

## MASTER OUTLINE NUMBER SIX

### The Unique Jesus

When, at the close of the third year of Christ's ministry, the chief priests and Pharisees sent their soldiers to arrest Christ, they came back empty-handed. Their testimony showed that they had been emotionally, morally, and spiritually stunned. They reported, "No man ever spoke like this Man!" (John 7:46). Upon hearing Christ for themselves and being overpowered by His words and His ethical fortitude, such an awe of Him was felt that these temple guards could not bring themselves to apprehend Him, either as a common criminal or as a false Christ.

He possessed qualities of moral integrity and divine righteousness that marked Him as different from all men-different from the rabbis-and indeed a Prophet sent from God. His claims went beyond those made by any rabbi; His teachings sparkled with the luster of truth and godliness; His holiness was unremitting; yet His compassion for the fallen was genuine and offered the forgiveness of the Lord. His understanding of the Law, even at the age of twelve, "astonished" the rabbis, already caught in their own web of self-righteous legalism (Luke 2:42, 46, 47). His prayer life quietly and modestly surpassed that of Hezekiah. He did signs and miracles beyond those of both Elijah and Elisha, miracles such as had not been seen in Israel in the fifteen centuries since the Exodus. Yet He called Himself "meek" and was not boastful.

Although He was a Man, He was unique and set apart from all others. He alone possessed and displayed the credentials of the promised Messiah that was to come into the world. These credentials were the out workings of His perfect moral character. He was the Messiah, and He was in the world; His words, deeds, and manner of life authenticated His divine mission and office (John 1:10-12, 14; 7:46; Mark 1:22).

Let us examine some of the ways in which Jesus was unique, which set Him apart and above all other possible messianic claimants (Matt. 24:4, 5).

- 6-A. He Was Unique in His Person (Hebrews 1:1-13)
- 6-B. He Was Unique in His Birth (Luke 1:26-35)
- 6-C. He Was Unique in His Ministry (Mark 1:21-28)
- 6-D. He Was Unique in His Death (John 19:16-30)
- 6-E. He Was Unique in His Resurrection (John: 20:1-31)
- 6-F. He Was Unique in His Ascension (Acts 1:1-9)
- 6-G. He Will Be Unique in His Second Coming (Matthew 16:27)

### *God's Supreme Revelation*

#### **6-A. He Was Unique in His Person**

**G**OD, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets,

2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; Or *ages*, Gr. *aiōnes*, *aeons*

3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, *deansed* Ps. 68:18; 110:1

4 having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they. [Phil. 2:9, 10]

### *The Son Exalted Above Angels*

5 For to which of the angels did He ever say: "*You are My Son, Ps. 2:7 Today I have begotten You*"? And again; "I will *be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son*"? 2 Sam. 7:14

6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: [Rom. 8:29] "*Let all the angels of God worship Him.*"

7 And of the angels He says: "*Who makes His angels spirits Ps. 104:4 And His ministers a flame of fire.*"

8 But to the Son He *says*: "*Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; Ps. 45:6,7 A scepter of righteousness is the scepter of Your kingdom.* A ruler's staff

9 *You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You Ps. 45:7; Is. 61:3 With the oil of gladness more than Your companions.*" 1:6 Deut. 32:43 LXX, DSS; Ps. 97:7; 1 Pet. 3:22; Rev. 5:11-13

IO And: "*You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.* Ps. 102:25-27

11 "*They will perish, but You remain; And they will all grow old like a garment;* [Is. 34:4] • Is. 50:9; 51:6]

12 *Like a cloak You will fold them up, And they will be changed. But You are the same, And Your years will not fail.*" Heb. 13:8

13 But to which of the angels has He ever said: "*Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool*"? Ps. 110:1

**6-A. He Was Unique in His Person (Hebrews 1:1-13)**-These verses worshipfully proclaim the uniqueness of Jesus as the Son of God, the Christ, the God-Man, whose coming into the world was prophesied. They reveal the glory of His Godhead by proving through biblical citations His superiority over even the heavenly angels (vv. 4, 5, 7, 13). Christ is "so much better than the angels" (v. 4); therefore He stands uniquely above every man, prophet, or king who ever lived or will live.

