

# JESUS

## OUR LORD & SAVIOR PART I

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**JESUS**

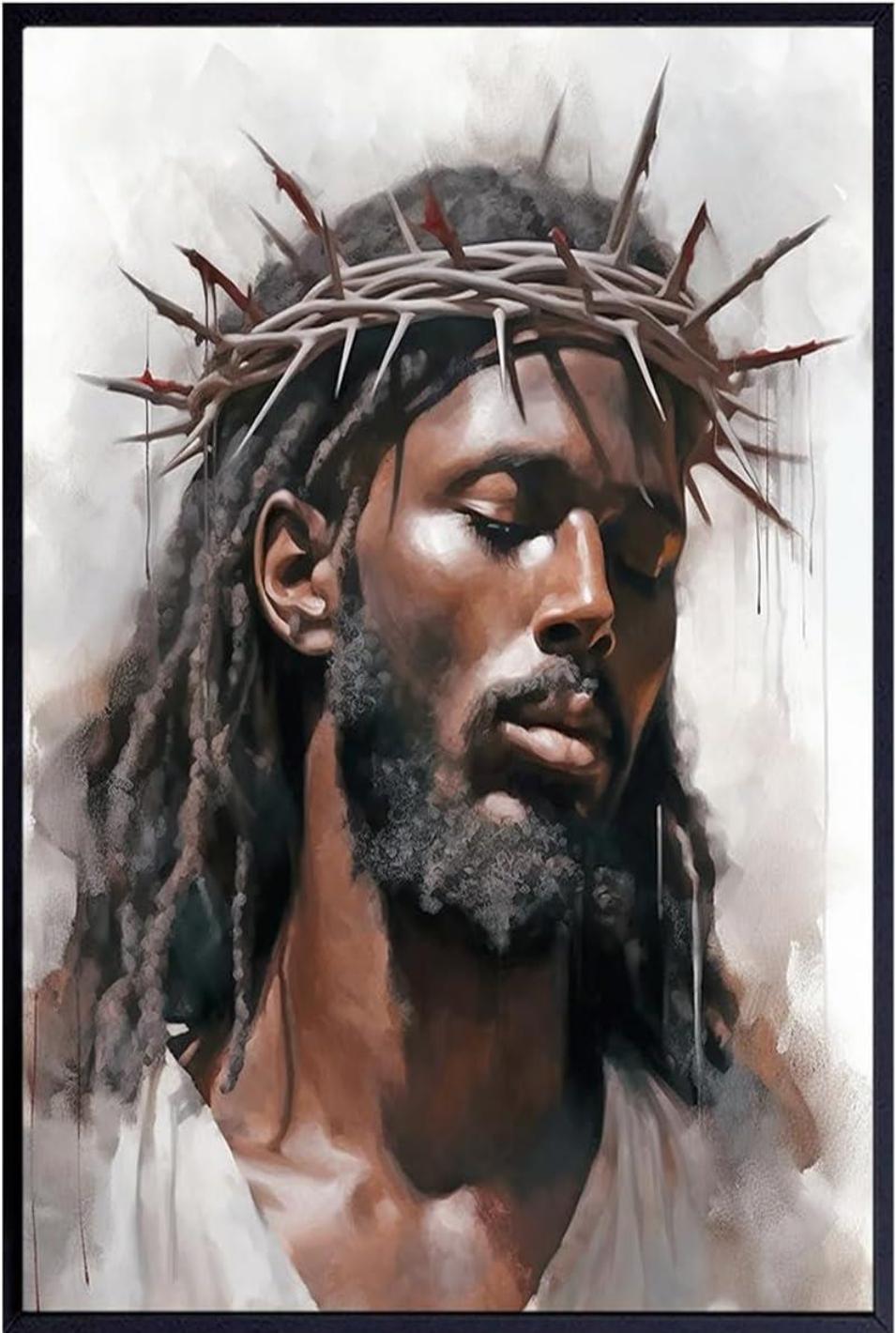
**“Jehovah is salvation”**

**CHRIST**

**“anointed” or “Messiah”**

**LORD**

**sovereign ruler of all things and the one to whom believers pledge their lives and allegiance**



## SAVIOR

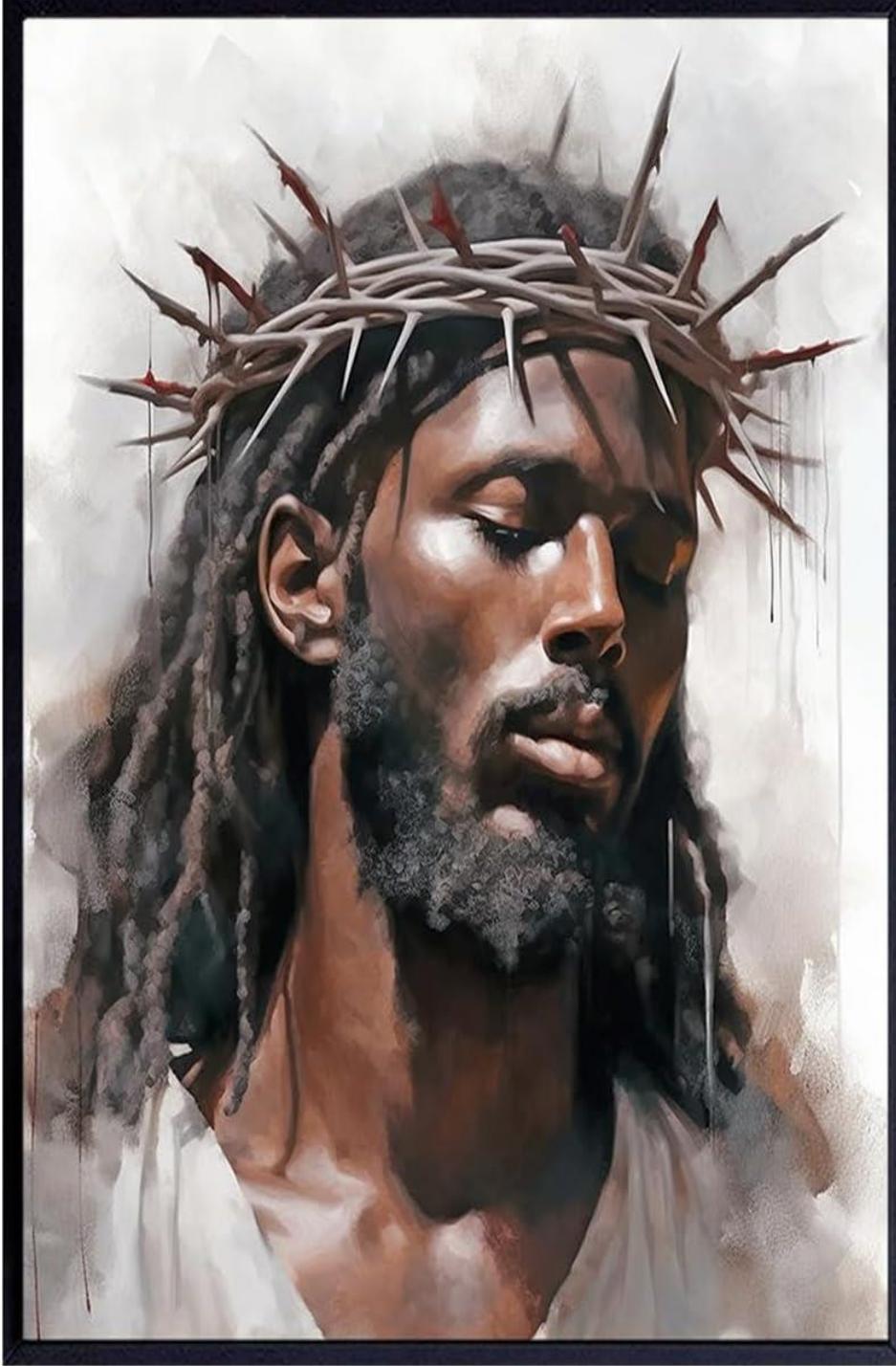
- Jesus **saves us** from **sin** by forgiving our sins.
- Jesus saves us from **God's righteous punishment** by justifying us with His blood.
- Jesus saves us from **eternal death (separation from God)** by giving us eternal life.
- Jesus saves us from the **degradation** of the world by separating, empowering, and sanctifying us.
- He saves us from the **devil**, who deceives the world.

