

TH620 Biblical Theology

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FINAL EXAM

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Jesus's life events can be traced in the light of the history of salvation. Jesus' purpose of coming to earth is for the salvation of the world. John 3:16-17 states, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the World to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." The life of Christ reflects the fulfillment of this scripture and Old Testament prophecies depict the life of Christ as the Savior of the World. Journeying with Christ from His baptism to transfiguration, to the moment of passion, to the resurrection to His ascension, the fulfillment of Pentecost and the expectation of His triumphant return all shows the redemptive work of Christ.

The gospel of John shows the deity of Christ explaining that He is the Word that has always been since the beginning of time, but He comes in the flesh as the Living Word for the salvation, healing and deliverance of man. His cousin John the Baptist, describes Him as the Lamb of God, who comes to take away the sins of the world. He warns the people with an ongoing sermon to repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand.

According to Webster's Dictionary, Baptism is defined as a Christian sacrament marked by ritual use of water and admitting the recipient to the Christian community. Goldwater notes, "At his baptism, the Spirit came on Jesus with respect to his task as the Savior. The disciples, if they were believing Jews, had the Spirit with respect to the foreshadowing of Jesus in the Old Testament covenant.<sup>1</sup> Baptism is a ritual used to show conversion, Jesus leaves this as an example of one being converted into Him testifying of repentance. The Spirit of the Lord, and

**1 According to plan: the unfolding revelation of God in the Bible**

Goldsworthy - InterVarsity Press - 2002 (pg. 214)

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symbol of the dove shows the Holy Spirit sealing who Christ is, and preparing Him to perform the duties assigned to His life. The symbolism of change is shown in baptism, but later seen in the act of transfiguration.

Transfiguration is seen throughout the synoptic gospels, but greatly highlighted in Mark 9: 2-8. Peter, James and John are there to witness being transfigured on the mountain. The scripture describes his clothing becoming whiter than snow. The moment of transfiguration shows the divine nature of Christ. It shows exaltation of Christ over Moses and Elijah as leaders. He surpasses Moses and Elijah in authority and power, showing that the Messiah has full authority. The change that came from Christ. Transfiguration brings Christ to the point of passion.

The Passion of Christ shows His death, burial and suffering that He experiences on the cross. There are many things in scripture that capture this moment. Isaiah is one of the Old Testament books that captures the upcoming sufferings of Christ during the passion. Isaiah 53 says “But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. And they made His grave with the wicked But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor *was any* deceit in His mouth. Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him;

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He has put *Him* to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see *His* seed, He shall prolong *His* days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.” This Old Testament gives an insight as the passion moment of what Christ will experience to bring salvation to the world.

The pain of the passion is all noted in the capturing of the seven last Word of Christ on the cross. Father forgive them, for they know not what they do. Today thou shalt be with me in paradise, Woman behold thy son, My God My God, why how thou forsaken me? I thirst, It is finished and Father, into thy hands I commend my Spirit. These words show the human side and expressions of Christ as he suffers and dies on the cross. These words speak volumes of his passion at the cross. These all point to the pain and anguish expressed verbally all the bring salvation to a dying world.

Goldsworthy states, “The ascension of Jesus and Pentecost mark the point of transition. The focus is never removed from Jesus, but it is now widened to include people being united with him and sharing in his relationship with God and the kingdom.” Acts 1:1-11 records the ascension of Christ. Forty days post the resurrection Christ returns to heaven. The disciples have to see the moment to show that Christ is God, and His home is in heaven. The ascension of Christ releases the promise of the Spirit of God to come as promised. Since Christ is no longer physically present, He sends the Holy Spirit for the people to move forward and not left comfortless. The ascension of Christ moves the next work of Pentecost for the people to experience.

Goldsworthy notes that, “Pentecost then involves an experience unique to the disciples, for it marks a point of transition.” The transition is seen from Christ leaving and the Spirit of

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God coming at Pentecost. Pentecost notes the birth of the Church and empowerment of believers to become witnesses in accordance to Acts 1:8. The believers are living the promises of Christ post the Holy Spirit. The Apostles Peter and Paul are examples and testimonies of the power and promises of God to do the work of God. The Spirit of Truth is essential to prepare believers for the triumphant entry of Christ at His second coming.

The Triumphant return is the fact that Christ returns for His bride the church that is birth at Pentecost. He is coming for those who died in Christ shall return and those remaining should be raptured and caught up bringing all into the phase of eternal salvation. The day of the Lord is part of the prophecy to be fulfilled, through eschatologically occurrences for the eternal salvation for all the believers. The final act of following Christ at the anticipated last act happening will seal the plan of salvation for mankind.

In all Goldworthy states, “Many Christians will recognize the words justification, sanctification and glorification as applying to these three aspects of salvation.” Christ life serves as the primary purpose to fulfill the prophecies of the Old Testament, bring the love of God to man as expressed in the gospels and to fulfill the assignment God sent Him on the earth for. All for the Salvation of man. Romans is a letter written by Paul speaks so profoundly about the doctrine of soteriology. Romans 10:9 states, “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”

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