

29. The Fulfillment of Time

During the lengthy passage of time, God prepared mankind to receive a Redeemer. When the time was fulfilled, God sent His Son into the world as a Redeemer. The Gospels tell us the good news of His life and work.

"But when the fulness of time was come, God sent forth his Son." (Gal. 4:4)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

The Christmas Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

30. Jesus as Man

Jesus was born and grew up, felt weariness and hunger, joy and sorrow. In all things he was a man such as we are, but without sin.

"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man." (Luke 2:52)

"Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well." (John 4:6)

The Wedding of Cana: John 2:1-11.

"Which of you convinceth me of sin?" (John 8:46)

31. Jesus as an Individual

Jesus rejoiced over the greatness of His Father's creation work, and He was grieved upon seeing suffering and evil.

Jesus knew that God himself had given Him His task. Thus He was without fear and taught as one who had authority.

Jesus loved His people and its holy inheritance. At the same time He was completely independent of men.

"And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." (Matt. 6:28, 29)

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd." (Matt. 9:36)

"My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work." (John 4:34)

"He taught them as one that had authority." (Mark 1:22)

"And, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day." (Luke 4:16)

32. Jesus' Obedience

Jesus continually prayed to His Father, lived humbly before Him, and was obedient to His Will to the point of death.

"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." (Mark 1:35)

"And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed, Saying,

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Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me: nevertheless not my Will, but thine, be done." (Luke 22:41, 42)

"He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." (Phil. 2:8)

33. Jesus' Oppression

Obedient to the Father's will, Jesus had to face suffering, temptations, and the agony of death.

"Then saith he unto them My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me." (Matt. 26:38)

"And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lămä sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46)

"For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Heb. 4:15)

34. Jesus' Message

Jesus proclaimed the joyous message that in Him a new time had dawned for mankind. The kingdom of God had drawn near.

This kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and at the same time God's authority in men's hearts and lives. God's kingdom will appear in its fullness when Christ comes in His glory.

"I am come to send fire on the earth." (Luke 12:49)

"Jesus went and preached the kingdom of God, and said: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1: 14-15)

"The kingdom of God is within you [in your midst]." (Luke 17:21)

35. Jesus' Works

Jesus helped the suffering, healed the sick, and awakened the dead. With the power given by God, He forgave sins. These works were revelations of His love. At the same time they showed that the powers of God's kingdom were already operating.

A day in the life of Jesus: Mark 1: 21-34

Jesus awakens the son of the widow of Nain: Luke 7:11-17

"But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you." (Luke 11:20)

Jesus forgives sins: Mark 2:1-12

"A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench." (Matt. 12:20)

36. God's Grace

Jesus especially sought fellowship with such who were held to be unimportant and sinners. This comforted them, but offended others. In this way Jesus showed God's incomprehensible love, which seeks sinners and wishes to save them. This love, which becomes ours without our own merit, is called grace.

"For I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." (Matt. 9:13)

The friend of publicans and sinners: Matt. 11:19

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Parable of the great supper: Luke 14:15-24

Parable of the prodigal son: Luke 15:11-32

37. Jesus Christ

Jesus has fully proclaimed God's will and His salvation plan to us. Jesus' friends named Him teacher and prophet. But above all they believed that He was the promised Messiah. The Old Testament prophecies have been accomplished in Him. For himself He used the name the Son of man. It means the savior and ruler whom God had promised to send from heaven.

The name Jesus means Redeemer, Christ or Messiah means Anointed.

"We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." (John 1:45)

"The Prophet Daniel saw in a night vision, and, behold one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven." (Dan. 7:13)

"Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven." (Matt 26:64)

38. The Son of God

Jesus demonstrated that His relationship to the Father is different than anyone else's. He is the only Son of the Father, of whom the Scriptures testify, who has been with the Father before the founding of the world and into whose hand the Father has given all power in heaven and on earth.

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." (John 5:39)

"He that hath seen me hath seen the Father." (John 14:9)

Jesus said: "Father ... thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." (John 17:24)

"We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, through whom all things were made: who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man." (The Nicene Creed)