**Jesus did not simply save us *from* something,**

**He saved us *for* something.**

**He saved us for a relationship with God, who  
loves us.**

**By saving us from our sins, Jesus made  
reconciliation with God possible, allowing us to  
approach God as our heavenly Father.**



## HIS NAMES & TITLES

**“Son of Man”** was Jesus’ chosen name, which echoes a vision of the prophet Daniel. Jesus took this title and applied it to stress both His human and divine natures.

**“Messiah”** means **“the anointed one”**. Anointing was a sign that God had chosen and prepared a person for His own special purpose. Many of Jesus’ day were looking for the coming of the **“Messiah”**, the king of the Jews. However, Jesus never emphasized this aspect of His ministry.

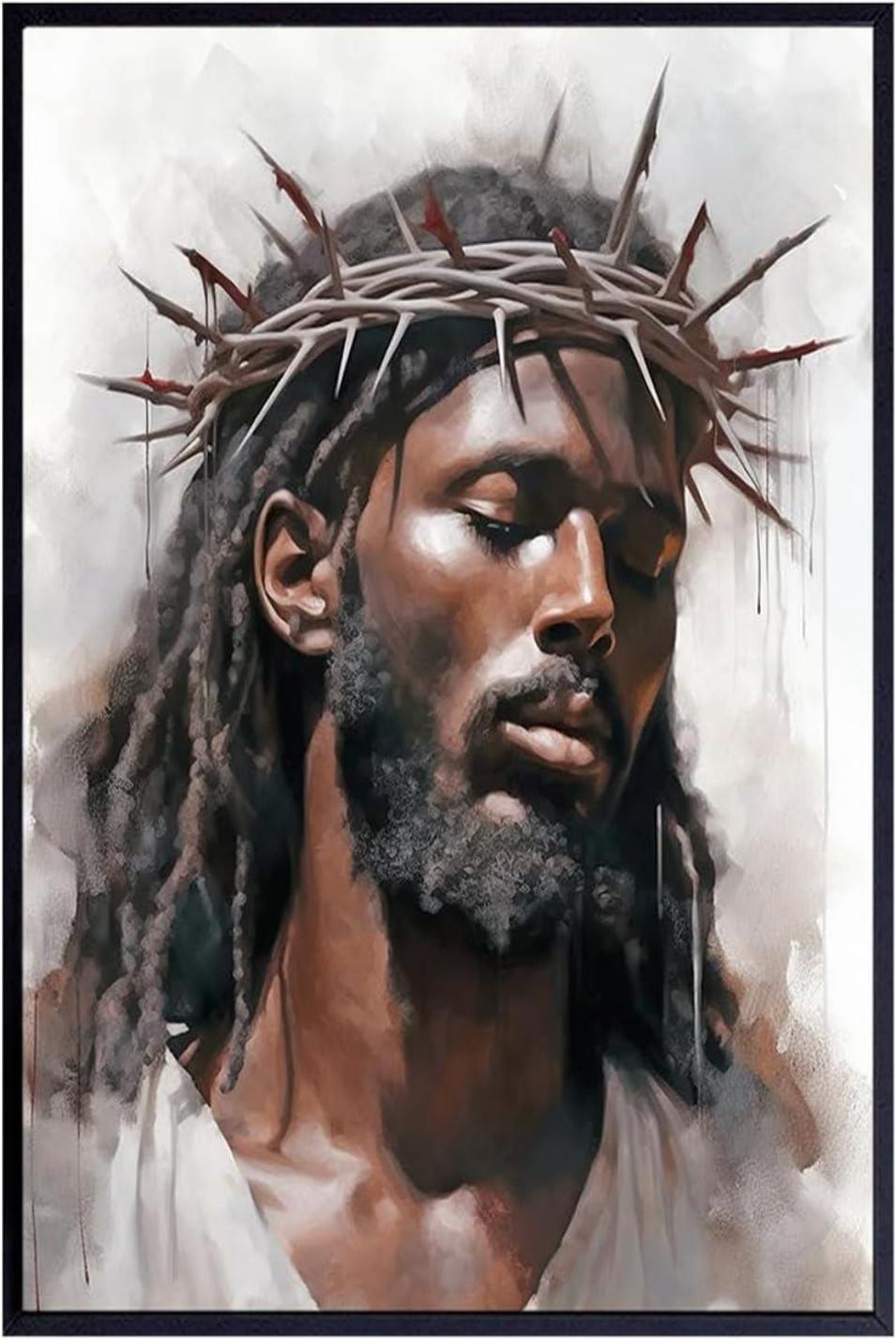
**“Son of God”** was a title used primarily in the **Gospel of John** to emphasize Jesus’ **unique relationship to God**. Jesus addressed God as **“Father”** and encouraged others to do the same.

