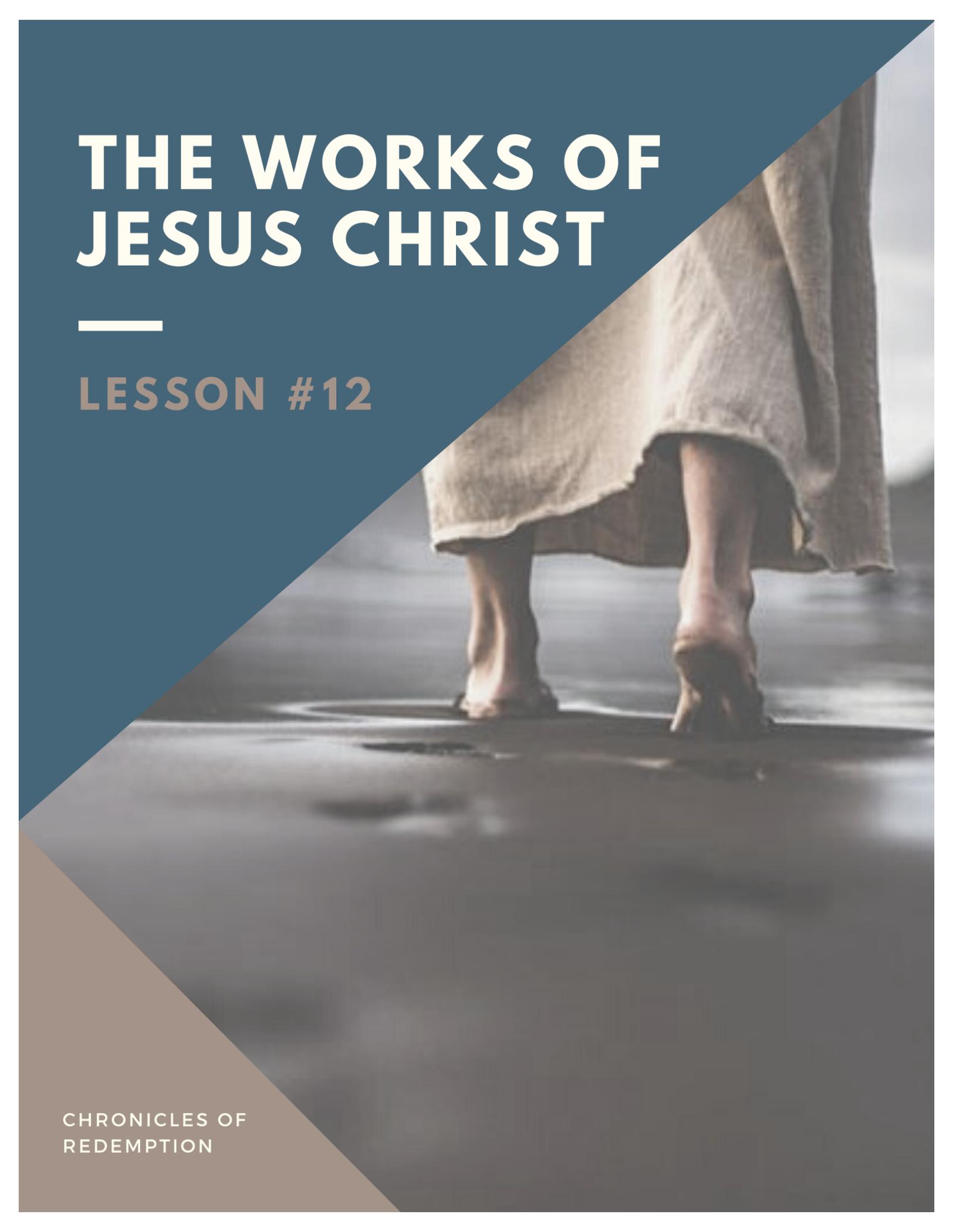


THE WORKS OF JESUS CHRIST



LESSON #12

CHRONICLES OF
REDEMPTION

The Works of Jesus Christ

Excerpts from the Gospels

INTRODUCTION

Against the backdrop of fulfilled prophecy, angelic announcements, and divine affirmation, the promised Jewish Messiah now takes center stage. His public ministry would last a mere three years. Yet, clearly, no single life has so influenced the course of human history and so completely transformed the lives of His followers.