(1) "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets" (v. 1). God had already communicated frequently with mankind in various ways. But now, from Jesus the God-Man's birth to the coming of His kingdom, He stands as God's complete and final message to a lost world. On the Mount of Transfiguration God said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!" (Matt. 17:5).

(2) "Whom He has appointed heir of all things" (v. 2). Jesus, the God-Man, is the heir to God's entire universe. All born-again believers are joint heirs with Him (Rom. 8:17).

(3) "Through whom also He made the worlds" (v. 2). With the Father and the Spirit, Jesus was the co-Creator of all things (John 1:3). He is the preexistent Creator, i.e., He is God. Paul tells us, "For by Him all things were created" (Col. 1:16).

(4) "Who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person" (v. 3). Jesus is the outflowing of the glory of the Father, and expresses the perfect character of God. He, the Father, and the Holy Spirit are one in essence (John 10:30).

(5) "And upholding all things by the word of His power" (v. 3). Jesus, the God-Man, sustains the universe, exercising all power (authority) over the entire creation. He is sovereign (Matt. 28:18).

(6) "When He had by Himself purged our sins" (v. 3). Jesus, the God-Man, is the only Savior (Acts 4:12), having suffered the penalty for all sinners (Is. 53:1-5).

(7) "Sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high" (v. 3). Jesus, the God-Man, is the only mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5). As our High Priest He intercedes for us at the right hand of the Father (Heb. 4:14-16).

See Luke 1:26-35 for **Point 6-B: He Was Unique in His Birth.**

## *Christ's Birth Announced to Mary*

### **6-B. He Was Unique in His Birth**

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. Is. 7:14 • Matt 1:18

28 And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord is with you; \*blessed *are* you among women!"

29 But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Luke 1:12

30 Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Luke 2:52

31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. Is. 7:14 • Matt. 1:21, 25; Luke 2:21

32 "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. Mark 5:7

1:28 NU omits *blessed are you among women* 1:29 NU omits *when she saw him*

33 "And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." [Dan. 2:44] • Ps. 89:36, 37]

34 Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

35 And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

**6-B. He Was Unique in His Birth (Luke 1:26-35)**-Adam, the first man; was not born: he was made from the dust of the earth. Eve, the first woman, was not born: she was taken from the man. All other human beings were born of human parents, except the God-Man, who had no earthly father. Conceived apart from the seed of sinful man, He had a perfect, sinless human nature (John 1:14; 1 Tim. 3:16). Not only His conception, but also the circumstances surrounding His birth were unique, beyond even those that accompany the birth of earthly kings.

(1) · He was born of a virgin, as prophesied by Isaiah seven hundred years before (Matt. 1:22, 23; *cf.* Is. 7:14). Note that the "of whom" of Matthew 1:16 is feminine singular in the original Greek, indicating that Jesus was physically born of Mary, not of Joseph.

(2) He was the incarnate God (born in flesh). Isaiah called Him "Immanuel" ("God with Us"), meaning that He was the preexistent, eternal God, now in a human body (Is. 7:14).

(3) He was born in the city of Bethlehem, as prophesied by Micah seven hundred years before (Matt. 2:4-6; *cf.* Mic, 5:2).

(4) His birth was announced by angels (v. 26; Luke 2:9-11).

(5) His birth occurred several weeks after the birth of John the Baptist, who had been announced by the angel Gabriel as the forerunner of the Messiah (vv. 11-19; John 1:6, 7, 23).

(6) He was born as a Man, sharing the lot of men; He was poor, born in a stable and cared for in a feeding trough (Luke 2:7). Yet this son of lowly Galileans was worshiped by kings (Matt. 2:2, 9-11).

(7) His birth was signaled by a once-in-history star which guided the wise men from the east to Him (Matt. 2:1, 2, 7).

(8) Hosts of angels gave forth praises at His birth, and shouted proclamations of coming "peace," while shepherds flocked to catch a glimpse of His face (Luke 2:8-16).

