

THE URANTIA BOOK · PART IV

Miracles and the Evolution of the Master's Ministry

*From Baptism in the Jordan to the Resurrection
Christ Michael's Bestowal on Urantia*

*"Learn to approach the miracle through Jesus, but do not make the
mistake of approaching Jesus through the miracle." — 149:2.7*

What This Study Covers

1

Baptism in the Jordan (Jan 14, A.D. 26)

The technical end of the purely human life of Jesus — the divine Son finds his Father

2

40 Days in the Desert & The Six Great Decisions

The more divine phase begins; the Fourth Great Decision shapes the entire ministry

3

Evolution of the Miracle Ministry

From Cana to the Feeding of 5,000 — how miracles drove and complicated the mission

4

The Sifting of the Kingdom

The turning point: from material crowds to true spiritual seekers

5

Transfiguration & Resurrection

The final cosmic affirmations — divinity openly acknowledged

6

Five Categories of Miracles

A systematic framework for understanding every miraculous event in the bestowal

The End of the Purely Human Life

Key Events

- Fall A.D. 25 — Jesus completes the era of 'Joshua the Teacher'
- Thought Adjuster leads him to the slopes of Mount Hermon
- Six weeks alone with God — technical termination of mortal bestowal
- Lucifer Rebellion settled; sovereignty of Nebadon earned
- Returns to Zebedee's workshop — 'time of waiting'
- Mid-January A.D. 26 — John the Baptist reaches Ford at Pella
- Jesus lays down his tools: 'My hour has come'

"This day of baptism ended the purely human life of Jesus. The divine Son has found his Father, the Universal Father has found his incarnated Son, and they speak the one to the other."

136:2.7

"...marked the beginning of the more divine phase of the bestowal."

134:7.7

Christ Michael then entered 40 days of isolation in the Perean hills to contemplate the course of his ministry and receive his bestowal release from Immanuel.

No Superhuman Power for Attracting Adherence

"The next great problem...concerned the question as to whether or not any of his superhuman powers should be employed for the purpose of attracting the attention and winning the adherence of his fellow men...He decided that he should not."

136:8.1

What the Fourth Decision Established

Refused all spectacle

Jesus consistently declined to 'show a sign' as proof of divinity

Healed in secret

Recipients of healing were admonished to 'tell no man'

Natural methods only

The kingdom would be established through ordinary human means

Single task chosen

To reveal the kingdom of heaven to the mortals of Urantia

The Burden of Jesus' Teaching

✦ The Kingdom is at Hand

The fatherhood of God is available to all who believe — now, not in a distant future.

✦ Salvation by Faith Alone

Entry into the kingdom requires only sincere faith — not sacrifice, law, or ritual.

✦ Love as the Rule of Living

Supreme devotion to God, love of neighbor — these are the laws of the kingdom.

✦ Obedience Yields the Spirit

Bearing the fruits of the spirit in personal life is the living evidence of kingdom membership.

"When you have presented to mortal man the good news that God is his Father, you can the easier persuade him that he is in reality a son of God."

The Miracle Timeline: Three Turning Points

1

Feb 27, A.D. 26

Water into Wine — Cana

The accidental first miracle. Jesus was most surprised. He realized he must guard against allowing sympathy and pity to trigger repeated episodes. Faith in the miracle — not the Father — was the crowd's response.

2

Jan 16, A.D. 28

Healing at Sundown — 683 Healed

After a 2-year hiatus, Jesus healed 683 people. He had neglected to resist his Personalized Adjuster's warning about 'time element prerogatives.' From this point, miracles became vehicles for teaching faith.

3

Mar 30, A.D. 29

Feeding the 5,000 — Sifting of the Kingdom

The ONLY consciously preplanned nature miracle. It brought an end to the era of crowds seeking material gain. Within a month, 50,000 followers shrank to fewer than 500 true seekers.

Types of Miracles in the Master's Ministry

1

Nature Miracles

Water → Wine (accidental); Feeding 5,000 (only preplanned). No law of nature modified — matter assembled independent of time.

2

Pre-Knowledge of Natural Law

Draught of Fishes, healing the noble man's son, widow's son (coma, not death). Jesus' mastery of natural phenomena misread as miracles.

3

Intentional Miracles

Mercy Ministry: Cleansing the leper, healing the paralytic. Teaching Ministry: Withered hand on Sabbath, Raising of Lazarus.

4

Faith Healing

Miraculous: Woman touching his robe. Non-miraculous: Pool of Bethesda (inspired by words). 'What the Creator Son desires and the Father wills IS.'

5

Non-Miraculous Events

Calming the storm (natural experience). Jesus walking on water (Peter's night vision/dream). A miracle-minded people saw signs everywhere.

Lazarus & The Resurrection

Resurrection of Lazarus

April 29, A.D. 29 · Bethany

- Jesus risked his life traveling to Jerusalem
- Purpose: one last chance for scribes & Pharisees to accept his teachings
- 'The most profound and stupendous outward working of his entire earth career' — 167:4.2
- Sanhedrin's formal decision to arrest and execute Jesus followed immediately
- 'I am the resurrection and the life' — validated by the act itself

The Resurrection of Christ Michael

April 9, A.D. 30 · Jerusalem

- The morontia form of Jesus rises at 2:02 AM
- A secret technique of Creator Sons — not a resuscitation of a physical body
- True transformation: physical body reorganized and transmuted into morontia form
- Validates the entire gospel: 'I am the resurrection and the life'
- Triggers the dispensational resurrection roll call of Urantia's sleeping survivors

Divinity Openly Acknowledged

What Happened on Mount Hermon

- Peter, James, and John witness Jesus in conference with Gabriel and the Father Melchizedek
- Jesus declines full universe authority — elects to 'meet the last and full measure of the present will of his Paradise Father' — 158:1.4
- A silvery cloud overshadows them
- The same voice as at the baptism: 'This is my beloved Son; give heed to him' — 158:1.10
- From this moment, Jesus Christ freely acknowledged his divinity

Cosmic Significance

"Jesus sought to know his Father's will and decided to pursue the mortal bestowal to its natural end. This was the significance of the transfiguration to Jesus."

158:3.5

"Jesus noted that his Father did not indicate that the Urantia bestowal was finished..."

158:3.4

The Transfiguration commemorated the completion of the mandate of the Eternal Son of Paradise — and set the stage for the final Jerusalem ministry.

Approaching Jesus — Not the Miracle

"Of all human knowledge, that which is of greatest value is to know the religious life of Jesus and how he lived it."

196:1.3

The Man

Jesus was genuinely human — never allowing his divinity to bypass the authentic experience of mortal life. 'Doing the Father's will to the perfection of human attainment.'

The God

Christ Michael was also fully divine — doing the Father's will to the full completion of his bestowal mandate as Creator Son of Nebadon.

The Mirror

Every miracle, examined through the lens of the Fourth Great Decision, reveals a being choosing love, mercy, and faith over spectacle, power, and compliance.

"Learn to approach the miracle through Jesus, but do not make the mistake of approaching Jesus through the miracle."

149:2.7