

# “An Overview of the Life of Christ”

▀ Countryside Bible Church, Southlake, TX  
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# “An Overview of the Life of Christ”: Introduction

**Introduction:** My approach this morning will be to highlight  
The Main Themes of His Life.

Three Periods: The Themes of His Personal Life are:

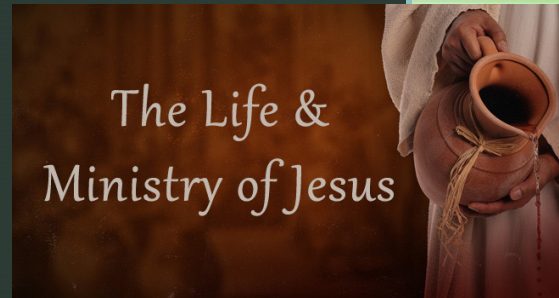
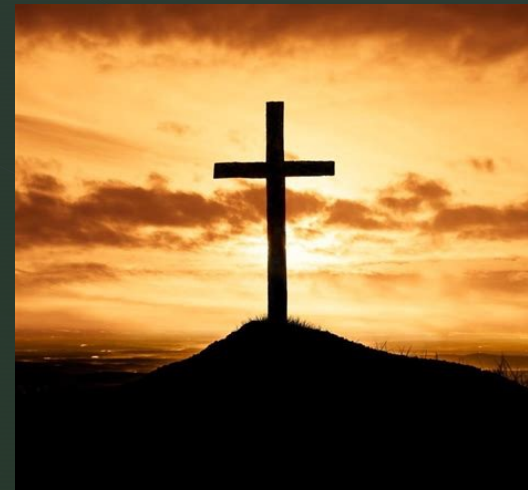
Epic Humility,



Patient Ministry,



Perfect Self-Sacrifice

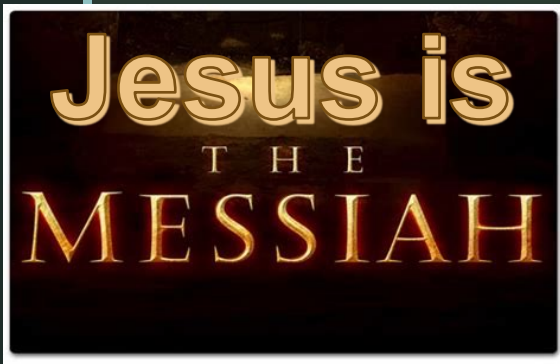


# “An Overview of the Life of Christ”: Introduction

As we go along, we will discover the

Theological Themes of His Life and Ministry . . .

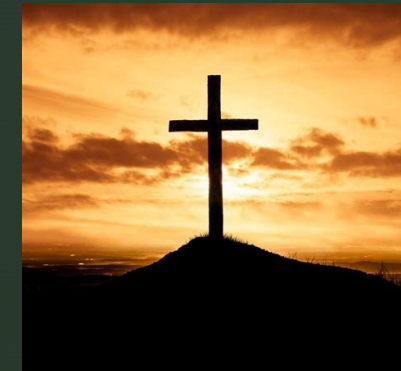
A Preview:



You know that hymn?

Yeah, problem is they  
didn't expect this!

Or this!





