

Jesus, the Messiah

The New Testament: Week 1

October 13, 2013

DAY 1: Jesus, the Messiah arrives!

1. The long-awaited Messiah arrives. Below is the beginning of His ministry. **Underline** what strikes you:

Mark 1:1 The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. ² It is written in Isaiah the prophet: "I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"-- ³ "a voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'" ⁴ And so John came, baptizing in the desert region and preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁷ And this was his message: "After me will come one more powerful than I, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

⁹ At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." ¹² At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, ¹³ and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" 16 As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 17 "Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men." 18 At once they left their nets and followed him. 19 When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. 20 Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him. 21 They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. 22 The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. 23 Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, 24 "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are--the Holy One of God!" 25 "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" 26 The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. 27 The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching--and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him." 28 News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. ³⁰ Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. ³¹ So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them. ³² That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. ³³ The whole town gathered at the door, ³⁴ and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, ...

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed. ³⁶ Simon and his companions went to look for him, ³⁷ and when they found him, they exclaimed: "Everyone is looking for you!" ³⁸ Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else--to the nearby villages--so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." ³⁹ So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. ⁴⁰ A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." ⁴¹ Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" ⁴² Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured. ⁴³ Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning: ⁴⁴ "See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." ⁴⁵ Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.

DAY 2: Jesus, Fully God

1. The promise of a savior, the only One who could overcome the sin problem in every human heart was first promised back in the garden of Eden, just after Adam and Eve sinned!

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

2. God is speaking to Satan just after Satan tempted Eve.

a. Who is included in "her (Eve's) offspring?" _____

b. What does God promise Satan that Eve's offspring, called "he," will do to Satan?

c. What does God predict Satan will do to Eve's offspring? _____

d. What do you think is meant by "striking his heel?"

(Note: Genesis 3:15 may be confusing to you. If you had some trouble with this verse, the answers are at the bottom of this page)

3. Many people have different views of who Jesus is. Here are the ones you'll hear in our culture...

___ A good teacher

___ A moral man

___ A good example

4. Though Jesus may be all of these, they are NOT what's most important about Him!

Matthew 16:15 "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?"¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

a. "Christ" indicates divinity.

b. "Son of God" also indicates divinity.

c. Below are some prophecies, **underline** the words that indicate that the Messiah is no mere human being.

Micah 5:2 Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are small among the clans of Judah; One will come from you to be ruler over Israel for Me. His origin is from antiquity, from eternity.

Jeremiah 23:5 "The days are coming"—[this is] the Lord's declaration—"when I will raise up a righteous Branch of David. He will reign wisely as king and administer justice and righteousness in the land.⁶ In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. This is what He will be named: The Lord Is Our Righteousness.

Isaiah 9:6 For a child will be born for us, a son will be given to us, and the government will be on His shoulders. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

Answers to question #2:

a. The Messiah

b. The Messiah will crush Satan's head. This is a deathblow, a mortal wound. It's not fatal The Messiah will crush Satan's head. This is a deathblow, a mortal wound. It's not fatal yet, but *will be!*

c. Satan will strike the Messiah's heel. He will do damage to the Messiah.

d. Satan struck Jesus on His "heel" at the cross when he *thought* he did away with God's only Son.

DAY 3: JESUS, FULLY MAN AND FULLY GOD

1. In the following verses, **underline** the words or phrases that indicate Jesus was *fully man*:

John 4:6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour.

Matthew 4:2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

John 11:33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled.³⁴ "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied.³⁵ Jesus wept.

2. What difference does it make that Jesus was fully human?

3. How does this affect how you see Him?

4. Jesus was also fully divine. In the following verses, **underline** the words or phrases that indicate Jesus was fully **divine**:

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² *He was with God in the beginning.*

³ *Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.*

⁴ *In him was life, and that life was the light of men.*

⁵ *The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.*

John 20:31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Galatians 4:4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law,⁵ to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.

5. What difference does it make that Jesus was fully divine?

6. How does this affect how you see Him?

7. That Jesus was fully human *and* fully divine sets Him apart from every other religious leader!

DAY 4: THE FULFILLMENT OF GOD'S PLAN

Luke 24:44 He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

1. The setting for this statement is post-resurrection of Christ. Jesus is engaged in a dialogue with two disciples. They can hardly believe what they are seeing and hearing! Jesus? Alive?? How can that be? Jesus replies that this shouldn't be all that surprising!

2. Jesus gives for four reasons for why this should not have been surprising to anyone! Next to each reason listed below, jot down any thoughts you have about them:

This is what I told you while I was still with you:

Everything must be fulfilled

that is written about me

in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms

2. We've looked at some Old Testament prophecies of the coming Messiah. Today, we'll look at some New Testament verses that indicate the fulfillment of prophecy found in Jesus Christ.

3. Do you remember the first promise God made that a Messiah would come who would crush Satan's head?

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

4. Here's how the apostle Paul views this in two different epistles...

Colossians 2:15 And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

5. "Powers and authorities" in Colossians 2:15 refers to Satan and his host of demons. Paul mentions two things that happened at the cross, related to Satan and his plans. Comment below on each of them...

a. "made a public spectacle of them" -

b. "triumphing over them by the cross" -

Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

6. How does Romans 16:20 compare to Genesis 3:15?

7. What strikes you the most from today's study?

DAY 5: THE SOLUTION TO OUR SIN PROBLEM!

1. Underneath each verse, jot down your thoughts related to

a. Our sin problem

b. God's solution to our sin problem

Ephesians 2:1 As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins,

² *in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient.*

³ *All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.*

⁴ *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy,*

⁵ *made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions--it is by grace you have been saved.*

⁶ *And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,*

⁷ *in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*

⁸ *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--*

⁹ *not by works, so that no one can boast.*

¹⁰ *For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

"FOLLOW ME"

2. None of what we've studied this week is any good, unless we follow Him as our Savior and Lord.

3. We finish with a short passage from Acts. **Underline** what strikes you ...

Acts 3:18 But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Christ would suffer. ¹⁹ Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, ²⁰ and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you--even Jesus. ²¹ He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.