



Streamsbook

40 DAYS TO GET TO KNOW GOD'S SON!

Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

- John 4 -

"If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'"

- John 7 -

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EDITOR'S NOTES

This booklet is a compilation of accounts from the four Gospels; Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

I have consulted several of the best translations from the original materials and adapted wording slightly for flow. The "Old Testament" was written in Hebrew (the language of the Jews), the "New Testament" was written in Greek, the worldwide language of Jesus' day.

Nowhere in the New or Old Testaments do they call themselves the New and Old Testaments. There really is only one "Testament." Everything in the so-called Old Testament prepares the world for the arrival of the Messiah or Savior. God's chosen people (the Jews) were not chosen because they were superior to any other nation, but because Abraham would be God's instrument to bless the rest of the nations for all time.

This one "Testament" reveals how God has provided escape from eternal death, granting access to eternal life through the shedding of the blood of His Son to pay the debt for our sin. Sin is our separation from God and our inability to make things right.

The Gospels (and the rest of the Scriptures) were provided so that we can get an accurate picture of God's mind concerning humanity and our individual souls. Those who look diligently will find what human wisdom alone simply cannot provide.

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STREAMSBOOK INTRODUCTION

THE FIRST SIX OF FORTY DAYS

Studying a chronology of the Life of Christ affords insight and efficiency in understanding Christ and His Kingdom. The four Gospels have different audiences and purposes, and when combined as one unfolding story illuminate many aspects of this amazing Life.

The full Streamsbook covers 40 days of chronological consideration of the appearance of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. This introduction is designed to set the table with the first 6 of these 40 days, and to help you determine whether or not time invested in the entire Streamsbook is right for you.

The study questions are included - they will stimulate your process of meditating on the impact of the arrival of the Son-child. Note: these are not fill in the blank questions - they are designed to help you think deeply about what you are reading.

Enjoy!

DAY 1	John 1:1-5 Luke 1:5-66	Older Than Time God Comes Near
DAY 2	John 1:6-18 Luke 2:1-40	The Light & The Life The King is Born
DAY 3	Luke 2:41-52 John 1:19-51	The Boy King The Light, The Life, The Lamb
DAY 4	Luke 4:1-13 John 2:1-3:21	Tough Choices Who Will Follow?
DAY 5	Luke 4:14-30 Matthew 4:23-25	Now it Begins! The Successful Healer
DAY 6	John 4:1-45	Woman at the Well



*When is this beginning?
See Hebrews 1:1-4*

*While men like to
portray life as gray,
the Bible sees only
light and darkness.
Who is the Word?
(see p 6. John 1:6-18)*

DAY ONE I

OLDER THAN TIME

John 1:1-5

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being by Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

OLDER THAN TIME

John 1:1-5

What beginning do you think is being spoken about here? Why is this mind blowing?

How do life, light, and darkness connect? Do you believe in good and evil, and to what extent?

What if it is true that God's Son (Jesus) did indeed create the world?

*Theophilus was the
recipient of Luke's Gospel
letter. Luke was a doctor and
his goal was to give an
accurate, precise account
of the facts concerning what
was being reported by
eyewitnesses about Jesus.*

*Zacharias was a Jew.
The Jews were given the Word
of God so that the world
could find God.
The Jews were chosen by God
to display His power to the
rest of the world. This
selection was based upon
God's gracious choice and
not because Abraham was
better than any
other man.*

GOD COMES NEAR

Luke 1:5-66

Many have undertaken to put together an account of the things accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word have handed them down to us. It seemed appropriate for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; so that you might know the precise truth about the things you have been taught.

In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. And they were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord. And they had no child, because Elizabeth was unable to have babies, and they were both advanced in years.

Now it came about, while he was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division, according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And the whole multitude of the

Gabriel is one of three angels mentioned by name in the Bible along with Michael and Lucifer (Satan). They are powerful archangels. Do you believe in angels?

Zacharias was a priest. Most people recognize that Jewish worship of the Living God was sincere and that it has caused far-reaching effects into history.

Coming to Jerusalem for his turn to perform priestly duties in the temple was a big deal to Zacharias' home town and family. To have a priest come out of the temple unable to speak would have caused quite a stir.

Mary was probably very young, what we would consider a teenager.

Elizabeth would encourage Mary by her "old age" pregnancy, inasmuch as it was miraculous as well.

Mary had never slept with a man, yet she was pregnant. This would be difficult for a teenaged Jewish girl!

people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering. And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. And Zacharias was troubled when he saw him, and fear gripped him. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your request has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will give you a son, and you will name him John. And you will have joy and gladness and many will rejoice at his birth.

