

I. Jesus came to bring fire on the earth

A. The fire of God’s holy presence

“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.’” (Luke 3:16)

B. The fire of God’s cleansing

“He will sit as refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver.” (Malachi 3:3)

C. The fire of God’s power

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.” (Acts 1:8)

D. The fire of God’s judgment

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our God is a consuming fire.” (Hebrews 12:28-29)

“The Lord is coming with fire, and his chariots are like a whirlwind; he will bring down his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For with fire and with his sword the Lord will execute judgment upon all men.” (Isaiah 66:15-16)

II. Jesus came to bring salvation to the earth

A. He went through a baptism of death

“From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.” (Matthew 16:21)

B. He endured great distress because of it

“He withdrew about a stone’s throw beyond them, knelt down and prayed, ‘Father, If you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.’ An angel from heaven appeared to him and strengthened him. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.” (Luke 22:41-44)

C. He determined to die for us

“The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life – only to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again.” (John 10:17-18)

D. He perfectly completed it

“Later, knowing that all was now completed, and so that the Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, ‘I am thirsty’. A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips. When he had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is finished’. With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.” (John 19:28-30)

III. Jesus came to bring division on the earth

- A. Faith in Christ separates us from those who do not have faith
- B. A life of righteousness will be in conflict with a life of unrighteousness
- C. A life pleasing to Christ will be in conflict with a life pleasing to self

IV. Jesus came to give us evidence to believe in him

- A. Do we see the signs that led to Jesus coming to earth
- B. Do we see the signs that lead us to believe in Jesus as Savior

“Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:30-31)

- C. Do we see the signs that point to his second coming

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.” (Matthew 24:42)

V. Jesus came to bring judgment to the earth

- A. We all owe an unpayable spiritual debt

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23)

- B. We can be reconciled to God through Jesus

“When we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son.” (Romans 5:10)

- C. We will all be judged fairly by God

“He will judge the world in righteousness; he will govern the peoples with justice.” (Psalm 9:8)