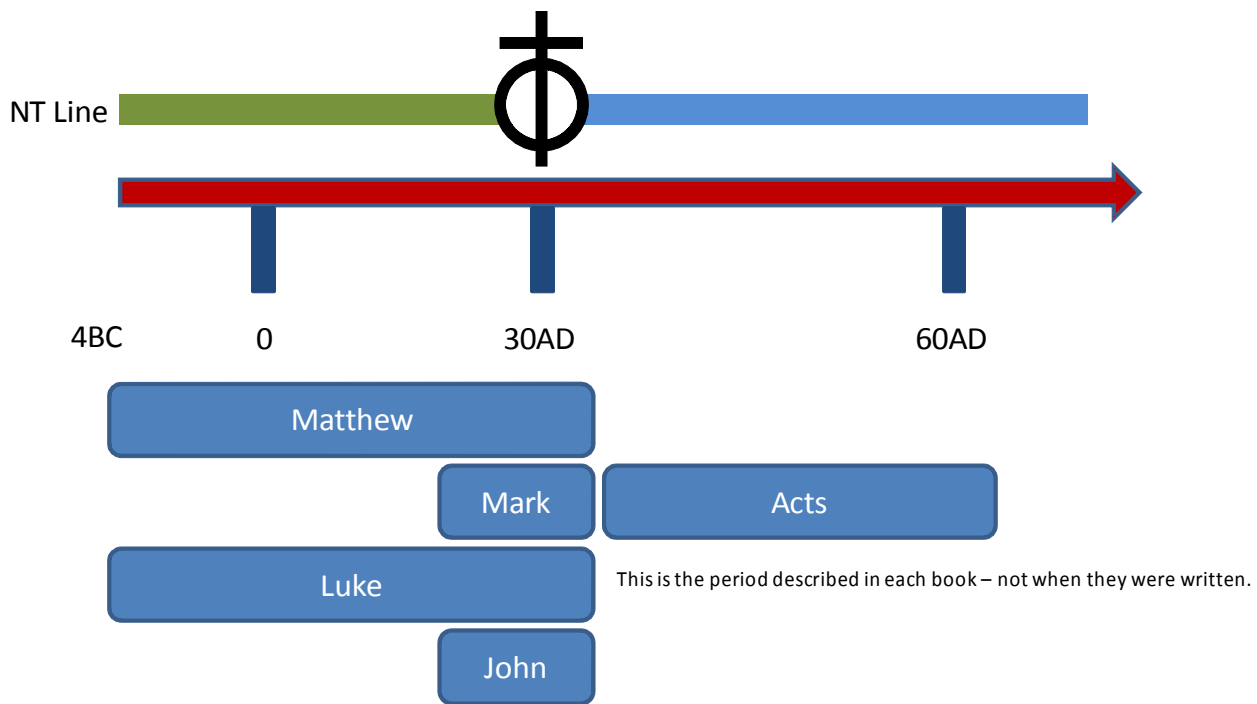


# Session 4: A New Kingdom

(Matthew, Mark, Luke, John & Acts)



The New Testament is the beginning of Christ's ministry to us on earth, the fulfillment of what has been done and promised before; all perfected in one man – Christ Jesus.

*ministry* – carries with it the idea of spiritual work or service; in the case of Jesus this was doing the will of God

## JESUS FULFILMENT OF OT

What prophecies and promises have been fulfilled by Jesus?

	Compare ...	With ...
BIRTH	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18
NATURE	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23
OFFICE	Isaiah 33:22	Matthew 27:37
MINISTRY	Isaiah 35:5	Matthew 9:35
RESURRECTION	Psalms 16:10	Acts 2:31
ASCENSION	Psalms 68:18	Acts 1:9

# GOSPEL OVERVIEW

What does each of the books on Jesus' life tell us?

- **Read Matthew 5:17** – Jesus is the Christ of the OT scriptures.

“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill.”

- **Read Mark 10:44-45** – Jesus is the suffering servant who calls us to suffer too.

“And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

- **Read Luke 1:68-69** – Jesus is the Saviour of the world.

“Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David.”

- **Read John 14:6** – Jesus is the Son of God who gives eternal life.

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

# JESUS' DEATH

- **Read Matthew 1:21, Luke 19:10** – Why did Jesus have to die?