For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and he will drink no wine or liquor; and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, while still in his mother's womb. And he will turn back many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God. And it is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; with the purpose of making ready a people prepared for the Lord."

And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this for certain? For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I have been sent to speak to you, and to bring you this good news. And you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which shall be fulfilled in their proper time. And the people were waiting for Zacharias, and were wondering about his delay in the temple. But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them; and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he kept making signs to them, and remained unable to speak. And it came about when the days of his priestly service were ended, that he went back home.

And after these days Elizabeth his wife became pregnant; and she kept herself in seclusion for five months, saying, "This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked with favor upon me, to take away my disgrace among men."

MARY, THE SERVANT OF GOD

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, a descendant of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one. The Lord is with you."

But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of greeting this was. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

Mary said, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age, and she who was called childless is now in her sixth month. For nothing will be impossible with God."

Jesus was the cousin of John who will be called John the Baptist. He is spoken of in Isaiah the prophet in chapter 40.

A bond-slave is one who makes a decision to be another's servant by personal choice.

Circumcision was the Jewish physical sign that set them apart as the people of God. It was done for physical and spiritual reasons, and was supposed to picture a calloused heart turned to God.

To call their son John was puzzling to everyone else. It evidenced their obedience and released Zacharias' tongue that had been stilled for many months. He was probably the talk of the town!

And Mary said, "Behold, the bondslave of the Lord, may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child in your womb! And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul exalts the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondslave; for behold, from this time on all generations will consider me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is His name. And His mercy is upon generation after generation toward those who fear Him. He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart. He has brought down rulers from their thrones, and has exalted those who were humble.

He has filled the hungry with good things and sent away the rich empty-handed. He has given help to Israel His servant in remembrance of His mercy as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and his descendants forever."

And Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months, and then returned to her home.

Now the time had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had displayed His great mercy toward her and they were rejoicing with her.

And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him Zacharias, after his father. But his mother answered and said, "No indeed, but he shall be called John."

And they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by that name." And they made signs to his father, as to what he wanted him called. He asked for a tablet and wrote as follows, "His name is John." And they were all astonished.

At once his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he began to speak in praise of God. Fear came on all those living around them, and all these matters were being talked about in all the hill country of Judea. All who heard about it kept them in mind, saying, "What will this child turn out to be?" For the hand of the Lord was certainly with him.

GOD CAME NEAR

Luke 1:5-66

Why was Luke so interested in being “precise?” (his gospel is the most chronological)

Do you believe that there are angels that have access to multiple dimensions?

What makes Mary’s response to the angel Gabriel so remarkable? Who is Gabriel?

Why do you think that Zacharias’ family was probably watched closely in the upcoming days?

MY WORLDVIEW

What is the most remarkable thing you see in these two passages?

It is hard to find the Living God in a crazy-busy world. How do you feel about your “God comprehension?”



DAY TWO 2

This child will turn out to be the “deliverer” of Israel and the rest of the world!

How is a man or woman “born of God?”

Jesus (the Son) is an exact representation of the eternal Living God.

The Ten Commandments (the basis of the “Law”) were given to reveal the awesome character of God to the Jews and then to the world. The Law was never able to save any person from spiritual death. See Hebrews 10:4.

THE LIGHT & THE LIFE

John 1:6-18

There came a man sent from God whose name was John (the Baptist). He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. This was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God; to those who believed in His name, who were born, not of blood lines or by human parentage or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh, and lived among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testified about Him and cried out, saying “This was He of whom I said, He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.”

For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the heart of the Father, He has explained Him.

THE LIGHT AND THE LIFE

John 1:6-18

John “the baptist” was the son of Zacharias and Elizabeth. What was his family relationship to Jesus?

Why did John the Baptist and John the Apostle see Jesus as the “Light?”

When John says that “the Word became flesh,” what do you think he means?

*With all the Kings
and nobles who could have
been invited to the birthday
party, God chooses
shepherds!*

*While we speculate about
alien life in the cosmos, the
Bible clearly indicates that
there is angelic life made
up of good angels and evil
angels (demons). They are as
real as we are and able
to exist in parallel
dimensions.*

*The Name of Jesus has
been given all authority and
power. Jesus (reveals His
human birth) Christ (reveals
that He is the Messiah of the
World) our Lord (reveals His
personal relationship with
those who follow Him).*

*God gave the Law
to the Jews through Moses.
There was moral law (the
Ten Commandments) and
many other civil and
ceremonial laws.
The Jews were to
obey these laws for their
protection as well as to make
them distinct among
the other nations.*

THE KING IS BORN

Luke 2:1-40

It came about in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone was proceeding to their home towns to register for the census. Joseph went up as well from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem. He belonged to the house and family of David, and He went home in to register, along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant.

