every time Jesus is tempted he quotes Scripture... Deuteronomy 6 & 8. Moments recounted by Moses where Israel failed.

- The spirit is the One who led Jesus into this situation, which shows us that testing can be **divinely** sent to **strengthen** us (Rom 5:1-5; James 1:2-4).
- There is a comparison often made between the temptations faced by Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:6), the temptations listed in 1 John 2:16, and the three temptations faced by Jesus. However, it seems more accurate to see all three temptations, and the quotations Jesus uses from the OT to show that as the **Son of God** and **better Israel**, Jesus obeys God where they failed.

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been **tempted in every way**, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Heb 4:15 - Fully God - Fully Man*

*Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for **God cannot be tempted** with evil, and he himself tempts no one. James 1:13*

The temptations were external, real, legitimate. Internally as the God-man he's not going to sin in that kind of a way.

Impeccability - Jesus is not able to sin

Peccability - Jesus is able to sin (minority view)

Jesus did not sin and therefore can be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. Luke 3:21-22

And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness... And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. Lk 4:1,14

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and freedom to the prisoners, The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. Isaiah 61:1

But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Matt 12:28

Josh is a great swimmer and trains to break the distance record. One day, he's stopped by a cramp in his leg, worried he'll drown in open water, he asks Micah if he'd follow along behind him in his boat?? He goes on to break the record. 1. Why could Josh not have drowned? He had something there just in case. 2. Why didn't he drown? He didn't cramp up and kept swimming.

Why could Jesus not sin when tempted? He was God. Why didn't he? He was relying on the Spirit of God (filled with the Spirit, walking in the Spirit) to do what He was called to do and walk in obedience of the Father's will.

- Ministry and miracles (Matthew 9:35-37)

- He taught. He was a wandering teacher. It is His most **common activity**. Matthew's gospel is constructed around **five blocks** of teaching material (Matthew 5:1-7:28, 10:5-11:1, 13:3-53; 18:1-19:1; and 24:4-26:1).
- He preached the kingdom of God. He shows the Kingdom is both **present** and **future**. Certainly, the Kingdom is present in Jesus (Matt 12:28; Luke 17:21). In Jesus, the reigning power of God was present.

Kingdom: God's people (called by God, Christians, Believers) in God's place (kingdom embassies all over planet earth, local churches), under God's rule and reign... already but not yet.

- Yet the theme of His parables was that His presence did not signal the **immediate** end of oppression, the overthrow of Rome, and the final **victory** of righteousness. Rather, the mustard seed must grow; the leaven must work all the way through the dough; we must wait until the harvest at the end of the age (Matt 13). The Kingdom has already been **inaugurated**, but not yet **consummated**.
- He performed miracles. His miracles are interesting because he did not seek them out so much as they sought Him. **Demons** confronted Him, the **sick** sought Him. Moreover, while His deeds were **evidence** of His identity as God's Son, He did not perform miracles on demand as a sign.
- It seems that Jesus performed miracles for four reasons: (1) as a **sign** of the presence of the Kingdom of God (Matthew 12:28); (2) as a **response** to the human faith (Matthew 9:2, 22); (3) because He was moved with **compassion** (Luke 7:12-15; Matthew 9:35); and (4) in order to awaken **faith** (John 2:11).

- Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36; 2 Peter 1:16-18)
 - Some see this event as the **fulfillment** of the prophecy that some in Jesus' day would not face death before they saw the Son coming in His Kingdom, a prophecy which immediately precedes the transfiguration in all three synoptic accounts. It seems more likely that the **prophecy** is fulfilled at the **resurrection** and that the transfiguration is included to give us a glimpse of Christ's true glorious nature, a reminder that He is the fulfillment of the law and the prophets, and gives us another reaffirmation of the Son by the Father.