Jesus Christ was known as a Man *"mighty in deed and word"* (cf. Luke 24:19). He astounded His generation, baffling especially those who had watched Him grow from _____ into the profound teacher and dynamic miracle worker He had become.



Matthew 13:54-56

"Where did this Man get this wisdom, and these miraculous powers? Is not this the carpenter's Son? Is not His mother called Mary, and His brothers, James, and Joseph, and Simon, and Judas? And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?"

To answer these questions, the following two lessons—like a series of snapshots—will trace the _____ and _____ of Jesus Christ through the Gospels. His miraculous powers and wisdom, what He *did* and what He *said*, will reveal Who He was. When John the Baptist asked Jesus if He was Messiah, *"the Expected One,"* Jesus responded by telling him to observe His deeds and words (cf. Matt. 11:3-5).

Jesus was a miracle-worker. _____ are supernatural events. They contradict nature's laws and cannot be duplicated scientifically because they originate in another realm. Believing in miracles is not far-fetched when one understands that the Creator of the universe is not limited by the physical laws which govern us, for He made them and presently sustains them in perfect order. In the Bible, miracles are called:

1

Wonders—because all who saw them were _____ (cf. Mark 13:22; Acts 5:12).

2 **Miraculous powers**—because of their _____ source (cf. Mark 6:14; Luke 5:17).

3 **Signs**—because they point beyond the miracle to _____ the miracle worker (cf. Exod. 4:30-31; John 2:11; 11:47).

The works of Jesus Christ, the miracles He performed, were divine signs given to prove that He was so much more than a carpenter's Son. They revealed, to His generation and to ours, that Jesus is the God-Man—the promised _____ Who would deliver our race from sin's devastation and Satan's bondage.

1

Command over the Soul: Wilderness Temptations



Read Matthew 4:1-11

The temptations of Jesus Christ took place directly after His baptism and prior to the beginning of His public ministry. The Holy Spirit of God, the Third Person of the Trinity, led Jesus to the wilderness. Satan's ambition was to sabotage God's plan to redeem humanity by tempting the Redeemer to sin. But God, Who tempts no one to evil, intended to prove that Christ was sinless and entirely submissive to His will (cf. James 1:13). The testing focused on three distinct areas:

1 **Temptation to** _____

• ***"If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread" (4:3).***

The word *"if"* is better translated *"since"* —*Since You are the Son of God!* The devil knew very well Whom he was tempting. He appealed to Christ's hunger by urging Him to use His divine power to produce bread from rock. The objective was to goad Christ into meeting His own need, independently and apart from the Father's direction. However, Jesus, being fully God, was also the perfect Man. While on earth, He modeled for all of us the right way to live before God—that is, with dependent _____ upon the Father's Word and will. Jesus responded to the devil by quoting from the Old Testament: Feeding the soul is more important than feeding the stomach (cf. Deut. 8:3).

2

Temptation to _____ God

• **“If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down” (4:6).**

In this temptation, Satan quoted Scripture; but he distorted its meaning. He subtly challenged Christ's confidence in God, enticing Him to selfishly force the Father to prove His love by saving Him from physical harm. Jesus responded to this temptation to independence by correctly quoting Scripture: *“You shall not put the Lord your God to the test”* (Deut. 6:16). He would not coerce God into proving His goodness, kindness, or care for Him. Unlike Adam and Eve, who believed Satan's lie that God was somehow withholding something good from them, Jesus acted in perfect _____.

