

THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST

FROM ANNUNCIATION TO ASCENSION



WALKING WITH JESUS

BIBLE STUDY TEXT AND QUESTIONS

VOLUME 01

LESSONS 001 THROUGH 026

Written by
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“WALKING WITH JESUS”

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“WALKING WITH JESUS”

Class Overview

In order to get to know Jesus, we are going to embark on a three-year journey through His life and teachings. The objective is to get to know Him more intimately in an effort to become more like Him. We want to see and feel what He taught and what He did, so we will be able to live our lives more like God wants us to live. We will use Jesus as our role model.

The agenda is to study the Gospels according to Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, taking the events of Christ's life in chronological order as best we can determine. The four Gospels will be arranged side by side when appropriate so that we may see how each writer saw the event being described. This will enable us to get a better view of what happened, and how it was understood at that time.

Why just the four Gospels?

We will be using Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John in our study as our main study books. They give the historical record of Jesus' life and teachings on this earth. By concentrating on the Gospels and what they say, as well as, how they were understood by the early readers, we will be more able to apply to our own lives. The end goal is to get to know Jesus more intimately.

We will cite passages from the Old Testament, since the early readers had those to reference. We will not quote New Testament writers because the first Christians would not have had access to those writings. Our desire is to see Jesus from the perspective of the first readers who may not have been aware of the Epistles and other New Testament writings.

“WALKING WITH JESUS”

Class Guidelines



Welcome to the “Walking With Jesus,” Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ Training Series. Many people since the days of Christ have desired to know Jesus just like the Greeks who were in Jerusalem around the time of His Crucifixion (*John 12:21*.) Many people claim to believe in Him, but how many really know anything about Him?

Could you give an accurate answer to anyone who asked you about who Jesus is and what He taught? The only way we are going to get to know Him is to study what the Bible says about Him and see how it applies to us today. In so doing, we will become intimately acquainted with Him and find ourselves living more like Him.

Our desire is to help you understand Jesus in a way that will help you better understand who He is and what He has done and how it applies to your life today.

Our Mission is to help you develop a passionate, personal, and powerful relationship with Jesus Christ so that you may live your life more like His.

Class Policies



This page shall establish some general guidelines to maintain a Christ-like spirit in the study sessions, and guard against destructive habits. They should be distributed, read, and understood by all who are taking this training series.

- 1) New Hope Gospel Ministries is committed to being as non-denominational as is humanly possible. We are not seeking uniformity, but unity based on the Word of God.
 - a) We recognize that students will be coming from all religious walks of life. Students come from various denominational backgrounds or levels of spiritual influence and maturity. We want to recognize that some of our strongly-held beliefs about the Bible may not always be shared, understood, or agreed upon by others.
 - b) It is unfair to expect everyone to be on the same level of spiritual maturity and understanding. Allow others the freedom to have a different understanding of a passage than you do, but seek to find that which you have in common. Build on your similarities, not your differences.
 - c) Our goal is to help people come to a closer personal relationship with Jesus Christ through the study of the four Gospels. Each individual is going to have to determine his own level of relationship with Jesus for himself.
- 2) New Hope Gospel Ministries does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, social status, or religious background.



Regarding Discussion Sessions

- 1) Discussion groups should be no larger than twelve individuals. Six to eight individuals are an ideal size.
- 2) All individuals should be encouraged, but not forced, to participate.
- 3) Discussions can become lively at times. Please remember to **let only one person talk at a time** and try not to talk when someone else is talking.
- 4) **If you are sharing, please keep it short** to allow others to share. Be aware lest you begin to dominate the discussion and exclude others.
- 5) Remember that **each person comes from a different background and level of spiritual maturity**. We want to build unity, not uniformity.
- 6) It is not necessary that everyone agree. **It is important that everyone feels loved and accepted.**
- 7) In matters of opinion, liberty, **in all things love.**



Regarding Homework Questions

- 1) Homework questions are optional for those who want to study deeper. They do not need to be turned in or graded.
- 2) Homework is designed to allow for a broad range of research. Each individual can delve as deep into researching the homework as he personally desires. What you get out of these lessons will be proportional to what you put into them.
- 3) To help with homework, we strongly recommend the following reference books:
 - a) A concordance
 - b) Other translations of the New Testament
 - c) A Bible atlas
 - d) A Bible dictionary
 - e) Other study tools may be helpful but are not required
- 4) You may have to write your answers on a separate sheet of paper and insert it in your book.

Regarding Prayer Sessions



- 1) All **prayer requests are** to be considered **personal**.
- 2) Please don't share any prayer requests outside your prayer group unless they are your own, or you are specifically asked to do so.
- 3) If someone expresses a personal problem as a prayer request, **we should not try to solve his problem**. Let him express it and **listen** with love and sympathy. If you have a "solution" or something that you think may help, express it to him after the prayer time.
- 4) Please try to **keep prayer requests short** to allow others time to share, and ample time to pray.



Disclaimers

- 1) "Walking With Jesus" is a non-denominational Bible study of the four Gospels on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- 2) Although we may appear to defend some practices and argue or question others, we are truly seeking to only teach what the four Gospels clearly teach.
- 3) Our goal is to understand Jesus in such a way that we will live more like Him. We understand the Bible to teach that Jesus came to set us an example as well as to die on the Cross for our sins.
- 4) This is a Bible study and as such, we take the liberty to presume that the Bible, particularly the four Gospels are true and accurate today.
- 5) This is not intended to be a theological study, so we will not be dealing with textual criticisms or other theological questions. The student is welcome to pursue these issues if so interested, but they are not a part of the goals of this Bible study.
- 6) We have chosen to use the New International Version of the Bible for our Scripture text because it is a modern, accurate and readable translation. The NIV is accurate to the oldest of known manuscripts, yet is written in a style that reflects modern American English sentence structure. This makes it easier to understand for the new believers and the younger persons, who have not been exposed to King James English or foreign sentence structures.