Why did Moses and Elija show up? Moses wrote The Law, Elija is the most important prophet. Jesus in Matt 5 said, "He's come to fulfill the law and the prophets"... He's operating as the new Moses. He's speaking prophetically. Deut 18.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS: DEATH

- This is the **focal point** of the New Testament. The Old Testament prophecies this (Isaiah 53; Luke 24:44). Approximately one-third of the material in the Gospels treats the last week, the cross and resurrection accounts. Paul calls the cross and the resurrection the most important points in the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:3). With all this emphasis, it is not surprising that there have been many **interpretations** of the **significance** of the death of Christ. We will consider this question in great detail when we turn to the work of Christ.

*For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received: that Christ **died** for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was **raised** on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. 1 Cor 15:3-4*
One of the best summaries of the Gospel.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION: RESURRECTION

- The resurrection lies clearly at the **heart** of the Christian faith. Without it, the **cross** loses its importance, and, as Paul says, our **faith** is in vain (1 Cor 15:17). With it, millions of Christians have faced death with a song on their lips. We will trace its **apologetic** importance and **theological** significance shortly; but for now, let us examine some of the key elements of the evidence for the resurrection.

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.
1 Cor 15:17

- Evidences: Witnesses

*And that he appeared to Peter, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers **at one time**, don't doubt this *most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.* 1 Cor 15:5-6*

- The expansion of the Gospel. Disciples died horrific deaths to spread the Good News.
- The biblical writers are **unanimous** in testifying that Jesus truly died.
- Jesus' friends **did not expect** a resurrection, despite the hints in the Old Testament (Psalm 16:10), and all Jesus has said (John 11:25).
- The tomb was **empty**.
- Christ **appeared** at least half a dozen times: to Mary Magdalene (John 20:11-18); on the Emmaus Road (Luke 24:13-32); in the Upper Room (John 20:19-23); to Thomas (John 20:24-29); in Galilee (John 21); and at His ascension (Acts 1:1-11).
- The early disciples preached the fact of the resurrection as the key point (Acts 2:24, 3:15, 4:10, 5:30). In the face of **persecution** and even **death**, they maintained this confession.
- Paul boldly put the resurrection at the heart of the gospel and claimed to have a vast number of **eyewitnesses** at the resurrection who were still alive and could testify to it (1 Corinthians 15:6).

Did Jesus Rise from the Dead? The best theories explaining the facts:

Swoon, Hallucination, Spiritual Resurrection, Theft, Wrong Tomb.

What is the most plausible explanation of the facts?

God raised Jesus from the dead. Visual Theology by Tim Challies

- Importance of the resurrection:
 - It **vindicates** the work of the Cross
 - It openly **proclaims** Christ as God's Son (Romans 1:4)
 - It **guarantees** our resurrection and victory over death
 - It is the **basis** for Christ's ascension and exaltation

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS: ASCENSION (Acts 1)

- We may wonder why Jesus ascended. Why didn't He go out into all the world and preach the gospel Himself? He didn't do so because His desire is for **faithful followers**, not **sign seekers**. Rather than going from place to place, He would send His Spirit into all the world, wherever His people go. So, it was good and necessary that Christ leave and send His Spirit (John 16:7-15).
- So, He **ascended** to the right hand of the Father where He intercedes as our **Great High Priest** (see Romans 8:34; Hebrews 2:14-18; Hebrews 4:14-16; Hebrews 7:20-25).

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS: RETURN

- There will come a day when Jesus will **return** to set up his **kingdom** to **rule** and **reign** forever (1 Thess 4:13-18; 5:1-11; 2 Thess 1:5-12).

since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. 2 Thess 1:6-10
He will glorify Himself when He returns in salvation and judgment.

- This is more a discussion for eschatology, so we will discuss it then.

THOUGHTS?

- He is the Son of God. He came to earth from heaven and gave his perfect human life as a ransom sacrifice. His death and resurrection made salvation to eternal life possible for those exercising faith in him. He is now ruling as King of God's heavenly Kingdom, which will soon bring peace to the entire earth. Jesus never claimed equality with God and thus is not part of a trinity.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I. John 14:28

Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." Rev 11:15

***For next time... Where would you go in the Bible to respond to this statement?