It came about that while they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her first-born son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them to stay at the inn.

And in the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. An angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find the baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger."

Suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." And it came about when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

And they came quickly and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. And when they had seen it firsthand, they related the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as they had been told. When eight days were completed before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every first-born male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what was set out in the Law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

SIMEON

There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devoted, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when His parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, "Now Lord, Let Your bond-servant die in peace, according to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all nations, a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel."

And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him.

And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed - and a sword will pierce even your own soul - to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

ANNA

And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with a husband seven years after her marriage, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.

At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.

THE KING IS BORN

Luke 2:1-40

Here you will find the traditional "Christmas Story." *What strikes you as you read it?*

Why are the words of Simeon and Anna so significant?

Why do you think that Jesus (Yeshua) needed to be born a Jew?

MY WORLDVIEW

In what ways do I feel the presence of "light" in my life??

If you were God and were going to unfold a story in the fabric of time, how would you have done it?

THE BOY KING

Luke 2:41-52

Jesus used to go to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast; and as they were returning, after spending all seven days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. And His parents were unaware of it, but thought he was in the caravan, and they traveled a day's journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. When they did not find Him they returned to Jerusalem to look for Him.

And it came about that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them, and asking them questions. All who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. And when His parents saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you."

And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for me? Did you not know that I had to be doing my Father's business?" And they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. And He went down with them, and came to Nazareth; and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

To think of such a young boy teaching and astonishing older, prominent men from the cradle of religious knowledge demonstrates that Christ was not an ordinary young man.

The priests of the Jews were to lead them in worship. The Levites were descended from the tribe of Levi (one of the twelve tribes). This is the "family" from whom the priests were chosen.

THE BOY KING

Luke 2:41-52

Why do you think that Jesus' childhood was a remarkable one?

What things did He appear to understand at only 12 years of age?

Why do you think that it was important for Jesus to "continue in subjection" to His earthly parents?

In what ways does your life reflect an interest in your "Father's business?"

THE LIGHT, THE LIFE, THE LAMB

John 1:19-51

This is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" And he confessed, did not deny it, but made it plain, "I am not the Christ."

They asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" And he answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as Isaiah the prophet said."

Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him and said to him, "Why are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" John answered them saying, "I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. It is He who comes after me, the fastener of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan river, where John was baptizing.

The next day John saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is one of whom I spoke: 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.' I did not recognize Him, but so that He might be clearly revealed to Israel, I came baptizing in water." John testified saying, "I have seen the Spirit descending like a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' I have seen Him, and tell you for certain that this is the Son of God."

The next day John was standing with two of his own followers, and he looked at Jesus as He walked and said, "Behold the Lamb of God!" His two followers heard him speak and they followed Jesus. And Jesus turned and saw them following, and said to them, "What do you want?" They said to Him, "Rabbi (which translated means teacher), where are You staying?" He said to them, "Come and you will see." So they came and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him that day, for it was late in the day.

One of the two who heard John speak and had followed Him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He found his own brother Simon first and said to him, "We have found the Messiah (Christ)." He brought him to Jesus, and Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

The next day as He purposed to go into Galilee, He found Philip. Jesus said to him, "Follow Me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found the one whom Moses and the prophets wrote - Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

John the Baptist was the "Elijah" promised to return by the last "Old Testament" prophet Malachi 400 years earlier. He is distinct from the disciple named John who was one of the Twelve and who penned one of the Gospel accounts.

John immediately understood that Christ was the Lamb who would die for the sin of the world. He was, after all, baptizing with water those who knew they were spiritually dead. When he baptized Jesus (something he did not want to do), he saw a dove descending upon Him, and a voice saying, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well-pleased."

Disciples are followers. They follow the teaching and traditions of those they hold in high regard. The Pharisees were the prominent religious party of Jesus' day. They found their identity in Abraham, the father of the Jews - and their righteousness in keeping the Law of Moses.

Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to Him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!"

Nathanael said to Him, "How do You know me?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered Him, "Teacher, You are the Son of God; You are the King of Israel."