**“Son of David”** emphasizes that Jesus was **born through the line of King David** and born in Bethlehem, David’s city, and that Jesus **fulfilled Old Testament prophecies** concerning the coming of the **Messiah**.

**“I AM”** is a phrase that **Jesus used to describe Himself** several times in the gospels, especially in John. It recalls God’s revelation to Moses as **“I Am Who I Am”** and is another way to indicate Jesus’ close relationship with God.

# WHO IS JESUS CHRIST?

- **Over 200 titles and names** make reference to His nature, His position in the Trinity, and His work on earth.
- **The human-divine Son of God born of the virgin Mary and conceived by the Holy Spirit**
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Person of the Godhead; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit**
- **God in the flesh**



# JESUS IS GOD IN THE FLESH

## 1 TIMOTHY 3:16 (NKJV)

**16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:**

**God was manifested in the flesh,...**

## JOHN 14:9 (NKJV)

**9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father;**

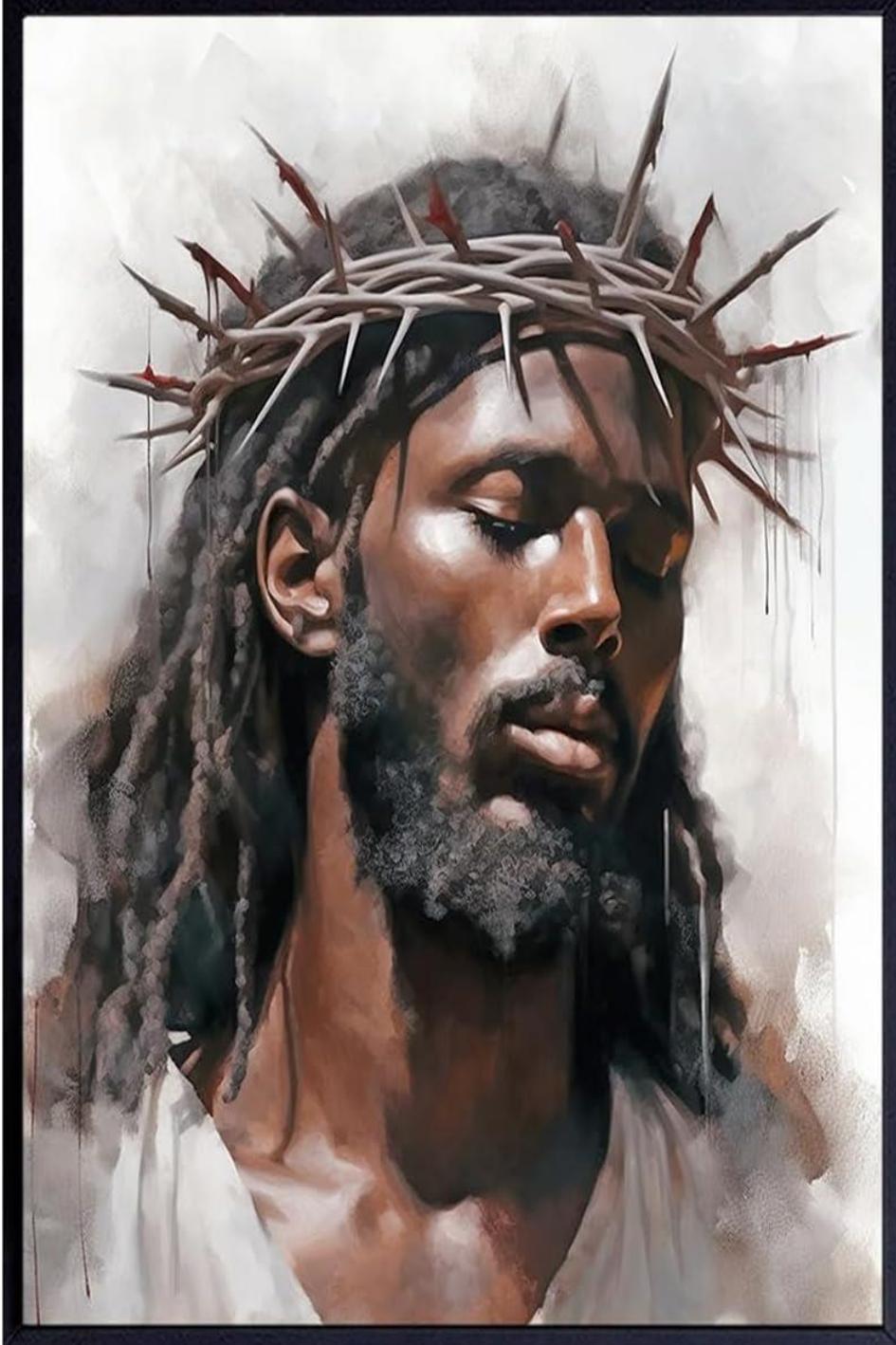
# JESUS IS GOD IN THE FLESH

- The **Incarnation of God** is the belief that God became human in the person of Jesus is a core doctrine.

## JOHN 1:1, 14 (NKJV)

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**

**14** And **the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.**



## COLOSSIANS 1:15 – 19 (NKJV)

**<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. <sup>17</sup> And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. <sup>18</sup> And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.**

# JESUS IS GOD IN THE FLESH

## COLOSSIANS 2:9 (NKJV)

<sup>9</sup>For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; <sup>10</sup>and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

## HEBREWS 1:8 (NKJV)

<sup>8</sup>But to the Son *He says*:

“Your throne, O God, *is* forever and ever;

A scepter of righteousness *is* the scepter of Your kingdom.



