

# Discussion Questions

June 2, 2024

## Acts 5:12-20

### Healing & Suffering Part 2

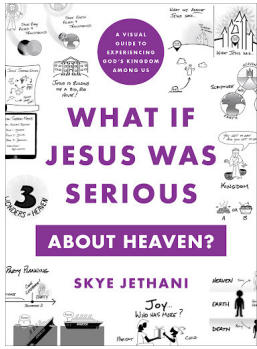


1. Share a time where you have personally witnessed someone experience miraculous healing.
2. Read John 11:17-27

In what ways does Jesus' statement that He is the resurrection and the life point to something far greater than physical healing or resurrection? Why does it matter?
3. Discuss the idea of healing as a signpost pointing towards the ultimate hope of eternal life with Christ. How does this perspective shape our understanding of suffering and temporary healing this side of eternity?
4. The sermon discusses the current age of tension where we live "between the times" - between the first and second coming of Christ where the Kingdom of God is already here, but still not yet fully here.

How does the "already, but not yet" understanding of the kingdom of God impacts our expectation and experience of healing today?

How does the "already, but not yet" understanding of the kingdom of God impacts our expectation and experience of suffering today?
5. In light of what we know about God's Kingdom, how we can minister to those who are enduring chronic pain, sickness, disability, or mental illness that have been prayed for many times and still not experienced healing.
6. Pray for healing for those in your midst who are sick or hurting.



### Skye Jethani - What if Jesus Was Serious About Heaven

In C. S. LEWIS'S classic children's book *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the land of Narnia had fallen under the curse of the White Witch. It was perpetually winter, but a prophecy foretold that the true king would return and the curse would be broken:

Wrong will be right, when Aslan comes in sight,  
At the sound of his roar, sorrow will be no more,  
When he bares his teeth, winter meets its death,  
And when he shakes his mane, we shall have spring again.

In one scene, Edmund noticed the Witch's sleigh was having difficulty moving through the snow. The air was warmer, the snow wetter, and he heard the sound of running water in the distance. Eventually leaves began to appear on trees, and patches of green grass peeked through the snow. The curse was breaking. Spring had arrived. Aslan was on the move!

Lewis's allegory wonderfully illustrates the state of our world. Like Narnia, things are not as they should be. Our world lies under a curse of evil, sin, chaos, and death, which is contrary to God's nature and his intent for creation. When Jesus arrived, he announced this perpetual winter had been broken and spring was at hand. "The time has come. The kingdom of God has come near" (Mark 1:15), he proclaimed. Reading from the scroll of Isaiah at the synagogue, Jesus announced that the arrival of God's heavenly kingdom on earth would break the curse and "set the oppressed free" (Luke 4:18).

After declaring this good news, Jesus began to do wonders - he healed the sick, fed the hungry, liberated the possessed, and restored sight to the blind. He manifested the presence of heaven and broke the curse of sin and death everywhere he went. When asked by what power he accomplished these signs and what they meant, Jesus said, "the kingdom of God has come upon you" (Luke 11:20). Just as Aslan's arrival in Lewis's story caused the first green shoots of spring to break through the snow, the arrival of Jesus caused the first signs of heaven's reign to break through the disorder, ugliness, and scarcity of our sinful world. We sometimes call these signs miracles.

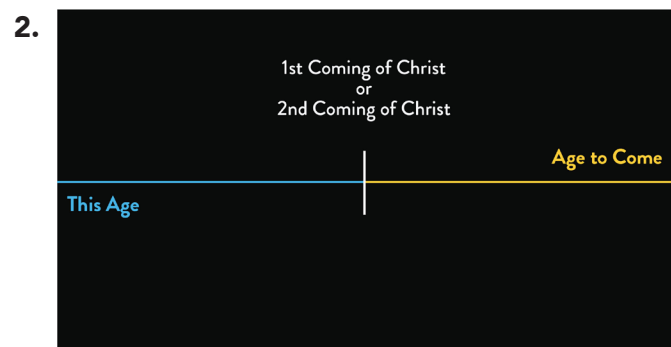
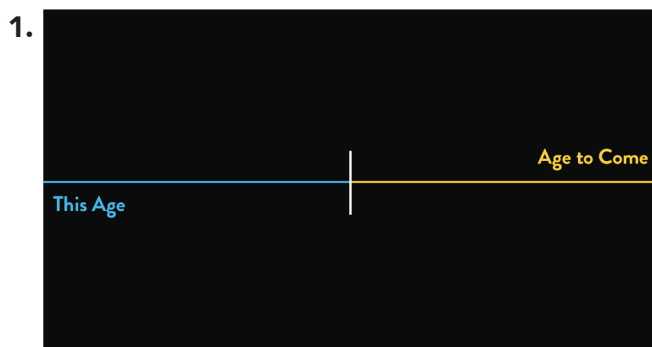
Contrary to the modern view that defines a miracle as an event that violates the natural order, in the Gospels, a miracle is an event that restores the proper order—the order God always intended. With this understanding, we see that evil, injustice, and death are the real intruders, and miracles are the signs that God is putting his world back to rights. They are the evidence that God is reuniting his presence with his people and ensuring that his will is done on earth as it is in the heavens.

