

# Fly Through the Bible

## Part Two: Five Events

### **Introduction:**

In our first session we met five key people in the Old Testament;

- Adam, Abraham, Moses, David and Ezra,
- and we saw how they all point to one person, Jesus Christ.

We learn about the life of Jesus in the first four books in the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

- In this session, we will look at five events in the life of Jesus.
- He was born, He was tempted, He was crucified.
- He is risen, and He has ascended.

### **1. Born**

The birth of Jesus was the first evidence that He is unlike any other person who has ever lived.

- This is how it came about:
- Mary was a young woman preparing for marriage to a man named Joseph.
- God spoke to her through an angel, who appeared to her and said,

***“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.” (Luke 1:30–31)***

Mary was a virgin, so she asked, *“How will this be?”* (v. 34).

- The angel’s answer takes us to the heart of a wonderful mystery.

***“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.” (Luke 1:35)***

Mary could not have understood all that the angel said to her

- but, in an act of faith, she submitted herself to God’s plan:
- *“Behold, I am the servant of the Lord;*
- *let it be to me according to your word”* (Luke 1:38).

### **Jesus is God and man**

The name ‘Jesus means ‘Savior’

- and Jesus is able to save us
- because He is one with God and one with us.

The angel announced to Mary that her child would be “the Son of God” (Luke 1:35).

- Then, in a separate appearance to Joseph, Jesus was announced as
- *Immanuel*, which means “God with us” (Matthew 1:23).

Jesus has always shared the Father’s glory and the Father’s love (John 17:5, 24), but

***though he was in the form of God, [he] did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. (Philippians 2:6–7)***

The miracle of how God became a man is an unfathomable mystery,

- but it makes sense of everything else the Bible tells us about Jesus.
- If God became a man in Jesus, then His claims, His miracles, and His resurrection should bring no surprise.
- The incarnation is the mystery that makes sense of everything else.

## 2. Tempted

Jesus was 30 years of age, when He began His public ministry.

- He was baptized in the river Jordan,
- identifying Himself with men and women
- who seek to live for the glory of God.

The Holy Spirit descended on Jesus, and an audible voice from heaven said,

***“This is my beloved Son,  
with whom I am well pleased” (Matthew 3:17).***

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Jesus went into the desert, where He was tempted by the devil.

***And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil (Luke 4:1, 2).***

Notice that the Spirit ‘led’ Jesus into the desert.

- He was stalking the enemy.
- He had come into the world to destroy Satan’s work,
- and the first step in His public ministry was to confront our enemy and triumph where Adam had failed.

### ***The full force of the enemy***

Only Jesus knows the full power of temptation because only Jesus has withstood the full force of the enemy’s assault.

Imagine three airmen flying jets over enemy territory during a war.

- They are shot down, captured, and then taken by the enemy for interrogation.
- One by one they are brought into a darkened room.

The first airman gives his name, rank, and serial number.

- His captors ask him for the position of his forces.

- He knows that the enemy is cruel.
- So he tells them what he knows.

The second airman is determined not to give in.

- So the cruelty begins and eventually it overwhelms him.
- He breaks and tells them what he knows.

Then the third airman comes in. “You will not break me,” he says.

- “Oh yes, we will.
- We have broken every man who has ever come into this room.
- It is only a matter of time; you’ll see.”

The cruelty begins, but he does not break.

- So it is intensified, until it feels unbearable,
- but still he does not break.

Finally, there comes a point when they have tried everything they know.

- “It’s no use,” they say.
- “He is not like any other person we’ve had in this room.
- We can’t break him.”

Which of these airmen faced the full force of the enemy?

- Only the one who did not break.

So don’t ever think that Jesus’ temptations were less than yours.

- Jesus knows the full power of temptation,
- And He can give you the strength you need
- to prevail in your battle against it.

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*  
(Hebrews 4:15–16)

### ***The ministry of Jesus***

What followed was three years in which Jesus taught, performed miracles, and called people to follow Him.

- His message was clear: “Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 4:17).
- “Repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15).

Jesus’ disciples witnessed His power over nature, as He calmed a storm;

- over demons, as He released the oppressed;
- over disease, as He healed the sick;

- and even over the grave, as He raised the dead.

Many believed and followed Him,

- but there was also relentless opposition,
- which ultimately led to His arrest, trial, and crucifixion.

### 3. Crucified

Jesus was arrested by Roman soldiers, surrounded by a mob armed with swords and clubs.

- Then, in the course of a single night,
- He was dragged from one trial to another,
- before the high priest, the king, and the Roman governor Pontius Pilate.

Pilate pronounced Jesus innocent,

- but under pressure from the crowd, he had Jesus scourged,
- and when the crowd was not satisfied,
- he handed Jesus over to be crucified (John 19:16).

Man's sin reached its full horror and its most awful expression at the cross.

- We had disobeyed God's commands.
- Now we were crucifying God's Son.
- If ever there was a moment in human history when God's judgment had to fall, this was it.

Jesus knew that God's judgment would come, but He cried out,

- *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing"* (Luke 23:34).
- He was saying, "Don't let Your judgment fall on them; let it fall on Me.
- Let Me be the lightning rod for Your judgment on their sin."

#### ***Paradise is opened***

Two thieves were hanging on crosses, one on either side of Jesus.

Both joined the crowd in ridiculing Him (Matthew 27:44).

- But as death drew near,
- one of them seemed to have
- a new awareness that soon he would enter the presence of God,

He turned toward Jesus and said,

***"Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And Jesus said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:42-43)***

Paradise!

This man had made a tragic waste of his life, but Jesus promised him an immediate translation, through death, into a life of undiluted joy.

- Suddenly this man, who had been on the brink of hell
- found that, because of Jesus, he was about to enter the joy of heaven.