(9) Satan prepared a murderer to slay the Christ child at birth: Herod the Great, a foreigner-king. Herod's sinful hands were already drenched with the blood of rivals and of the whole royal house of the Hasmoneans, the previous Hebrew ruling line. He was a hardened and ready agent for the murder of the Bethlehem children (Matt. 2:3-18).

(10) His birth was uniquely hailed by two aged holy persons, Simeon and Anna. Seeing the babe presented to the Lord in the temple, they identified Him through the Spirit of God as the Messiah Who was to bring deliverance to His people (Luke 2:25-38).

(11) Just prior to His birth an angel gave Him the name "Jesus" (the Greek form of the Hebrew *Jeshua*, "Jehovah Saves"), with the announcement, "For He will save His people from their sins," thus announcing the unique purpose for which He came (Matt. 1:21).

See Mark 1:21-28 for **Point 6-C: He Was Unique in His Ministry.**

## *Jesus Casts Out an Unclean Spirit*

### **6-C. He Was Unique in His Ministry**

**21** Then they went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and taught. Luke 4:31-37 • Matt. 4:23

22 And they were astonished at His teaching, for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. Matt 7:28, 29

23 Now there was a man in their synagogue with an unclean spirit. And he cried out,

24 saying, "Let *us* alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are--the Holy One of God!" James 2:19 • Ps. 16:10

25 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "**Be quiet, and come out of him!**" lit. Be muzzled

26 And when the unclean spirit had convulsed him and cried out with a loud voice, he came out of him. Mark 9:20

27 Then they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? What new "doctrine *is* this? For with authority He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey Him." teaching

28 And immediately His fame spread throughout all the region around Galilee.

**6-C. He Was Unique in His Ministry (Mark 1:21-28)**-He preached with such absolute authority that He was recognized both by His followers and by the self-righteous Pharisees and scribes as being different from all the rabbis who had ever gone before. He was not, as some believed, just another rabbi. His ministry was unique in that

(1) He was the greatest teacher who ever lived. His Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5-7), His "lord's Prayer" (Matt. 6:9-13), His Olivet Discourse (Matt. 24-25), and His wonderful parables, such as that of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), are unmatched by any religious or secular teacher who ever lived.

(2) He performed the mightiest miracles (Mark 6:35-44). Christ fed the 5,000; He also fed another 4,000. He quieted storms more than once, caused miraculous drafts of fish to be pulled into nets, healed countless multitudes, walked on water, cast out demons, raised the dead, and turned water into wine. Some said He was Elijah (Luke 9:8)-but He was far greater than even Elijah.

(3) Jesus was the greatest healer. He cured an adult who was blind from birth (John 9:30-33).

He made the deaf to hear, the crippled to walk, and cleansed the lepers (Matt. 11:5). He healed the palsied and cast out demons (Matt. 4:24), and on three occasions He even raised the dead (Luke 7:11-17; 8:40-56; John 11:39-44).

(4) Jesus made messianic claims for Himself which were never made by any other prophet or rabbi (John 5:19-30). Jesus said that like the Father, He Himself had power to give life and that He would be the final judge of men on Judgment Day. He said, "He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Him" (John 5:23). These are not the sayings of mere rabbis or prophets; they are messianic claims.

(5) Jesus was absolutely holy and sinless in His person, His actions, and His standards. He spoke of His own sinlessness: "Which of you convicts Me of sin?" (John 8:46). Even the Roman governor Pontius Pilate confessed Christ's righteousness as he publicly washed his hands in water, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person" (Matt. 27:24).

(6) He was a friend of sinners, offering them salvation (Luke 7:44-50). Christ was even called by His self-righteous foes "a friend of [the hated] tax collectors and sinners!" (Luke 7:34).

(7) His ministry alone fulfilled the Old Testament messianic prophecies in Luke 4:16-22. Christ declared that by preaching the good news of God's forgiveness He was fulfilling Isaiah 61:1. Of history's messianic claimants, only He fulfilled Zechariah 9:9 which said that the Messiah was to enter Jerusalem triumphantly, riding upon a colt (Mark 11:7-

11). Even when His own people rejected His ministry, they were fulfilling prophecy (Is. 53:3).