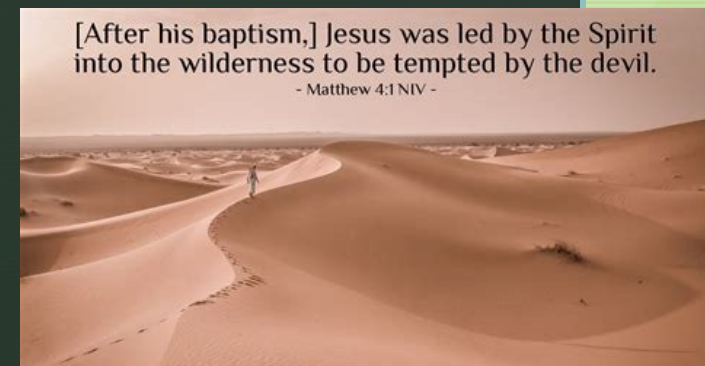
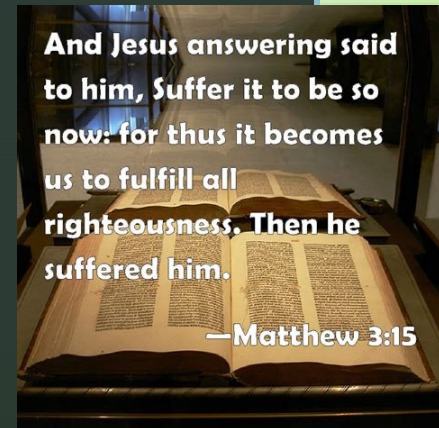
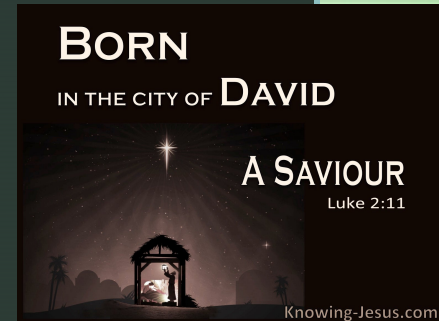
# “An Overview of the Life of Christ”: First Period

## First Period – The Time of His Preparation

1. Birth and Childhood – Here we see His Lowly Obscurity: Matthew 1 and 2 and Luke 1 and 2. Who were the Magi looking for (Matthew 2)?—we know! The Messiah!

2. Baptism – Shows us His Submissive Obedience: (Matt 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-23). Again, this was not what they expected the Messiah to be doing!

3. Temptation – A time of Lonely Victory: (Matt 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13). This is not where they expected the Messiah to start!



# “An Overview of the Life of Christ”: Second Period

Second Period – The Time of Ministry

Early Ministry – Mostly in Galilee, but some in Judea and Samaria.

(Calling His disciples, Matt 4:18-22; Mark 2:13-14; Luke 4:14-30; 5:1-11; John 1:29-4:54 – Nicodemus and Women at the Well are here . . .)

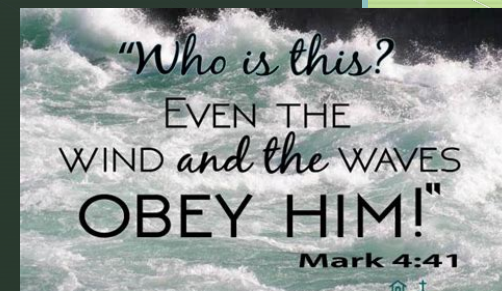
This period is characterized by

A Flurry of “Firsts” . . .



First Public Declaration (Nazareth, Luke 4:14ff), Calling His First Disciples, (Matt 4:18-22; Mark 2:13-14; Luke 5:1-11), First Miracle (Cana, John 2:1-11), First Conversations (John 3 and 4).

All of this is meant to provoke the question: **Who is this man?**



## “An Overview of the Life of Christ”: Second Period

2. Middle Ministry – Still Mostly in Galilee, but some significant ministry in Judea. This period is what most of the gospels are all about—here is the bulk of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

It has More Miracles, More Teaching (his Disciples) . . . depicts Him Serving the People . . . describes His Confrontation with the Opposition . . .

And yet this entire period can be described by the terms . . .  
Mostly Misunderstood.

Now . . . What is the main message of all that? . . . Listen, BOTH in His actual Life / Ministry AND in the narrative of the gospels . . . ALL of this has one overall message . . . *Yes, He really is the Messiah!*



“An Overview of the Life of Christ”:  
*Yes, He really is the Messiah!*

The Old Testament prophecies said the Messiah would come and be the King *and* that He would come and “save His people.”