#### ***The sun stopped shining***

After 3 hours of agony on the cross, Jesus entered into the heart of His suffering.

***It was now about the sixth hour,  
and there was darkness over the whole land  
until the ninth hour, (Luke 23:44)***

In these hours of darkness, Jesus bore our guilt and absorbed God's wrath.

- He endured all this alone, without the comfort of His Father's love.
- And in the depth of His suffering, He cried out,
- "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Mark 15:34).

God tells us what Jesus was doing in that awful darkness:

***He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree. (1Peter 2:24)***

***He was pierced for our transgressions;  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace,  
and with his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)***

***The LORD has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:6)***

### ***Death is subdued***

After three hours, the darkness passed.

- The judgment poured out on Jesus was exhausted and spent.
- Justice was satisfied, and
- Jesus shouted in triumph, "It is finished" (John 19:30).

All that was needed to redeem God's people had been accomplished:

- Forgiveness was released, condemnation was removed,
- and heaven was opened for all who would trust in Jesus.

Then Jesus called out with a loud voice,

- "'Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!'
- And having said this, he breathed his last" (Luke 23:46).

### ***Transition***

Jesus was given an honored burial.

- Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the Jewish ruling council, asked Pilate for the body of Jesus
- and assisted by Nicodemus, he took the body down from the cross and prepared it for burial.
- Together, they laid it in a tomb and rolled a large stone in front of the entrance.

## 4. Risen

Early on the first Easter morning, a group of women went to the tomb to pack spices around the body of Jesus.

- They knew that the tomb had been sealed with a stone
- and they were wondering who might help them to get in.
- But when they arrived, they found that the stone had been rolled away and that the tomb was empty.

An angel appeared to them and said,

***“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said.  
(Matthew 28:5-6)***

### ***The resurrection appearances***

The first disciples came to faith through multiple encounters with the risen Lord.

- Jesus appeared to Mary Magdalene,
- to the other women at the tomb, to Peter,
- and to two disciples who were walking on the road to Emmaus

Then Jesus appeared to His disciples who had gathered together on the evening of that first easter day.

***Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, “Peace to you!”  
But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit.  
And he said to them, “Why are you troubled,  
and why do doubts arise in your hearts?”***

***See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see.  
For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”  
And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet.  
(Luke 24:36-40)***

Thomas had not been present on this occasion. He said to them,

- *“Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails . . .*
- *and place my hand into his side,*
- *I will never believe” (John 20:25).*

Eight days later our Lord appeared to the disciples again, and this time Thomas was with them.

- Jesus said to Thomas:
- *“Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side” (John 20:27).*
- What else was there for Thomas to do than to fall on his knees and confess, *“My Lord and my God!” (John 20:28)?*

Jesus did not write Thomas off because he refused to believe.

- He reached out to Thomas and led him to faith.
- If you have felt that you could not believe.
- Jesus is ready to do the same for you.

So, how do **we** encounter the risen Lord?

John answers that question directly.

***These are 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 20:31)***

Christian faith is not a blind leap in the dark.

- The evidence on which we can take
- a reasoned step of faith in Jesus
- is placed before us in the Gospels.

### ***The resurrection body***

The good news is not simply that Jesus is alive, but that Jesus has risen!

- It is worth thinking about the difference.

The Son of God was alive in heaven before He took human flesh.

So why did He not simply leave His crucified body in the tomb and return to the Father?

- The angels could still have appeared on Easter morning and said,
- “His body is here in the tomb, but don’t worry, His spirit is with the Father in heaven.”
- After all, isn’t that precisely what we say at a funeral when a Christian dies?

But that’s not what we find in the Gospels. Jesus said,

***“For this is the will of my Father,  
that everyone who looks on the Son  
and believes in him should have eternal life,  
and I will raise him up on the last day.” (John 6:40)***

Jesus came into the world, not to save a part of us, but to redeem the whole of us.

- He came to bring us, soul and body, into the joy of His presence forever.

## **5. Ascended**

Jesus appeared to the disciples again on a mountain in Galilee, and said, .

***“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in  
the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,  
teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:18–20)***

This commission is not only for the first disciples,

- but for all of Jesus’ disciples in every generation.

As we pursue His commission, Jesus gives us this promise:

***“Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)***

### **Jesus is in heaven**

The last time Jesus appeared to His disciples was at the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

Luke records that

***as they were looking on, he was lifted up,  
and a cloud took him out of their sight. (Acts 1:9)***

We might think that the disciples would be devastated by the departure of Jesus,

- but Luke tells us that that they
- “returned to Jerusalem with great joy” (Luke 24:52).

Why would the disciples have joy when Jesus left them?

Suppose you are in prison, charged with a serious crime.

- Your attorney is a man of great compassion,
- and when He visits your cell, you draw comfort from His presence.

But you need more from your attorney than his comfort in the cell.

- You need him to represent you in the courtroom.

When Jesus ascended, the disciples were filled with joy, because they knew that in heaven, He would speak to the Father on their behalf.

The book of Hebrews tells us that

***He is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God  
through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:25)***

Jesus is in heaven interceding for us, and what Jesus asks, the Father gives.

- So you can be sure that you will have
- all that you need for all that you face
- in every circumstance of your life.

### **Jesus will return**

When Jesus ascended, an angel appeared to the disciples and said,

***“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven?  
This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven,  
will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11)***

Jesus is in heaven now, but He has promised that He will return:

He said to the Father,

***Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me,  
may be with me where I am, (John 17:24)***

And He says to us:

***“I will come again and will take you to myself,***

*that where I am you may be also” (John 14:3).*

**Word Count**

- **2660 words**
- And 90 words introduction.

Intro 90

- Born 358
- Tempted 519
- Crucified 609
- Risen 615
- Ascended 449