## JOHN 10:30 (NKJV)

***30 I and My Father are one.”***

**31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. 32 Jesus answered them, “*Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?*”**

**33 The Jews answered Him, saying, “For a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.”**

# OBSERVATIONS FROM JOHN 10:30

1. Jesus claimed to be **one with God** in the sense of being **equal to Him**.
2. His audience **understood His claim** of equality with God the Father, and they accused Him of **blasphemy**, which was punishable by death.
3. Jesus referred to Himself as **God's Son** and to **God as His Father**.
4. His claim to be one with the Father was part of a larger argument that He had **existed from eternity past, lived in perfect oneness with the Father, held the same power as God, and was sent by God the Father's authority**. This claim to have equal power as the Father was not blasphemy; It was the truth.



# THE BIRTH OF JESUS

At the **time of His birth**, Mary was in the process of getting married to Joseph. This was an extended process, and their engagement included several months of ceremonies that take place before being pronounced husband and wife.

Mary and Joseph went to **Bethlehem** to fulfill a decree from Caesar Augustus for a census for taxation purposes, which required everyone to travel to their ancestral home to be registered. Bethlehem has a long and illustrious history and is a town about six miles south of Jerusalem.

# THE BIRTH OF JESUS

**Joseph, a descendant of King David, had to go to Bethlehem to be counted. Although Mary was not required to go to be registered, she went with Joseph because she was pregnant.**

**Bethlehem is known as the city of David's birth and adolescence. It is also where he was anointed king among his brothers.**

**Joseph, as Jesus' legal father, Joseph's Davidic lineage is presented in the gospel of Matthew. This establishes Jesus' right to the throne as the "son of David" through adoption.**



**The gospel of Luke traces Mary's genealogy back to David through her father's side, which is said to be through Nathan, another of David's sons. This ensures that Jesus is a descendant of David through his mother's bloodline as well.**

**Significance:** Both genealogies were necessary to fulfill the prophecy that the Messiah would be a descendant of David.

# THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Jesus is known as the **“Son of David”** and the **“Son of Abraham”**. The **Son of David** identifies Him as the promised Messiah and rightful King, while the **Son of Abraham** links Him to the covenant God made with Abraham and the one through whom all nations would be blessed.

The birth of Jesus was announced long before it took place. Both **Mary and Joseph** received **divine confirmation from angels** that Mary would have a very special son. In Luke, it is said, **“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God...He will be the king...his kingdom will never end.**



The fact that Mary discovered she was pregnant before the marriage caused Joseph some distress and embarrassment. Both of them were **teenagers** at the time.

Before His birth, Joseph and Mary found themselves **making a long journey**, out in the street, and unable to gain access to normal hospitality offered to travelers in the middle east. They were forced to spend the night in a **stable**, where animals lived. This was perhaps where a poor family shared living space with their own animals. This is where Jesus was born.



## HIS UPBRINGING

Early in His life, Jesus was taken to **Nazareth**, a small village in Galilee. It was a non-descript place of no real influence. To have come from Nazareth was a mark of **social inferiority** to many. Galilee had a large Gentile population and was thought to be too open to non-Jewish cultural influences.

Brought up by His mother, Mary, and her husband, Joseph, a **carpenter** by trade. He is referred to in the Bible in John 1:45 as “Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph”.

- **Jesus was Mary's firstborn child.** According to Mark 6:3, he had **four brothers**, James, Joses, Judas, and Simon, and an unspecified number of sisters.
- **The only incident preserved from Jesus' first 30 years of life** was recorded in Luke 2:41-52 during trip to Jerusalem with Joseph and Mary when He was 12 years old.
- **Joseph apparently died before Jesus began His public ministry.** Since He was known in Nazareth as "the carpenter" (Mark 6:3). He may have taken Joseph's place as the family breadwinner at an early age. This may be why Jesus while He was being crucified gave John the responsibility to care for his mother, Mary.