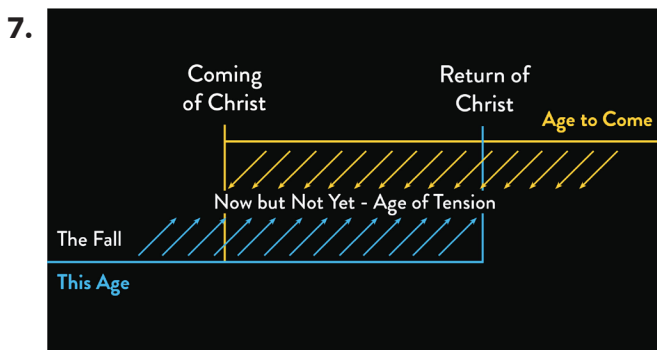
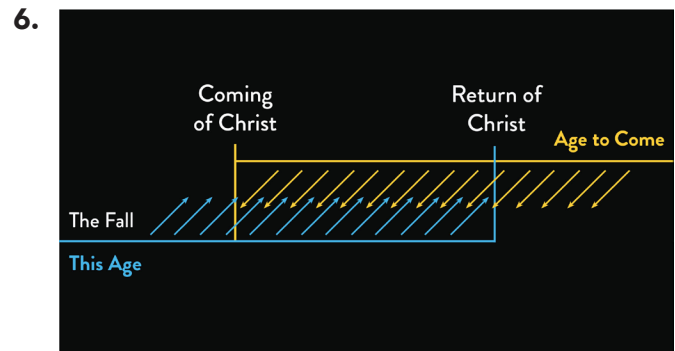
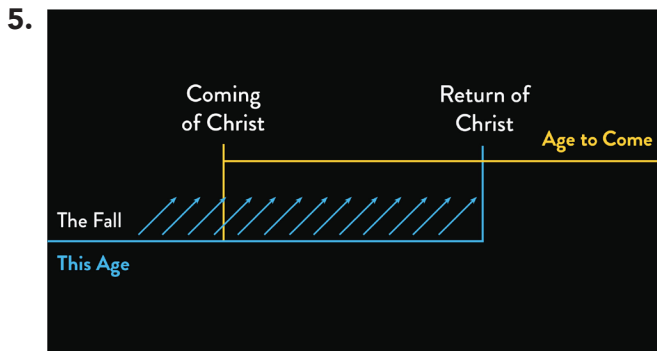
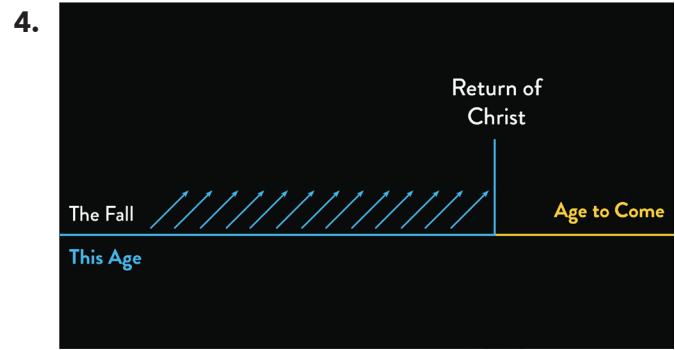
### **John 11:25–26 (NIV)**

*I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?*

### **Luke 4:18–19 (NIV)**

*The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*





### **Luke 17:21 (NLT)**

*For the Kingdom of God is already among you.*

### **Tyler Staton**

Over a lifetime of following Jesus you will experience overwhelming joy because we live in the "already"  
And over a lifetime of following Jesus you will experience incredible pain because we live in the "not yet"

### **1 Corinthians 15:19 (NLT)**

*And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world.*

### **Philippians 3:10 (NIV)**

*I want to know Christ - yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings*

### **Nick Vujcic asked the same question as Little James**

<https://youtu.be/Tyl9bngWex4>

### **"Why haven't you healed me?" (The Chosen scene)**

<https://youtu.be/KZDvcEkjthA>

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