3

Temptation to illegitimate _____

• **“All these things will I give You, if You fall down and worship me” (4:9).**

The third temptation unveils what the devil has craved since the dawn of time. To be like the Most High, to seize His praise and honor, to usurp His glory and majesty, to be worshiped by the Son of God, for this he would surrender all the kingdoms over which he ruled (cf. 1 John 5:19). But *“what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul?”* (Mark 8:36). Jesus again quoted Deuteronomy: _____ alone is to be worshiped and served (cf. Deut. 6:13; Isa. 14:13-14; Ezek. 28:14-17).



Luke 4:13

“And when the devil had finished every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time.”

Although Satan continued to dog the ministry of Christ, he failed to accomplish his purpose. He had successfully seduced Adam and Eve who fell when they were tempted. But Jesus is unique in that He faced temptation head-on, yet did not sin. His obedient dependence upon the Father remained steadfast. For this reason, while the trial of Christ in the wilderness was not a true miracle in the Biblical sense, His victory over temptation was clearly one of His *mighty deeds*. The Perfect Man had complete mastery over His own _____. Displaying a beautiful blend of deity and humanity, the Son of God was *“tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin”* (Heb. 4:15).

NOTES:

2

Command over Disease: Healing the Paralyzed Man

After the days of temptation in the wilderness, Jesus began preaching in the heavily populated region along the shores of the Sea of Galilee in northern Palestine. The ministry of John the Baptist had ended abruptly when he was murdered by King Herod for fearlessly denouncing Herod's incestuous marriage to Herodias, his brother Philip's wife (cf. Matt. 14:1-12; Luke 9:7-9). But even before the death of John, the ministry of Jesus had become increasingly prominent.

Matthew 4:23-25



"And Jesus was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. And the news about Him went out into all Syria: and they brought to Him all who were ill, taken with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them. And great multitudes followed Him from Galilee and Decapolis and Jerusalem and Judea and from beyond the Jordan."

News of His ministry spread like wildfire through the region—so much so that:



Mark 1:45

"Jesus could no longer publicly enter a city, but stayed out in unpopulated areas; and they were coming to Him from everywhere."

Of the multitudes attracted to Jesus, some were only onlookers. But many became His _____, ones who were learners or followers. Of these, Jesus would later choose twelve to be called _____ or "sent ones" with unique authority to act as His representatives. These twelve men left all—families, communities, and livelihoods—to be constantly at the side of Jesus.



Luke 6:13-16

"...He called His disciples to Him; and chose twelve of them, whom He also named as apostles: Simon, whom He also named Peter; and Andrew his brother; and James and John; and Philip and Bartholomew; and Mathew and Thomas; James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called the Zealot; Judas the son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who also became a traitor."



Read Mark 2:1-12



He _____ sin

- ***"...They came, bringing Him a paralytic" (2:3).***

Christ was teaching in the city of Capernaum on Galilee's north shore when a paralytic was brought to Him for healing. Unable to move, and powerless to change his desperate condition, the man was focused solely on his _____ need.

- ***"My son, your sins are forgiven" (2:5).***

Rather than dealing directly with the man's paralysis, Jesus forgave his sins. By drawing attention to his spiritual condition, the Son of God refocused the man's thinking on his _____ destiny rather than his temporary physical affliction. Moreover, by forgiving the man's sins, Jesus affirmed His deity—a claim that the scribes clearly understood.

- ***"Who can forgive sins but God alone?" (2:7).***

The Jewish scribes reacted immediately to Christ's bold statement, interpreting it as blasphemy. It would have been blasphemy if Jesus were not truly God, for no man or woman has authority to forgive sins. Forgiveness is the sole prerogative of God, since _____ sin is fundamentally an offense against the Creator God (cf. Ps. 32:5; 51:4; Isa. 43:25).

- ***"Aware in His spirit that they were reasoning that way within themselves" (2:8).***

This is another indication of Christ's deity. Only God can see into the hearts of men (cf. Matt. 9:4).



He _____ the sinner

NOTES:

- "...Rise, take up your pallet, and go home" (2:11).