Jesus answered and said to him, "Because I said to you that I saw you under the fig tree, you believe in Me? You will see greater things than this." And He said to him, "Truly, truly I say to you, you will see the heavens opened and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man."

Information about Christ spread among friends, family, and followers.

Three or four years later when He was crucified and raised from the dead, there was hardly a person in all of Israel who did not know who He was.

Jesus was from the country town of Nazareth. His birth and actions fulfilled prophecies that were spoken hundreds and even thousands of years before He was born.

THE LIGHT, THE LIFE, THE LAMB

JOHN 1:19-51

Why do you think that the Jews were interested in the prophetic identity of John the Baptist?

What does John reveal about his mission and his identity (he is a different man than John the apostle)?

What was the result of John the Baptist's words?

MY WORLDVIEW

In what ways does the picture of Jesus being a sacrificial Lamb touch my life?

In what ways do I find Christ increasing and myself decreasing as my journey unfolds?



TOUGH CHOICES

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led around by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they had ended, He became hungry.

And the devil said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread." And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone.'"

And the devil led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You worship before me, it shall all be Yours."

Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and serve Him only.'"

And he led Him to Jerusalem and had Him stand on the highest point of the temple and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here; for it is written, 'He will command His angels concerning You to guard You,' and 'On their hands they will carry You up so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.'"

And Jesus answered and said to him, "It is written, You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."

When the devil had finished every temptation, he left Him until an opportune time.

The Spirit of God was present at Creation and has always been present to do the will of the Father. The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all distinct persons, but one in essence.

The devil rebelled against God and successfully tempted Adam and Eve to do the same. He was present to try to kill Christ when He was born, and he is here now to tempt, distract and destroy Christ's mission of giving Himself for mankind.

Satan tempts humans with appeals to our eyes, our destructive passions, and the arrogant pride of life, just as He did with Jesus Christ. As with Adam and Eve, Satan's goal is to pull people away from believing and doing what God's Word commands.

TOUGH CHOICES

Luke 4:1-13

What was Satan's strategy for tempting Jesus?

How was Satan using or misusing God's Word when tempting Jesus?

What would have happened if Satan had been successful in shipwrecking Jesus' mission?

What have you learned about being susceptible to temptation?

*This is the first of
over thirty recorded miracles
that Christ would perform
(He probably engaged in
thousands over His three or
four year public ministry).
Each miracle was
accomplished to deliver that
particular person, display
God's power, and to teach
about the healing
of the soul.*

*Passover (Exodus 12)
commemorated when God's
Angel "passed over" the Jews
on the night He killed all the
firstborn in Egypt.
It was a perpetual
celebration of remembrance of
deliverance for the
Jewish nation.*

*People would come
from all over the world to wor-
ship the Living God, and the
Jewish religious leaders had
allowed the temple to become
a place of profiteering.
Money-changers and
sacrifice-sellers had
demeaned the spiritual
sacrifices by their
parasitic greed.*

WHO WILL FOLLOW?

John 2:1-3:21

And on the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and His disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what do I have to do with you? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Whatever He says to you, do it."

Now there were six stone water pots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each. Jesus said to them, "Fill the water pots with water." And they filled them up to the brim. And He said to them, "Draw some out now, and take it to the headwaiter." And they did as He said, and took it to him.

And when the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom, and said to him, "Every man serves the good wine first, and when men have drunk freely, then the wine of a lesser quality; but you have kept the good wine until now." This miracle at Cana in Galilee was the beginning of Jesus' signs. He revealed His glory and His disciples believed in Him.

After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother, and His brothers, and His followers; and stayed there a few days.

And the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. And in the temple He found those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, seated with the money changers.

He made a cutting, whip of cords, and drove them all out of the temple along with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the money changers, and overturned their tables; and to those who were selling doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a house of merchandise."

His disciples remembered it was written, "Zeal for Your house will consume me." The Jews therefore answered and said to Him, "What sign do You show us, seeing that You do these things?"

Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews said to Him, "It took forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" But He was speaking of the temple of His body. After He was raised from the dead, His disciples remembered that He said this; and they believed the Scripture, and the word which Jesus had spoken.

Now when He was in Jerusalem during the Passover feast, many believed in His name, witnessing the signs which He was doing. But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men. He did not need anyone to explain man to Him for He Himself knew what was in man.

Just as the prophet Elisha had performed signs, Jesus proved He was from the Father by the signs which He accomplished.

Apparently it isn't enough to be religious. To come to God, a person needs to experience a spiritual rebirth. This rebirth appears to be supernatural, and blows like the wind into a person's heart from the throne of God - through belief in Christ.

