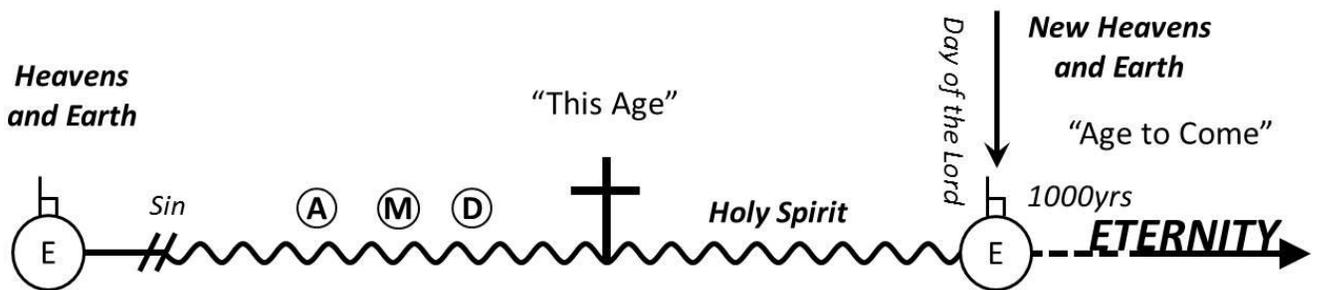


Session 1: Miracles and the God of Israel

I. Overview of Redemptive History

But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for *the day of judgment* and destruction of ungodly men...⁹ The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is *patient toward you*, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance.¹⁰ But *the day of the Lord* will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up...¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for *new heavens and a new earth*, in which righteousness dwells. (2 Pet. 3:7-13^{NASB})



A. Messianic Administration of Redemptive History

He who *sits in the heavens* laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.⁵ Then he will speak to them in his wrath, and terrify them in his fury, saying,⁶ “As for me, I have *set my King on Zion*, my holy hill.”⁷ I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, “*You are my Son*; today I have begotten you.”⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.⁹ You shall break them with a rod of iron and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.” (ESV Psalm 2:4–9)

He will cry to Me, “*You are my Father*, My God, and the rock of my salvation.”²⁷ I also shall make him *My firstborn* [cf. “inheritance rights as the oldest son” (Heb. 12:16, NIV)], the highest of the kings of the earth. (NASB Psalm 89:26–27)

Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of *the Son of God*, and those who hear will live.²⁶ For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself.²⁷ And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.²⁸ Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice²⁹ and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment. (ESV John 5:25–29)

B. Israelocentric Administration of Redemptive History

You will arise and have compassion *on Zion*, for it is time to show favor to her; the appointed time has come.¹⁴ For her stones are dear to your servants; her very dust moves them to pity.¹⁵ *The nations* will fear the name of the LORD, all the kings of the earth will revere your glory.¹⁶ For the LORD will *rebuild Zion* and appear in his glory...²¹ So the name of the LORD will be declared *in Zion*

and his praise *in Jerusalem* ²² when the peoples and the kingdoms assemble to worship the LORD. (^{NIV} Psalm 102:11-22)

In the last days the mountain of *the LORD's temple* will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and *all nations will stream to it.* ³ Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths." The law will go out *from Zion*, the word of the LORD *from Jerusalem.* ⁴ He will judge *between the nations* and will settle disputes for many peoples. (^{NIV} Isaiah 2:2-4)

II. Jesus, Miracles, and the God of Israel

Now Jesus did *many other signs* in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; ³¹ but 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. (^{ESV} John 20:30-31)

A. Accredited as the Jewish Messiah

Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man *accredited by God* to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. (^{NIV} Acts 2:22)

He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about *the kingdom of God.* ⁴ And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with *the Holy Spirit* not many days from now." ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time *restore the kingdom to Israel?*" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when *the Holy Spirit* has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (^{ESV} Acts 1:3-8)

The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead--whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him to his own right hand *as Prince and Savior* that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. ³² We are witnesses of these things, and *so is the Holy Spirit*, whom God has given to those who obey him." ... ⁴¹ The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. ⁴² Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that *Jesus is the Christ.* (^{NIV} Acts 5:30-42)



B. Miracles and Jewish Expectations**1. Incarnation**

And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him *the throne of his father David*, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end. (^{ESV} Luke 1:31-33)

2. Divine knowledge

Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” ⁴⁹ Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are *the King of Israel!*” ⁵⁰ Jesus answered him, “Because I said to you, ‘I saw you under the fig tree,’ do you believe? You will see greater things than these.” ⁵¹ And he said to him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see *heaven opened*, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man.” (^{ESV} John 1:48-51)

3. Water to Wine

When the chief servant tasted the water (after it had become wine), he did not know where it came from—though the servants who had drawn the water knew. He called the groom ¹⁰ and told him, “Everybody sets out the fine wine first, then, after people have drunk freely, the inferior. But you have kept the fine wine until now.” ¹¹ Jesus performed this *first sign* in Cana of Galilee. He displayed *His glory*, and His disciples *believed in Him*. (^{HCSB} John 2:9-11)

4. Multiplied Food

Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?” ⁶ He said this *to test him*, for he himself knew what he would do. ⁷ Philip answered him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little.” ⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹ “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?” ... ¹⁴ When the people saw *the sign* that he had done, they said, “*This is indeed the Prophet* who is to come into the world!” ¹⁵ Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself. (^{ESV} John 6:5-15)

5. Healings

And great crowds came to him, bringing with them the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others, and they put them at his feet, and he healed them, ³¹ so that the crowd wondered, when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled healthy, the lame walking, and the blind seeing. And they glorified *the God of Israel*. (^{ESV} Matt. 15:30-31)

When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. ⁶ “Lord,” he said, “my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering.” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “I will

go and heal him.”⁸ The centurion replied, “Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed.” ...¹⁰ When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, “I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone *in Israel* with such great faith.¹¹ I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places *at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven*.¹² But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”¹³ Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go! It will be done just as you believed it would.” And his servant was healed at that very hour. (^{NIV} Matt. 8:5-13)

And as Jesus passed on from there, two blind men followed him, crying aloud, “Have mercy on us, *Son of David*.”²⁸ When he entered the house, the blind men came to him, and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.”²⁹ Then he touched their eyes, saying, “*According to your faith* be it done to you.”³⁰ And their eyes were opened. (^{ESV} Matt. 9:27-30)

Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.”²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.”²⁵ Jesus said to her, “*I am the resurrection and the life*. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord; I believe that *you are the Christ*, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.” ...⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, *believed in him*,⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. (^{ESV} John 11:21-46)

6. Driving out Demons

And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice,³⁴ “Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—*the Holy One of God*.” (^{ESV} Luke 4:33-34)

Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to him, and he healed him, so that the man spoke and saw.²³ And all the people were amazed, and said, “Can this be the *Son of David*?” (^{ESV} Matt. 12:22-23)

And behold, a Canaanite woman from that region came out and was crying, “Have mercy on me, O Lord, *Son of David*; my daughter is severely oppressed by a demon.”²³ But he did not answer her a word. And his disciples came and begged him, saying, “Send her away, for she is crying out after us.”²⁴ He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.”²⁵ But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.”²⁶ And he answered, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.”²⁷ She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.”²⁸ Then Jesus answered her, “O woman, *great is your faith*! Be it done for you as you desire.” And her daughter was healed instantly. (^{ESV} Matt. 15:22-28)