

Jesus Christ's Resurrection and Ascension

God raised Jesus from the dead . . .

But *God raised him up, having released him from the pains of death, because it was not possible for him to be held in its power.* ACTS 2:24

. . . Jesus' body was not found in his tomb

[AN EARLY BELIEVER:] Furthermore, some women of our group amazed us. *They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³and when they did not find his body, they came back and said they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴Then some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him.* LUKE 24:22–24

Jesus appeared to people after his resurrection

To the same apostles also, after his suffering, he presented himself alive with many convincing proofs. He was seen by them over a forty-day period and spoke about matters concerning the kingdom of God. ACTS 1:3

[PETER, TO A CROWD OF LARGELY JEWS:] *This Jesus God raised up, and we are all witnesses of it.* ACTS 2:32

Jesus was taken up to God in heaven

After he [Jesus] had said this, while they were watching, *he was lifted up and a cloud hid him from their sight. ¹⁰As they were still staring into the sky while he was going, suddenly two men in white clothing stood near them ¹¹and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking up into the sky? This same Jesus who has been taken up from you into heaven will come back in the same way you saw him go into heaven."* ACTS 1:9–11

Because he suffered death, God gave Jesus Christ great glory

We see him now crowned with glory and honor because of the death he suffered. HEBREWS 2:9B GNT

Remember the persecuted

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I. God's Enablement of Jesus Christ

God enabled Jesus Christ to carry out his mission, empowering and directing him. Consequently what Jesus did and said showed that he had been sent and empowered by God. For without God no one could possibly have the extraordinary authority, power and knowledge that Jesus had.

Jesus Christ's Power from God

God granted Jesus sovereign authority

[JESUS:] *All things have been handed over to me by my Father.* MATTHEW 11:27A

For you [God] have given him authority over all humanity so that he might give eternal life to all those you gave him. JOHN 17:2 ISV

God bestowed the Holy Spirit on Jesus, for his mission . . .

After Jesus was baptized, just as he was coming up out of the water, the heavens opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming on him.¹⁷ And a voice from heaven said, "This is my one dear Son; in him I take great delight." MATTHEW 3:16-17

As noted earlier, the descending of the Holy Spirit onto Jesus Christ at his baptism is understood to be God's anointing of Jesus Christ for his mission (cf. Luke 4:18). As such, through the Holy Spirit God empowered Jesus in his mission.

. . . The Holy Spirit empowered Jesus in what he said and did

The man [Jesus] whom God has sent speaks God's message. After all, God gives him the Spirit without limit. JOHN 3:34 GW

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, and he went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, because God was with him. ACTS 10:38 ISV

Presumably the power spoken of was due to the Holy Spirit, the power being given in conjunction with the Holy Spirit. This verse also appears to correlate Jesus having the Holy Spirit with God's presence being with him.

*wrong has he done? I have found him guilty of no crime deserving death. I will therefore flog him and release him."*²³ *But they were insistent, demanding with loud shouts that he be crucified. And their shouts prevailed.*²⁴ *So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted.* LUKE 23:4, 20-24

The horrific suffering and death of Jesus

Then he [Pilate] released Barabbas for them. But *after he had Jesus flogged, he handed him over to be crucified.*²⁷ Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the governor's residence and gathered the whole cohort around him.²⁸ *They stripped him and put a scarlet robe around him,*²⁹ *and after braiding a crown of thorns, they put it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand, and kneeling down before him, they mocked him: "Hail, king of the Jews!"*³⁰ *They spat on him and took the staff and struck him repeatedly on the head.*³¹ *When they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes back on him. Then they led him away to crucify him. ...*³⁵ *When they had crucified him, they divided his clothes by throwing dice. ...*³⁹ *Those who passed by defamed him, shaking their heads*⁴⁰ *and saying, "You who can destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are God's Son, come down from the cross!"* ...⁴⁵ *Now from noon until three, darkness came over all the land.*⁴⁶ *At about three o'clock Jesus shouted with a loud voice, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"* ...⁵⁰ *Then Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and gave up his spirit.* MATTHEW 27:26-31, 35, 39-40, 45-46, 50

In v. 46, Jesus' cry (cf. Psalms 22:1) suggests that the intimate relationship between himself and God had in some way or sense been impaired.

It was God's will that Jesus die – for everyone

[PETER, TO A CROWD OF LARGELY JEWS:] *In accordance with his own plan God had already decided that Jesus would be handed over to you; and you killed him by letting sinful men crucify him.* ACTS 2:23 GNT

God didn't spare his own Son but handed him over to death for all of us. ROMANS 8:32A GW

Jesus Christ's Teaching

Jesus preached the good news of the kingdom of God

Jesus went throughout all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, *preaching the gospel of the kingdom*, and healing all kinds of disease and sickness among the people. [MATTHEW 4:23](#)

The kingdom of God (or the kingdom of heaven) was the most prominent theme in Jesus' teaching.

