

Biblical Theology, Lesson 10

The Coming of Christ, Part 1: Life of Christ, from 1st to Second Coming

Read 1 Cor. 15:1-8

Last week, we traced the storyline of the Old Testament from David to the Exile, the end of the Exile, and then to the end of the Old Testament, with the Prophets. We looked at how even though it appeared that God's covenant to David and Israel failed, *God's promises did not fail*. He sent his prophets to proclaim this message to Israel, telling them to look ahead to the coming Messiah, who would fulfill all of God's promises and bring true salvation. And this Messiah did come: Jesus Christ the Lord.

The Old Testament era came to an end, and for over 400 years God did not speak any new words to his people. Then one day, during the time of the Roman Empire, a new prophet arose, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand!" This man was John the Baptist, the one who prepared the way for the great King, Jesus the son of David, the son of Abraham (Matthew 1:1).

I. Jesus's Birth

- Matthew 1:17-25
 - a. *Son of Abraham - born of Israel, Abraham's family*
 - b. *Son of David: Born of David's line*
 - c. *Son of God: born of the virgin Mary, by Spirit of God*
 - d. *INcarnation: fully God, fully Man*

II. Jesus's Life and Ministry

A. Sinless, perfectly righteous life

- i. Temptation of Christ (e.g. Matt. 4:1-11) - Representing Israel in the wilderness and Adam in the Garden of Eden, Jesus doesn't give into temptation to sin and doesn't listen to the lies of Satan; He perfectly trusts and obey God, even as a Man
- ii. **2 Cor. 5:21** says, "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."

B. Prophet

Jesus's public ministry was one of both teaching and miracles - and both were filled with the truth, power, and authority of God. Christ was a **prophet** - better than any prophet that ever came before Him. Prophets speak the Word of God - Jesus *is* God, revealed in the flesh! IN his

life, Jesus was God dwelling *what humanity* as a *human man*. And he authoritatively *taught* the Word of God and *demonstrated the power of God* in his life and ministry. Jesus proclaimed the message that God's promises were being fulfilled in him. He healed diseases and drove demons out of people. The kingdom foretold by the prophets had drawn near in his teachings and miracles - Jesus was ushering in the promised Kingdom of God.

C. King

Christ proved himself to be the Davidic King about whom the prophets foretold! He was truly a "King" who was bringing about a new "kingdom!" And he was ruling over that kingdom with absolute authority. His kingdom is over this entire world, and in this world he was pushing back the effects of sin with authority. He was healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, raising the dead, driving out demons, and much more! All of the bad things that came into the world when Adam and Eve sinned, Jesus was overcoming in this new kingdom. **Matt. 12:28** says, "But if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." This was Christ explaining that he was the Messiah, the Davidic King, and that he was bringing about the Eternal Kingdom foretold by the prophets.

D. Priest

Jesus is the mediator between God and man. He showed this in his life on earth, **interceding** for His people to God (**John 17.**)

As the great High priest, Jesus offering the ultimate sacrifice to make atonement for our sins - Himself.

III. Jesus's Suffering and Death

But he was ultimately rejected by his people and hung on a cross, where he died to face God's judgment in the place of all who would believe in him. Though he never committed any sin, he willingly laid down his life so that his people would never have to die under God's judgment. Christ died on the cross as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins - paying the penalty our sins deserved.

Col. 2:13-15 says, "And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, **14** by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. **15** He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him."

God nailed our sin debt to the cross! In other words, Christ **paid for our penalties** in his death. He bore the wrath of God that we deserved. Sin here is depicted as an infinite debt that we could never pay, but thanks be to God that Christ paid it for us!

The way that he made this payment *for us* was by dying **as our substitute**. He died in our place. He died “instead” of us!

IV. Jesus’s Resurrection

But He didn’t stay dead! On the third day, God raised him from the dead. The grave could not hold him! He rose from the grave and crushed Sin, Satan, and Death beneath His feet. And he did this *for us*!

Romans 4:25 says that he was “raised for our **justification**.” When Christ was raised from the dead, that was God essentially saying to his Son, “I approve of your perfect, eternal sacrifice. Well done, my Son. You have my approval.” And now, if we are trusting in Christ and his work on the cross, then that same approval, that justification, is applied to us! God approves of you if you are in Christ, and if you have any doubt about that, then you only have to look to the resurrection!

In his resurrection, Christ showed that he had **victory over sin and death!** 1 Cor. 15 says, “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. **57** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

V. Jesus’s Ascension

After rising from the grave, Jesus appeared to his disciples, gave them instructions about spreading the message about him, and then ascended into Heaven to sit at God’s right hand, where he is now enthroned as king (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John).

When Christ ascended to be with the Father, he was guaranteed **authority** over all things. The ascension shows just how awesome and powerful Christ is! He has all authority, over heaven and earth, and one day all things will fully be subjected to him. We have this sure hope because Christ has ascended to be with the father. (1 Corinthians 15:25ff).

Because Jesus ascended, He is right now at the right hand of GOD the Father **interceding** for us, His people (Rom. 8:34).

But the story didn’t end there.

VI. Jesus’s Second Coming

Jesus promised that He is coming again: **Matthew 24:29-31** (cf.. Acts 1:10-11).

Jesus ascended to Heaven, but one day he will return, and his rule will be clearly seen by all. He will judge his enemies and bring blessing to his people. He will usher in both eternal judgment for sinners and eternal salvation for all those who have been redeemed from our sins by trusting in the finished life and work of Jesus Christ - the gospel message that we've been walking through this morning.

We await that coming day by faith. We'll talk more about Christ's Second COming in a few weeks. But until He comes, our part is to be faithful to Christ and to bear witness to the world about him until he returns. The church is to be the place where the world sees a preview of the kingdom that is coming.