“And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

How is Jesus' sacrifice at the cross different to OT sacrifices? Identify some verses in Hebrews 10 that help to answer this question.

At the cross God's enemies are defeated and God's people are forgiven!

- **Read John 20:11-18, Luke 24:33-35** – What evidence is there of Jesus' Resurrection?

But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. 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. 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.” Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 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.” Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to Him,<sup>[a]</sup> “Rabboni!” (which is to say, Teacher). 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.’” Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord,<sup>[b]</sup>

and that He had spoken these things to her. So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread.

[a] John 20:16 NU-Text adds in Hebrew.

[b] John 20:18 NU-Text reads disciples, "I have seen the Lord,"...

The strangeness of the Resurrection story had captured Frank Morison's attention, and, influenced by sceptic thinkers at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, he set out to prove that the story of Christ's Resurrection was only a myth. His probings, however, led him to discover the validity of the biblical record in a moving, personal way. **Who Moved the Stone?** is considered by many to be a classic apologetic on the subject of the Resurrection. Morison includes a vivid and poignant account of Christ's betrayal, trial, and death as a backdrop to his retelling of the climactic Resurrection itself. "Who Moved the Stone?" is a well-researched book that is as fascinating in its appeal to reason as it is accurate to the truthfulness of the Resurrection.

In considering John 19:33-34, Frank Morison quotes Strauss, *New Life of Jesus*, "It is impossible that a being who had stolen half-dead out of the sepulchre, who crept about weak and ill, wanting medical treatment, who required bandaging, strengthening, and indulgence, and who still at last yielded to his sufferings, could have given to the disciples the impression that he was conqueror over death and the grave, the Prince of Life: an impression which lay at the bottom of their future ministry. Such a resuscitation could only have weakened the impression which he had made upon them in life and in death, at the most could only have given it an elegiac voice, but could by no possibility have changed their sorrow to enthusiasm, have elevated their reverence to worship."

## LIVING IN A NEW AGE A NEW KINGDOM

The NT to the present age is regarded as 'living in the last days' as we don't know when Jesus will return.

- **Read Matthew 24:3-9** – What should we do on light of this?

Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of Your coming, and of the end of the age?" And Jesus answered and said to them: "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows. "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. "

In these passages we read of God sending His spirit after Jesus has left.

- **Read John 16:7-8** – What is the work of the Holy Spirit?

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgement.

- **Read John 3:3,5** – What does He do? What is 'new birth'?

Jesus answered and said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

- **Read Acts 1:6-8** – What are the last days? When will it end? What should we do in the meantime?

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 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.”

In our last session we look a little more at 'living in the last days' after Jesus and how the early Church did it – as well as the Future Kingdom.

For the Bible students...

Consider: Luke 1:39-80 & 2:25-32. What do the words of Mary, Zechariah and Simeon teach us about the salvation that Jesus brings?

**QUESTIONS & OBJECTIONS**

**28:9** “There are contradictions in the resurrection accounts. Did Christ appear first to the women or to His disciples?”

Both Matthew and Mark list women as the first to see the resurrected Christ. Mark says, “He appeared first to Mary Magdalene” (16:9). But Paul lists Peter (Cephas) as the first one to see Christ after His resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:5).

Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene, then to the other women, and then to Peter. Paul was not giving a complete list, but only the important one for his purpose. Since only men’s testimony was considered legal or official in the first century, it is understandable that the apostle would not list the women as witnesses in his defense of the resurrection here.

The order of the appearances of Christ is as follows:

**CHRIST’S RESURRECTION APPEARANCES**

APPEARED TO:	REFERENCES:
1. Mary	John 20:10–18
2. Mary and women	Matthew 28:1–10
3. Peter	1 Corinthians 15:5
4. Two disciples	Luke 24:13–35
5. Ten apostles	Luke 24:36–49; John 20:19–23
6. Eleven apostles	John 20:24–31
7. Seven apostles	John 21
8. All apostles	Matthew 28:16–20; Mark 16:14–18
9. 500 brethren	1 Corinthians 15:6
10. James	1 Corinthians 15:7
11. All apostles	Acts 1:4–8
12. Paul	Acts 9:1–9; 1 Corinthians 15:8