See John 19:16-30 for **Point 6-D: He Was Unique in His Death.**

## 6-D. He Was Unique in His Death

16 Then he delivered Him to them to be crucified. So they took Jesus and led Him away. Luke 23:24

### *The King on a Cross*

17 And He, bearing His cross, went out to a place called *the* Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha, Num.15:36

18 where they crucified Him, and two others with Him, one on either side, and Jesus in the center. Ps. 22:16-18; Matt. 20:19; 26:2

19 Now Pilate wrote a title and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was: Matt. 27:37

JESUS OF NAZARETH,

THE KING OF THE JEWS.

20 Then many of the Jews read this title, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city; and it was written in Hebrew, Greek, *and* Latin.

21 Therefore the chief priests of the Jews said to Pilate, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but, 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews.'""

22 Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

23 "Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took His garments and made four parts, to each soldier a part, and also the tunic. Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece. Luke 23:34

24 They said therefore among themselves, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be," that the Scripture might be fulfilled which says:

*They divided My garments among them,* Ps. 22:18

*And for My clothing they cast lots."* Therefore the soldiers did these things.

### *Behold Your Mother*

25 Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the *wife* of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, "**Woman, behold your son!**" John 13:23; 20:2; 21:7, 20, 24 • John 2:4

27 Then He said to the disciple, "**Behold your mother!**" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own *home*.

## *It Is Finished*

28 After this, Jesus, \*knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, "**I thirst!**"

29 Now a vessel full of sour wine was sitting there; and they filled a sponge with sour wine, put *it* on hyssop, and put *it* to His mouth. Ps. 69:21; Matt. 27:48, 50

30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, "**It is finished!**" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.  
Zech. 11:10,11

**6-D. He Was Unique in His Death (John 19:16-30)**-Though He underwent the greatest of public indignations as well as physical agonies, Christ's faultless behavior at His death has testified through the ages that "certainly this was a righteous Man!" (Luke 23:47). Nowhere in history or literature is there a nobler account than that of Jesus facing the cross and then dying upon it:

(1) As Messiah He died for His people's sins, fulfilling David's detailed prophecy written a thousand years before (Ps. 22), and that of Isaiah seven hundred years before (Is. 52:13-53:12). Zechariah, about 450 B.c., foresaw His death as a death by piercing (Zech. 12:10).

(2) Jesus Himself prophesied that He would be put to death, and that His death would be for the sins of many (Mark 10:45; cf. Matt. 16:21).

(3) He died as the Passover Lamb, His innocent blood shed for the sins of mankind (John 1:29). In the breaking of His body and in the outpouring of His blood, He saw the Passover Lamb's atonement at last fulfilled (1 Cor. 11:24, 25).

(4) He died voluntarily, obeying the Father's will: "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself" (John 10:17, 18). Had He wished to resist His captors He could have summoned twelve legions of angels to fight for Him-but He did not (Matt. 26:52-54).

(5) God the Father hid His face from the Son at Calvary, for Jesus, though He had never sinned, was at that time bearing the sins of the world (Matt. 27:46; cf. 2 Cor. 5:21).

(6) Even as He endured the agony of crucifixion He publicly asked forgiveness for His enemies: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34).

(7) His upright and holy conduct at the cross even caused one of the two thieves crucified beside Him to accept Him as Savior and find eternal forgiveness. Such was the unique testimony and power of His dying (Luke 23:34-43)!

See John 20:1-31 for **Point 6-E: He Was Unique in His Resurrection.**

## **6-E. He Was Unique in His Resurrection**

20 Now on the first *day* of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw *that*

the stone had been taken away from the tomb.

2 Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." John 21:23, 24

3 Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. Luke 24:12

4 So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first.

5 And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying *there*; yet he did not go in. John 19:40

6 Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying *there*,

7 and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself.

8 Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. John 21 :23, 24

9 For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

10 Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

### *Mary Magdalene Sees the Risen Lord*

11 But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down *and looked* into the tomb. Mark 16:5

12 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

13 Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid- Him."