They *were* expecting a King and they *were* expecting a Savior!

They expected BOTH!!

**BUT** they were **NOT** expecting BOTH in **TWO COMINGS!**

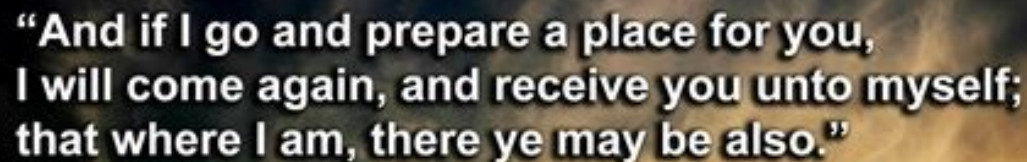


This is what we know and they didn't AND we need to keep that in mind as we read the Gospels!

“An Overview of the Life of Christ”:  
*Yes, He really is the Messiah!*

**AND** while they expected He'd come, be a King . . .  
and bring in the Kingdom . . . and they expect  
He'd bring “salvation” *after* being He established the  
Kingdom (First King, then Savior)

**BUT** He when He came the first time (as we well know!)  
He brought salvation first—esp. the forgiveness of sins!  
**AND** He promised to “return” (John 14)



“And if I go and prepare a place for you,  
I will come again, and receive you unto myself;  
that where I am, there ye may be also.”

John 14:2 (KJV)



## “An Overview of the Life of Christ”: *Yes, He really is the Messiah!*

So in Summary: . . . when He came there were two (or three) developments they were **NOT** expecting:

- 1) That there would be Two Comings to accomplish the work of the Messiah. Or . . .
- 2) That He would come as a Savior first! And bring in the Kingdom later . . .

[[and a 3<sup>rd</sup> unexpected development:

- 3) The mystery of the Church, the Body of Christ! Ephesians 3; this is not plan B! See Gen 12:3c! That's beyond our class topic today. ]]
- But that's not our topic!*

# “An Overview of the Life of Christ”: Second Period

2. Middle Ministry – (con’t) **So . . .** back to Jesus’ Life . . .

The Kingdom of Heaven is near – because the King is near!



~His **miracles** – healing diseases, power over nature, power over demons, the provision of prosperity (feeding 100’s) were the harbingers of the Kingdom. These are the evidences that the King has come!

~His **teaching** – was based in Scripture—looked forward to the Kingdom!

~His **disciples** – (and that includes us) were to “live-as-if” they were (because they were and we are) in the kingdom, they were to have the values, the morals, the goals, the devotion of citizens of the kingdom!

# “An Overview of the Life of Christ”: Second Period

3. Later Ministry – This is all about Preparing for The Cross.

But He still has time for people: The ones who “get it.”

~a man who was born blind (John 9:1-41),

~the little children (Matt 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17),

~raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-44),

~healing blind Bartimaeus Jericho (Matt 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43) (Even here the theme is *He is the Messiah!*)

~and everyone’s favorite Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10).



## ■ “An Overview of the Life of Christ”: Final Period: Passion Week

### Final Period – The Passion Week

1. A (not-so) Triumphal Entry (Matt 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-44; John 12:12-19). Which was the fulfillment of prophecy (Zech 9:9).

2. Days of Teaching and Confrontation and Final Rejection:

~He cleanses the temple (Matt 21:12-13; Mark 11:15-18)

~His authority is questioned (Matt 21:23-27; Mark 11:27-33;  
Luke 20:1-8)

~He teaches in the temple Matt 21:28-23:29; Mark 12:1-44;  
Luke 20:9-21:4)

All this is still reiterating the main messages—*He is the Messiah*, the King.

# “An Overview of the Life of Christ”: Final Period: Passion Week

Final Period – The Passion Week (con’t)

## 3. One Last Night of Fellowship and Preparation:

~The Last Supper (Matt 26:17-29; Mark 14:12-25;  
Luke 22:7-20; John 13:1-38).