Read Numbers 21 for the account of the fiery serpents.

In the book of Numbers, the sons of Israel were dying because of a plague of deadly serpents. Moses fashioned a bronze serpent and placed it on a pole and carried it through the camp of the Israelites. Whoever looked at the serpent was spared death.

The Blowing of the Wind

Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews; who came to Him by night and said to Him, "Teacher, we know that You have come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him."

Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. "Do not be amazed that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"

"The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus answered and said to Him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered and said to him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not understand these things?"

"Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak that which we know, and bear witness of that which we have seen; and you do not receive our witness. If I told you earthly things and you do not believe, how shall you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven, except He who came down from heaven - even the Son of Man. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life."

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world should be saved through Him. He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

"And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, because his deeds would be exposed. But he who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be revealed as having been accomplished in God."

WHO WILL FOLLOW?

John 2:1-3:21

What does the wedding at Cana teach us about Jesus' relationships?

This is the first of only 30 or so recorded individual miracles of the probable thousands He performed. We have about 35 days of Jesus' 3 year public ministry recorded for us in the Gospels!

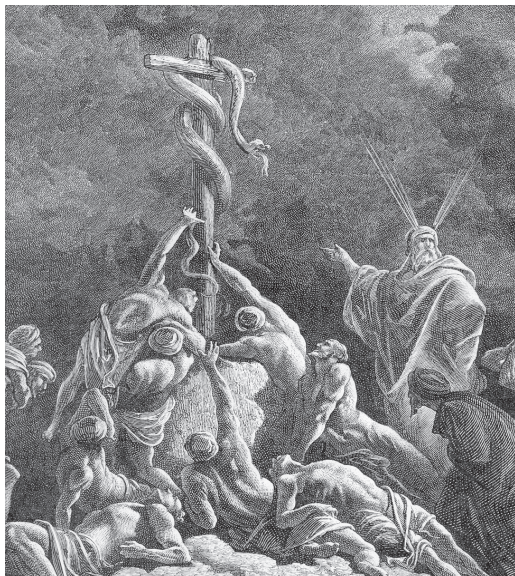
Why was the encounter with Nicodemus so unique? So significant?

What is Jesus saying about the formation of spiritual life within a human soul?

MY WORLDVIEW

How do I hold up under tough spiritual circumstances?

When it comes to Jesus' miracles I find myself...



*Those who
“love darkness”
die spiritual and physical
death. Those who see the
light of the Living God in
Christ and are willing to
come to Him will live.*

*The synagogue was where
the Jews met publicly for
worship and readings of the
Law and the prophets.
There were synagogues
throughout the world.*

*This quote is found
in Isaiah 61. Jesus knew He
was here to fulfill the words
of the prophets and the will
of the Father. He had come to
bring the light of God back to
the earth. He knew that this
could be accomplished only
through His choice to die
for the sins of the world.
Through His death the
world would find life.*

*Both of these examples (the
widow and Naaman) were
Gentiles, and not Jews. The
fact that Jesus could go from
awesome to awful so quickly
is only understood when we
realize that He had dealt the
Jewish, religious pride an
incredible insult.
Their human, religious,
and national arrogance
would eventually result in the
insane crucifixion of the
Son of the Living God.*

NOW IT BEGINS

Luke 4:14-30

And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit; and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. And He began teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all.

And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. He opened the book, and found the place where it was written, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed me to preach the good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are downtrodden, and to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”

He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed upon Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, “Isn't this Joseph's son?” And He said to them, “No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, ‘Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your home town as well.’” And He said, “Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his home town.”

“But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian.”

And everyone in the synagogue was filled with rage as they heard these things; and they rose up and cast Him out of the city, and led Him to the edge of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. But passing through their midst, He went His way.

NOW IT BEGINS

Luke 4:14-30

What kinds of questions would people from Jesus' hometown have that other people might not ask?

What were the things Jesus' neighbors liked to hear from Him?

What was the meaning of His statement about parables being quoted to Him in the future?

What were the things that enraged them, and why were they so upset?

If this Isaiah prophecy is true, how does it make you feel? (Isaiah 61)

THE SUCCESSFUL HEALER

Matthew 4:23-25

And Jesus was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, 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, overcome 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.

THE SUCCESSFUL HEALER

Matthew 4:23-25

How would Jesus have been able to get time alone with His Father?

What kind of impact do you think these miracles produced in the lives of the recipients of God's power?

MY WORLDVIEW

I feel like Christ's miracles are a part of my faith because...