14 Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing *there*, and did not know that it was Jesus. John 21:4

15 Jesus said to her, "**Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?**" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away."

16 Jesus said to her, "**Mary!**" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher). John 10:3

### **The Day of Atonement in the New Testament**

17 Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God." Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9

18 Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and *that* He had spoken these things to her.

### *The Apostles Commissioned*

19 Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "**Peace be with you.**" John 9:22; 19:38 • John 16:16

20 When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the

Lord.

21 So Jesus said to them again, " **Peace to you! As the father has sent Me, I also send you.**" John 17:18,19

22 And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, "**Receive the Holy Spirit.**" John 16:20-22

23 "**If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.**" Matt. 16:19; 18:18

### *Seeing and Believing*

24 Now Thomas, called the Twin, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 The other disciples therefore said to him, "We have seen the Lord." So he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands- the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

26 And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "**Peace to you!**"

27 Then He said to Thomas, "**Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand *here*, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.**"

28 And Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Jesus said to him, "**Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed *are* those who have not seen and yet have believed.**" 1 Pet. 1:8

### *That You May Believe*

30 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; John 21:25

31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. 1 John 5:13 • Luke 2:11 • John 3:15, 16; 5:24

**6-E. He Was Unique in His Resurrection (John 20:1-31)**-Jesus said, "I lay down My life that I may take it again" (John 10:17). He stands alone among all the other so-called religious leaders of the ages: He alone was certified by God to be the Christ, by His resurrection from the dead (Rom. 1:4).

(1) He rose according to the Old Testament prophecies that the Messiah would rise from the dead. "Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption" (Ps. 16:10). The Crucifixion Psalm (Ps. 22), after describing the Messiah's death, speaks of His resurrection: "I [the resurrected Messiah] will declare Your name [the Father] to My brethren" (Ps. 22:22). The same is true in Isaiah's crucifixion passage (Is. 52:13--53:12). In the middle of Isaiah 53:10, the subject changes from crucifixion to resurrection.

(2) He had prophesied His own resurrection: "From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must ... be killed, and be raised the third day" (Matt. 16:21).

(3) He rose from the dead, although His enemies had made sure that the tomb was sealed and that a guard had been posted against the possible theft of His body (Matt. 27:62-66).

(4) He appeared alive first to a woman. Perhaps He did this to honor those women who had wept and stood by Him, so faithfully and so alone, while the men forsook Him (vv. 11-19).

(5) His burial bandages were lying undisturbed in the tomb. His body had passed through the bandages that had bound it in death. Grave robbers, in fear of Roman arrest and their own death, would never have taken the time to unwrap a body; nor would His disciples have been so inclined, for fear of the normal putrefaction. Jesus had passed through His wrappings as He had passed through the bonds of death (vv.6-9).

(6) He appeared over and over to His disciples, in various locations over a period 'Of forty days. He displayed the energy of a person in excellent health-not of one resuscitated. He allowed them to examine His wounds, to see that it was He (vv. 27-29).

(7) He arose on the first day of the week (v. 1). Since that day the Christian church has worshiped on the first day of the week to commemorate God's rest from redeeming the world, just as the Old Testament saints observed the Sabbath to commemorate God's rest from creating the world (Ex. 20:8-11).

(8) By Christ's resurrection He became the firstfruits, the basis of our own resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20-24).

See Acts 1:1-9 for **Point 6-F: He Was Unique in His Ascension.**

## 6-F. He Was Unique in His Ascension

**T**HE former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Luke 1:3

2 until the day in which "He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, He ascended into heaven. Matt. 28:19

3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many "infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. Mark 16:12, 14 • *unmistakable*

### *The Holy Spirit Promised*

4 And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "**which**," He *said*, "**you have "heard from Me**"; Luke 24:49 • [John 14:16, 17, 26; 15:26]

5 "**for John truly baptized with water, "but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."** [Joel 2:28]

6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"

7 And He said to them, "**It is not for you to "know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority.** Matt. 24:36

8 "**But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be "witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."** [Acts 2:1, 4) • Luke 24:49 • Luke 24:48 • Acts 8:1

### *Jesus Ascends to Heaven*

9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

**6-F. He Was Unique in His Ascension (Acts 1:1-9)**-Enoch ascended into heaven but did not die. Elijah was taken to heaven in a whirlwind, but did not die. Jesus, after death, ascended into heaven by the power of His own word, having promised to return.