~The Upper Room discourses (John 14, 15, 16).

~ Gethsemane Matt 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:40-46; cf. John 17)

## 4. Unjust Arrest and Trials: His arrest and phony trials:

(Matt 26:47-27:26; Mark 14:43-15:15; Luke 22:47-23:25; John 18:2-19:16).

## 5. Crucifixion and Death and Burial:

(Matt 27:27-66; Mk 15:16-47; Lk 23:26-56; Jn 19:17-42).



## ► “An Overview of the Life of Christ”: Final Period: Passion Week

**Summary:** Now, on the surface this —His arrest, trial, scourging, death is simply a Humiliating Tragedy. Of course, this is **NOT** from the perspective of the Plan of Redemption. Just the opposite.

Two features of the account of the Cross (and even the prophecies of Jesus leading up to it) are: **1)** Jesus was in control the whole time!  
And **2)** He was Fulfilling Scripture!

In John 10:15 He said, “I lay down My life . . .”

In Matthew 26 He told Peter He could have called more than twelve legions of angels, but He was doing everything to “fulfill the Scriptures.” (Matt. 26:53-54) (He had predicted it. He foretells His death Matt 16:21-26; Mark 8:31-37; Luke 9:22-25 and again He tells about his death and resurrection Matt 20:17-19; Mark 10:32-34; Luke 18:31-34)



# ■ “An Overview of the Life of Christ”: Final Period: Passion Week

Final Period – The Passion Week **Summary**: (con’t)

And . . . There is no explanation of what’s happening—that is there’s no “*Theory of the Atonement*” (e.g. Isaiah 53; Hebrews, 1 Peter 2:24).

This is here just because I needed an image to make this slide interesting.

## 3. Penal Substitution

“The view of Christ’s death presented here has frequently been called the theory of “*penal substitution*.” Christ’s death was “penal” in that He bore a penalty when he died. His death was also a “substitution” in that he was a substitute for us when He died. This has been the orthodox understanding of the atonement held by evangelical theologians, in contrast to other views that attempt to explain the atonement apart from the idea of the wrath of God or payment of the penalty for sin.” - Grudem, in *Systematic Theology*, 579

Christ’s death met our need:

1. We deserve to die as the penalty for sin. (sacrifice)
2. We deserve to bear God’s wrath against sin. (propitiation)
3. We are separated from God by our sins. (reconciliation)
4. We are in bondage to sin and to the kingdom of Satan. (redemption)

-Grudem, *ST*, 580

# “An Overview of the Life of Christ”:

## Final Period: Passion Week

Final Period – Passion Week (con’t)

And yet He is rejected! There was a finality to the rejection here as well.

6. Resurrection: Here is the climax of the theme “contrary to expectation!”  
The scenes move quickly: The scenes of . . .

~the empty tomb Matt 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-13; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

~the two going to Emmaus Mk 16:12-13; Lk 24:13-35

~Jesus appearing to the disciples Mk 16:14; Lk 24:36-43; Jn 20:19-31

~At the Sea of Galilee where Jesus talks with some of his disciples  
(esp. to Peter John 21:1-25) Here are scenes of Understated Glory.

Finally . . .

7. Ascension: Mysteriously Hopeful



Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.

Acts 1:11



## “An Overview of the Life of Christ”: **Conclusion**

**Conclusion:** What’s the overall theme? He’s really a man, fully human. He was much more. He was and Is the Messiah!

John says it clearly in John 1:11-12, and 14.

But there’s a theme I haven’t mentioned . . . He was fully man . . .

AND . . . He’s also the **Son of God**! Peter said it, (Matt 16:16); The centurion said it, (Mark 15:39); Jesus Himself affirmed it (John 8:58).

In fact, this was the whole point of John’s gospel. “So then, many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that by believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:30:31).



# “An Overview of the Life of Christ”

Having come to the end . . . Stop.