The Son of Man, an Old Testament expression referring to Messiah, was a favorite title Jesus used for Himself. To further reveal that He was indeed God, and to confirm that He had power both to _____ and _____ sins, Jesus healed the man of his paralysis in the presence of them all (cf. Luke 7:48-49 for another reference to Christ forgiving sins). The result was amazement and worship.

[Other accounts reveal Christ's miraculous power to heal the blind (Matt. 9:27-37; Mark 8:22-26; John 9:1-12), the deaf and mute (Mark 7:31-37), the leprous (Luke 5:12-15), and the paralyzed (Mark 3:1-5; Luke 13:10-13).]

3

Command over Nature: Calming the Wind & Sea



Read Mark 4:35-41



He governed the _____

- "And there arose a fierce gale of wind" (4:37).

One evening, after preaching to the crowds on Galilee's western shore, Jesus and His disciples began a trip to the other side of the lake. They encountered a storm which quickly grew to a tempest of abnormal intensity. Mark's gospel described winds similar to a _____, while Mathew's gospel, recording the same event, said that the waves were like an _____ (seismos) at sea (cf. Matt. 8:24).

- "...He rebuked the wind and said to the sea, 'Hush, be still'" (4:38).

The quiet authority of Christ over the raging elements, contrasted with His exhausted slumber only moments before, is a beautiful picture of the balance between the _____ and _____ natures of Jesus Christ. His human frame was so deep in sleep that even a gale failed to arouse Him; His divinity was unveiled with the simple words, "Hush, be still!" The wind and waves calmed at once.



He inspired _____

• ***“Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey Him?” (4:41).***

After calming the wind and sea with a rebuke, Jesus then calmed the terrified hearts of His disciples with another rebuke: *“How is it that you have no faith?”* Fear of the wind and waves had clouded their awareness that the Son of God was with them. He had called the world into existence. Clearly, the whole realm of _____ is under His authority (cf. John 1:1, 10; Col. 1:15-16; Heb. 1:1-2). Typical of all the miraculous works, the response of His followers to this powerful revelation of Jesus Christ was fear and adoration.

[Christ also revealed His power over nature when He walked on water (Mark 6:48), turned water into wine (John 2:1), fed the 5000 (John 6:1-15), and directed His disciples to a miraculous catch of fish (Mark 5:1ff.; John 21:1ff.).]

4

Command over Demons: Freeing the Possessed Man



Read Mark 5:1-20



He commanded the _____

• ***“A man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met Him” (5:2).***

Directly after calming the storm, Jesus and His disciples sailed to Galilee’s mountainous eastern shore where they were approached by a demon-possessed man. The wretched man had been banished from society and left to scavenge out a loathsome existence from among the tombs of the dead. Wild and naked, he had so terrified the community with his unrestrained fits of rage that people were afraid to pass by (cf. Matt. 8:28; Luke 8:27). Clearly, his miserable existence in the tombs only mirrored the state of his godless soul: dead in sin, enslaved by _____, engulfed in darkness—this man had fallen far from the divine image he was created to reflect.



He restored _____

- **"They came...and observed the man... sitting down, clothed, and in his right mind" (5:15).**

No longer distant, no longer needing shackles, the man Jesus healed was now at peace and in his right mind. The demon's treatment of the man had resulted in the most severe bondage; the Savior made him whole. Demons inflicted injury and death; God mercifully restored _____ and _____.

- **"And he went away and began to proclaim...what great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone marveled" (5:20).**

The power of Jesus amazed people throughout the three years of His ministry.



Luke 4:36

"...They began discussing with one another, saying, 'What is this message? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out.'"

The Bible does not reveal a universe controlled by _____ powerful forces of good and evil, rather a universe ordered and controlled by God _____. When the light confronts the darkness, it always overcomes (cf. John 1:5).

[This account is retold in Matt. 8:28-34 and Luke 8:26-39. For further accounts of Christ's authority over demons, see Matt. 9:32; Matt. 12:22; Luke 11:14; Mark 1:23-28; Luke 4:33-37.]