## LUKE 2:52 (NKJV)

**<sup>2</sup> And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.**

**This provides a glimpse into Jesus' development as He grew from childhood into adulthood:**

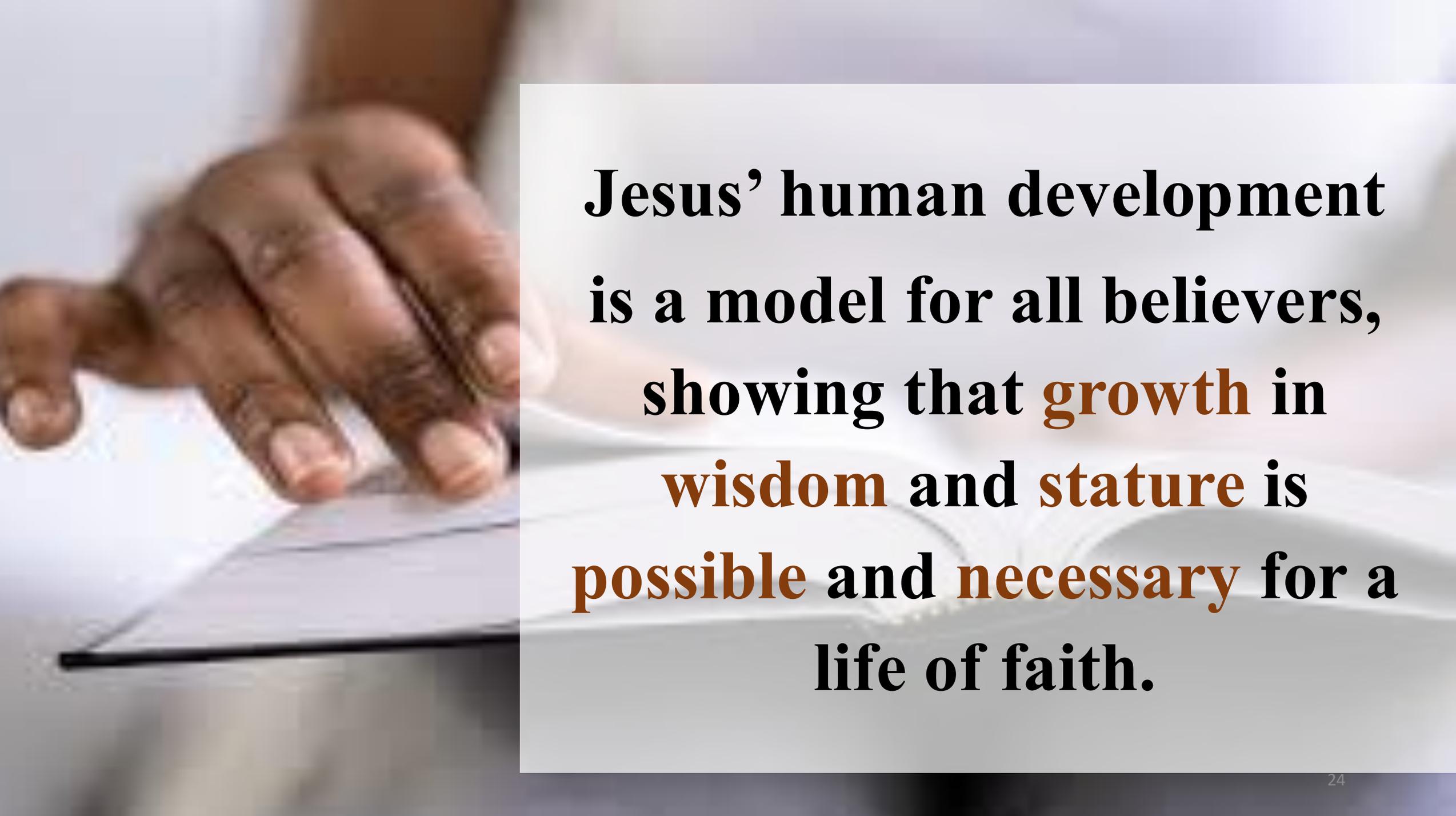
- **“Increased in wisdom and stature”** reflects Jesus' holistic growth which encompasses His **physical, intellectual, and emotional maturation**. His growth was not merely in knowledge but in practical application. Wisdom, in the biblical sense, involves **living in a way that honors God and aligns with His will**. Jesus, as He increased in wisdom, would have grown in His **understanding of the Scriptures** and in His ability to **discern God's will**.

- **“Stature”** refers to His physical development. As He grew in stature, Jesus matured from a child into an adult, experiencing the physical growth that comes with age. This aspect is crucial because it **highlights His full humanity**. Jesus, though divine, experienced life as a human. He was subject to the same physical processes as any other person. This was necessary for Jesus to **fully identify with humanity** and fulfill His role as the Son of Man and Savior.
- His **increase in favor with God and man** signifies His growing relationship with God and humanity. This relationship would be crucial in His ministry and His role as the Savior.
- This reflects His growing capacity to fulfill His divine mission. As He matured, His wisdom was reflected in His understanding and ability to teach Scriptures. **At twelve, He astounded the temple teachers.**

## EPHESIANS 4:15 (NKJV)

**<sup>15</sup> but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—**

- **Growth is significant in the lives of all believers. Just as Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, Christians are called to grow in understanding God's Word and spiritual maturity.**
- **This growth involves cultivating a deep relationship with God, gaining wisdom through His Word, and maturing to live as redeemed people.**



**Jesus' human development is a model for all believers, showing that growth in wisdom and stature is possible and necessary for a life of faith.**



# THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

## Matthew 3:13 – 17 (NKJV)

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be **baptized by John.** <sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

<sup>15</sup> Jesus replied, **“Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness.”** Then John consented.

<sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the **Spirit of God descending like a dove** and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a **voice from heaven** said, “This is **my Son**, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”

- Jesus began His ministry when He sought to be **baptized by John the Baptist**. John preached between AD 27 – 28 in the Jordan valley and baptized those who wished to give expression to their repentance.
- The **descent of the dove** as He came up out of the water was a sign that He was the One anointed by the Spirit of God as the Servant-Messiah of His people.
- God’s voice from heaven declared, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased in Luke 3:22. This indicated that Jesus was **Israel’s anointed King destined to fulfill His kingship as the Servant of the Lord** described by the prophet Isaiah in 42:2, 52:13.

# THE BAPTISM OF JESUS

- His baptism is followed by **His temptation in the wilderness**. This testing confirmed His acceptance of God's path for His life. Jesus refused to use His power as God's Son to fulfill His personal desires, amaze the people, or dominate the world by political and military force.
- Jesus preached and taught the **gospel of the kingdom** and references "the kingdom of God" and "the kingdom of heaven".



# HIS MESSAGE & MINISTRY

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- Jesus began His **three-year earthly ministry** and preached that **“the kingdom of God is near”**.
- Mark 1:14 – 15 describes His primary focus during this time: **“Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.’”**
- When asked to define His kingdom, Jesus explained it this way: **“The kingdom of God is not coming in ways that can be observed. The kingdom of God is in you.**



# THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- **The gospel of the kingdom is the good-news message of repentance, redemption, and restoration offered by God to all who will receive Christ.**
- **Those who accept this offer become part of His eternal kingdom (John 1:12) and are set free from slavery to sin.**
- **Those who receive the gospel of the kingdom become citizens of heaven, are freed from bondage to this world, and referred to as God's children and "ambassadors" for our heavenly Father.**

- We must follow our heavenly Father's code of conduct while sojourners on earth. We need **not conform to this world's habits, values, and lifestyle**, because this is not our home.

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world" (John 18:36). So, although we must live here until God calls us home, we are **not to live for ourselves or according to this world's value system**.

- Because we have been bought by the blood of Jesus, we have been given the right to **live according to God's value system**. Citizens of the kingdom of God live here on assignment from our Father the King. Living with a kingdom mindset empowers us to make wiser decisions as we invest our lives in furthering the gospel of the kingdom.



**Just as an earthly foreign ambassador retains his national identity when representing his country in another, we, the **spiritual ambassadors of God's kingdom**, owe our allegiance to God while we reside in this world.**

# HIS PURPOSED MIRACLES

- Revealed His divine identity and authority as the Messiah and Son of God

## JOHN 11:41 – 42 (NKJV)

<sup>41</sup> Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up *His* eyes and said, “**Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.** <sup>42</sup> And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said *this*, that they may believe that You sent Me.”

# HIS PURPOSED MIRACLES

- **As He performed various signs and wonders, He proved that He was divinely endowed with power to control physical elements, spiritual forces, and even life and death.**

## JOHN 5:36 (NKJV)

**<sup>36</sup> But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me.**

- **Sometimes, Jesus performed miracles in the Father's authority, and at other times, He acted on His own authority. This revealed His divine nature and His participation in the Trinity.**



- The miracles of Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecies about Israel’s Messiah through the prophet Isaiah in Isaiah 61:1 – 2, who said, ‘He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases’”.

## MATTHEW 8:16 – 17 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, <sup>17</sup> that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

“He Himself took our infirmities  
And bore *our* sicknesses.”

# HIS PURPOSED MIRACLES

- **When John the Baptist sent the disciples to Jesus to confirm His identity, Jesus responded in Matthew 11:4 – 5 , “Go back to John and tell him what you have heard and seen—the blind see, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor”.**
- **To validate who He is – In John 10:38, Jesus told a group of His enemies, “Even though you do not believe me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father”.**

- **Opened hearts to receive His message and trust Him as Savior – In John 2:23 – 25 and 11:45, John emphasized this purpose as one of his motives for writing his Gospel: “The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name”.**

**Provided dramatic evidence that He is God’s only Son, sent to be our Savior, and to show God’s love and compassion for His people.**

**In the New Testament, the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell the story of the life and ministry of Jesus.**

**Join us next week for Part II which focuses on the death, burial, resurrection, and return of Jesus.**