Jesus' teaching was from God

[JESUS:] *This teaching that you hear is not really mine; it is from my Father, who sent me.* [JOHN 14:24B](#) NCV™

Jesus' teaching was amazing – leading people to believe in him

When the crowds heard this, *they were amazed at his teaching.* [MATTHEW 22:33](#)

And *many more believed because of the things he said.* ⁴²They said to the woman, "First we believed in Jesus because of your speech, but now we believe because we heard him ourselves. We know that this man really is the Savior of the world." [JOHN 4:41–42](#) NCV™

Jesus Christ's Rejection and Death

Jesus faced intense opposition, with efforts to kill him

Now *because Jesus was doing these things* [miracles] *on the Sabbath, the Jewish leaders began persecuting him.* ¹⁷So he told them, "My Father is working until now, and I too am working." ¹⁸For this reason *the Jewish leaders were trying even harder to kill him*, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was also calling God his own Father, thus making himself equal with God. [JOHN 5:16–18](#)

The unjust condemnation of Jesus – who was innocent

Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "*I find no basis for an accusation against this man.*" ... ²⁰Pilate addressed them once again *because he wanted to release Jesus.* ²¹But they kept on shouting, "Crucify, crucify him!" ²²A third time he said to them, "Why? What

As such, Jesus did many miraculous deeds with God's power

The power of the Lord was present for Jesus to heal the sick. [LUKE 5:17B](#) GNT

One night Nicodemus came to Jesus and said, "Teacher, we know you are a teacher sent from God, because *no one can do the miracles you do unless God is with him.*" [JOHN 3:2](#) NCV™

Jesus Christ's Knowledge from God

God taught Jesus

[JESUS:] I do nothing on my own initiative, but *I speak just what the Father taught me.* [JOHN 8:28B](#)

[JESUS, TO HIS DISCIPLES:] But I have called you friends, because *I have revealed to you everything I heard from my Father.* [JOHN 15:15B](#)

Jesus taught his disciples everything he learned from God.

Moreover, Jesus knew everything

[THE DISCIPLES, TO JESUS:] Now *we know that you know everything* and do not need anyone to ask you anything. Because of this we believe that you have come from God. [JOHN 16:30](#)

The final statement arguably suggests that Jesus' knowledge of all things was due to God. Jesus' complete knowledge would appear to have been due to both God's teaching of him (as per the previous subsection) and God enabling him to know or perceive all things about people and everything else.

Jesus was also filled with wisdom

And *the child* [Jesus] *grew and became strong, filled with wisdom*, and the favor of God was upon him. [LUKE 2:40](#)

Nobody could match Jesus' wisdom

[MEN TRYING TO TRICK JESUS:] Is it right for us to pay the tribute tax to Caesar or not?" ²³But *Jesus perceived their deceit and said to them,* ²⁴"Show me a denarius. Whose image and inscription are on it?" They said, "Caesar's." ²⁵So he said to them, "Then give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²⁶Thus they

were unable in the presence of the people to trap him with his own words. And stunned by his answer, they fell silent. [LUKE 20:22–26](#)

No one could answer him at all, and from that day on no one dared to ask him another question. [MATTHEW 22:46](#) ISV

Jesus Christ's Direction from God

God worked through Jesus . . .

[PETER:] Listen to these words, fellow-Israelites! Jesus of Nazareth was a man whose divine authority was clearly proven to you by *all the miracles and wonders which God performed through him*. You yourselves know this, for it happened here among you. [ACTS 2:22](#) GNT

. . . Jesus only did what God did

So Jesus answered them, “I tell you the solemn truth, *the Son can do nothing on his own initiative, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise.* [JOHN 5:19](#)

Jesus carried out God's will, doing the work God had given him

Jesus said to them, “*My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to complete his work.* [JOHN 4:34](#)

In speaking of doing God's will as his “food”, Jesus indicated that it was his prime source of “nourishment” (AMP, NLT). Doing God's work was in a sense what sustained him and was his top priority.

Remember the persecuted

II. Jesus Christ's Ministry, Death and Resurrection

The life Jesus Christ lived has been unparalleled in word and deed. It culminated in his sacrificial death and subsequent resurrection by God. How we respond to the NT's testimony to these events and their significance, will determine our eternal destiny.

Jesus Christ's Miracles

Jesus performed miraculous deeds that greatly amazed people

People were completely astounded and said, “He has done everything well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak. [MARK 7:37](#)

Jesus delivered people from disease and disorders . . .

People brought to him all who suffered with various illnesses and afflictions, those who had seizures, paralytics, and those possessed by demons, and he healed them. [MATTHEW 4:24B](#)

. . . Jesus even raised the dead

And they began making fun of him, because *they knew that she was dead.* ⁵⁴*But Jesus gently took her by the hand and said, “Child, get up.”* ⁵⁵*Her spirit returned, and she got up immediately.* [LUKE 8:53–55A](#)

Jesus exercised control over nature, in helping people

Now a great windstorm developed and the waves were breaking into the boat, so that the boat was nearly swamped. . . . ³⁹*So he got up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Be quiet! Calm down!” Then the wind stopped, and it was dead calm.* [MARK 4:37, 39](#)

[ANDREW, TO JESUS:] Here is a boy who has *five barley loaves and two fish, but what good are these for so many people?* ¹⁰Jesus said, “Have the people sit down.” . . . So the men sat down, *about five thousand in number.* ¹¹*Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed the bread to those who were seated. He then did the same with the fish, as much as they wanted.* [JOHN 6:9–11](#)