(1) The ascension of Jesus into heaven, like the taking up of Enoch (Gen. 5:24) and Elijah (2 Kin. 2:11), was a further acknowledgment of God the Father's approval of His teaching ministry and His atoning death on the cross (v. 9).

(2) The fact that He ascended on high supports the truth that He went to be with the Father, rather than that He merely vanished (v. 9).

(3) Christ made a promise, at His ascension, that the disciples would receive power to witness for Him after the Holy Spirit came upon them (v. 8).

(4) Christ expressed a command, at His ascension, that the disciples "shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem [home], and in all Judea [throughout their own nation] and Samaria [in adjoining nations, even though unfriendly], and to the end of the earth" (v. 8). Thus the Great Commission to evangelize was given (Matt. 28:16-20).

(5) Christ ascended into heaven, but night and day He manifests His concern for His own. He stood to receive Stephen, the first Christian martyr, in heaven (Acts 7:55, 56). He stopped the hardened Saul on the Damascus road, and converted him into the apostle Paul (Acts 26:1, 12-18). He appeared years later to the apostle John to reveal to him the contents of the book of Revelation (Rev. 1:9, 10, 18). Now He walks daily among His churches (Rev. 1:20--2:1).

(6) Christ ascended into heaven in order to become our High Priest who, as God the Son, would always answer the prayers of those who call upon Him in faith (Heb. 4:14-16).

(7) Christ ascended into heaven to take His seat at the right hand of the Father and make continual intercession for believers (Heb. 7:25; 8:1).

See Matthew 16:27 for **Point 6-G: He Will Be Unique in His Second Coming.** ·

## **6-G. He Will Be Unique in His Second Coming**

27 "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. Mark 8:38 • [Dan. 7:10] • Rom. 2:6

**6-G. He Will Be Unique in His Second Coming (Matthew 16:27)**-"For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels" (v. 27). When Jesus came the first time, angels heralded His birth (Luke 2:7-14; Heb. 1:6). When He comes the second time, to establish the kingdom and sit upon the throne of David (Is. 9:6, 7), His angels will

accompany Him, "and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other" (Matt. 24:29-31).

Forty days after His resurrection, as He ascended, "two men stood by them [the apostles] in white apparel, who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven'" (Acts 1:10, 11). Thus was the promise again given that Christ alone, of all religious leaders throughout history, would someday return to earth personally and bodily. Buddha, Confucius, and every world leader is gone forever-but the unique Christ is coming again!

Christ's second coming will:

(1) See Him return, not as the "Lamb as though it had been slain" (Rev. 5:6), but in the power and the majesty of His deity, as "the Lion of the tribe of Judah" (Rev. 5:5).

(2) Raise "the dead in Christ ... Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:16, 17). This is the rapture of the church.

(3) Be "as a thief in the night" (1 Thess. 5:2). "That day and hour no one knows" (Matt. 24:36, 42-44).

(4) Inaugurate the promised millennial kingdom of peace on earth among men, who will be judged (Matt. 25:31, 32) and ruled (Ps. 2:6-12), and among animals, who will live in harmony with mankind and with each other (Is. 11:4-9).

(5) Put away or destroy the forces of evil who will be gathered against Him:

(a) Antichrist (2 Thess. 2:8)

(b) the False Prophet (Rev. 13:1-18)

(c) the evil armies gathered at Armageddon (Rev. 19:17-21)

(d) all evildoers (2 Thess. 1:7-9)

(e) Satan himself, who will be imprisoned (Rev. 19:11-20:14)

(6) Rescue the Tribulation saints (Matt. 24:22, 29-31) and bring about the national conversion of Israel (Zech. 12:9-13:1).

Christ's second coming may be soon. "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near" (Luke 21:28).