5

Command over Death: Raising the Widow's Son



Read Luke 7:11-16



He was moved with _____

- ***"...He had compassion on her and said to her, 'Do not weep'" (7:13).***

The narrative opens with two large crowds meeting before the gates of Nain: Jesus with His pursuing multitude about to enter the city and a funeral procession just leaving the city. Grieved to see death ravage both the dead and living, the Prince of Life was moved with compassion. It was the _____ to whom Jesus spoke—a broken mother, robbed now of both husband and son; a destitute mother left with no one to care for her.



He confronted _____

- ***"And He said, 'Young man, I say to you, arise!'" (7:14).***

The young man was not sick, not close to death—He was gone! He was past opportunity, past hope of help. Jesus commanded one who physically could not hear. Yet the man heard, for Jesus had spoken beyond the dead body to his eternal, living _____. Jesus Christ defied death and raised the man to life by the power of His Word: "Arise!" Only the Word of God can restore life to the dead.

- ***"And Jesus gave him back to his mother" (7:15).***

This most tender expression of _____ toward the woman upon whom He had shown compassion is a glimpse into the _____ of Jesus Christ, and it beautifully reveals the combined attributes of both the goodness and the power of the God-Man. Who among the many sympathetic on-lookers would not have yearned to give the woman back her son? But they could not, for they lacked the power to do so. Jesus, however, is both good and powerful. He provided for the mother's deepest need by overcoming her greatest enemy.



He evoked _____

- ***"...Fear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God" (7:16).***

Jesus performed many miracles privately, but the widow's son He raised to life in full view before a very large crowd. It was His Self-revelation as the God-man. He wanted the powerless to witness His commanding authority. He wanted those enslaved by fear of death to understand that there was hope for resurrection. They were _____ when they saw it, and their fear led to _____ and praise.

To **glorify** God is to _____ God in His proper position as Lord over all. It was for this purpose that man was created, and therefore it is the fitting response of man toward God. It reveals a _____ heart, for those who fear God and glorify Him embrace their own frailty and imperfection. They have magnified God in their minds and bow to His authority. Conversely, the proud man has no fear of God. He gives no thought to God or to His eternal destiny. Having placed himself on the throne of his heart, he will bow to no one. Such a person brings no glory to God.

• ***“A great Prophet has arisen among us! ...God has visited His people!” (7:16).***

The crowd that witnessed the resurrection of the widow’s son reported the miracle throughout the entire _____. Many acknowledged Jesus as a great Prophet. But the remnant of God’s people who had been waiting for Messiah recognized that the *Expected One* had come (Luke 1:68; 7:20-22).

[The two other resurrections recorded in the gospels are those of Jairus’ daughter (cf. Mark 5:41) and Lazarus (John 11:44).]

CONCLUSION

Jesus conquered all that man fears and all that is beyond his ability to control. Furthermore, He possesses absolute authority over all realms: He remained sinless in the face of great temptation, was unhindered by the forces of nature, and overcame the devastation of disease, the power of demons, and the sting of death. The clear purpose for these divine signs is to reveal the true identity of Jesus Christ as God, the prophesied Messiah and Redeemer of man.



John 20:30-31

“Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.”



Questions

1. What is a *sign*?

2. In what three areas did Satan tempt Christ?

3. How did Christ show command over His soul?

4. In what single way does this account show Christ to be unique among all humanity?

5. What was the difference between the focus of Jesus and that of the paralytic?

6. What was Christ's response to the paralytic? Did He immediately heal him?

7. Why did the scribes react to Jesus forgiving the man's sin?

8. What hindered the faith of the disciples while they were in the boat with Jesus during the great storm at sea?

9. What is demon possession?



Questions

10. What is Satan's present relationship to the world?

11. How did Jesus display his authority over demons?

12. What was the difference in the life of the demon-possessed man after he met Jesus?

13. What is the characteristic of a person who glorifies God and one who does not?

14. What do miracles reveal about Jesus Christ?