DAY SIX

6

WOMAN AT THE WELL

John 4:1-45

When Jesus knew that the Pharisees had heard that He was making and baptizing more disciples than John (although Jesus Himself was not baptizing, but His disciples were), He left Judea and headed for Galilee. And He had to pass through Samaria. So He came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph; and Jacob's well was there. Jesus, weary from His journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

There came a Samaritan woman to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman therefore said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask me for a drink since I am a Samaritan woman?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.)

Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

She said to Him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep; where will you get this living water? You are not greater than our father Jacob, are you, who gave us the well, and drank of it himself along with his sons and his cattle?"

Jesus answered and said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water shall thirst again; but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life."

The woman said to Him, "Sir, give me this water, so I will not be thirsty, or need to come all the way here to draw." He said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered and said, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You have accurately stated, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you are now with is not your husband; this you have truly spoken."

The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped in this mountain, and you people say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship."

Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, an hour is coming when neither in this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, shall you worship the Father. You worship that which you do not know; we worship that which we know, for salvation is from the Jews."

Jesus' public ministry spanned three or four years. During this time He encountered thousands of people, healed many, and preached the Gospel of the Kingdom to all.

This Samaritan woman was half Jewish and half Gentile. Jews of Jesus' day saw Samaritans as inferior, and because of this enmity the Samaritans worshipped the Living God in other places rather than Jerusalem.

Jesus, being no respecter of persons, didn't have religious trappings to keep Him from speaking the truth to this "woman at the well." As a result she told her friends and many Samaritans were able to come to Christ.

Living water is an amazing thing in any country at any time in history!

What motivated this woman?

“But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers shall worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.”

The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when He comes, He will make all things clear to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am He.”

And at this point His disciples came, and they were amazed that He had been speaking with a woman; yet no one said, “What do You want?” or, “Why are You speaking with her?”

So the woman left her water pot, and went into the city, and said to the men, “Come, see a man who told me all the things that I have done; this is not the Christ, is it?”

They went out of the city, and were coming to Him. Meanwhile the disciples were saying, “Teacher, eat.” But He said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”

Because of this the disciples were saying to one another, “No one brought Him anything to eat, did they?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work.

“Do you not say, ‘There are four more months, and the harvest comes’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes, and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already he who reaps is receiving wages, and is gathering fruit for life eternal; that the one who plants and the one who harvests may rejoice together.

“For in this case the saying is true, ‘One sows, and another reaps.’ I sent you to harvest that which you have not cultivated; others have worked, and you have entered into their labor.”

And from that city many of the Samaritans believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, “He told me all the things that I have done.” So when the Samaritans came to Him, they were asking Him to stay with them; and He stayed there two days. And many more believed because of His word; and they were saying to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed the Savior of the world.”

And after the two days He went from there into the region of Galilee. For Jesus Himself made it clear that a prophet has no honor in his own country. So when He came to Galilee, the Galileans received Him, because they had seen all the things that He had done in Jerusalem at the feast; for they had also been at the feast.

The disciples were taking Christ literally about the subject of food.

He explains through the example of hunger (and what is going on with the Samaritans) that His “food” was to do the will of His Father. The will of God was to proclaim spiritual release to a world lost in the darkness of sin and unbelief.

“White fields” describes the appearance of wheat right at its’ optimal time for harvest.

Jesus’ fields (and the disciples’) were the grain of His Father’s in relationship to people’s souls.

THE WOMAN AT THE WELL

John 4:1-45

Why were the disciples surprised that Jesus was having this conversation? Why do you think there were “no dealings” with Samaritans?

What is at the core of what this woman values?

What within this encounter blew this woman away?

What was her station in life?

When Jesus said the “fields were white” what do you think He was talking about?

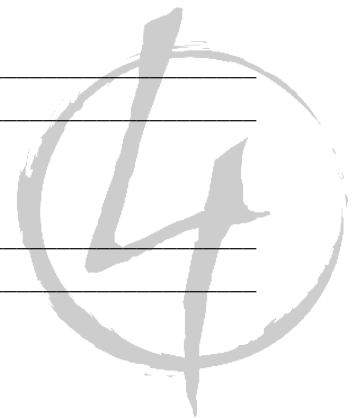
What things did Jesus expect His followers to learn from this situation?

What do we learn about Jesus as a teacher from observing this encounter?

MY WORLDVIEW

Do I believe there is a “living water” and if there is, how is it delivered?

What is the “food of my soul” that captures my imagination?





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