About the Author

The Story Behind “WALKING WITH JESUS”

Preparing the Soil

You could easily say that I was “born and raised going to church.” Every SONday from when I was about two weeks old, mom and dad would take me to the church building to worship the God who created us and the Jesus who died for us. There I would grow up learning all of the Bible stories that are taught to children in the SONday morning Bible School classes.

When I was in sixth grade, my parents moved to Osage City, Kansas. There we attended the Christian Church every SONday. I went with mom, dad, brother, and sisters for SONday School and Worship. The Christian Church was small. The attendance ran from the low twenties to the mid thirties. The building only had seats for about 120 people. Our minister was usually a student from the local Bible College (seventy miles away in Manhattan, Kansas).

It was in that church that I accepted Christ and was baptized into Him. It was there that I earned my “God and Country” award while in Boy Scouts. And it was there that I preached my first sermon.

In that small, old country church-like building was a sign. It was on the wall, on the right side of the sanctuary, about head height, towards the front, where an overflow-classroom wing jutted out to the right. That sign made a tremendous, life-changing, impression on me that lives to this day. The sign was on a royal blue card with silvery “Old English” style lettering as best I can remember. It said, **“Only one life, will soon be past, Only what’s done for Christ will last!”**

I saw that sign many times when I was in junior high and high school. Often I would look over at it and refresh my priorities with its words. There was something about that sign that was screaming at me for attention.

Planting the Seed

All of my life has been controlled or influenced by those words. It has never been enough for me to just go to church and sit. I’ve always wanted to be part of the action. I’ve always wanted to help people come closer to Christ. A seed had been planted.

While in college, I was asked to preach one summer at my home church in Osage City, Kansas. The minister had just resigned and they wanted to know if I would take on the task. I preached at Osage City for that summer and then another minister took it and stayed for the school year. I was rehired and stayed for fifteen months.

After graduating from state college with a Bachelor’s of Science and a major of Automotive Technology, I went to work in Phoenix, Arizona. After a year and a half, I was not enjoying my work and my life. I remembered how I felt when I was preaching and decided that this was my call to enter the ministry. I went to a Bible college in Joplin, Missouri and a little over three years later moved to Wasco California where I pastored Wasco Christian Church from May 1977 to May 1985. It was during my ministry there that I taught completely through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ using a harmony of the Gospels.

When I left Wasco, I came to the Los Angeles area and in October 1986, I was called to pastor at Carson Christian Church in Carson, California. I was there three years and three months. During that time, I again taught through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, using the harmony of the Gospels. Each time I did it, it took me three years to complete the study.

I had grown to appreciate entrepreneurs while at Wasco and started to envision one day having a business that served God and reached people around the world. A seed was starting to germinate.

The Seed Takes Root

After leaving Carson Christian Church in January of 1990, I worked in various secular jobs and was a volunteer in whatever church I was currently attending. One of the jobs I had teaching an adult Bible school class, led me to realize that I really enjoyed teaching adults. I also came to realize that I enjoyed teaching the Bible. I also considered my upbringing and my college training, ministry and walk with Jesus and felt a burning desire to teach people about Jesus Christ. The seed was taking root.

A couple of years later, when I was working as a software trainer, I shared a dream of a three-year Bible study of every event in Jesus life from the Annunciation to the Ascension. We would see what Matthew, Mark, Luke and John had to say about each event and how it applies to our lives today. I shared that dream with a co-worker who, at that time, was selling software training and he came back the next day to tell me that he believed in my dream and wanted to help me achieve it. He got me started writing my business plan and actually believed that I would one day be teaching others about Jesus. That was October, 1995, the day that the “Walking With Jesus” vision started to become a reality. The seed was pushing up through the soil.

After spending most of a year writing the business plan, I realized that I needed to start writing the lessons. I assembled my Bible software, several commentaries and related study books, sat down at my computer and started breaking the life of Christ, using my harmony of the Gospels, into 150 lessons. It ended up being 160 lessons because I felt that some of the material needed more time than could be addressed in one lesson.

The Seed Bears Fruit

During the years of writing the lessons, I attended a “Second Wind Seminar” put on by Patrick Morley at Saddleback Church in Lake Forest. At that seminar, we talked about what we wanted to do with the rest of our lives. While sitting there, I realized that I already knew my “second wind.” I wanted to spend the rest of my life teaching others about Jesus and how they could become more like Him.

When my wife and I joined Church of the Beach Cities, we got involved in the classes for growing towards maturity. A class called “301” helped us discover and clarify why we were on earth. It only reinforced what I had already discovered. Likewise, reading Rick Warren’s book, “Purpose Driven Life” again reaffirmed that my calling is to teach others about Jesus and encourage them to live their life more like Him. That is at least three reinforcements to the original and developing ministry I now call “Walking With Jesus.”

Due to part-time work, computer break downs, holidays, vacations, etc. it ended up taking me six years to write a three-year Bible study. Once the lessons were written, I assembled them into books, collected and added photographs to each lesson, and inserted maps, charts, and other materials. After nine years, and several stages of editing the books were assembled. By that time, I had already started sending the first books out to people who had supported our ministry with their monetary and time donations. The seed had grown and produced its fruit.

The last couple of years have entailed getting the “Walking With Jesus” Bible study lessons out to more people. With no financial assistance and little marketing savvy, that has been difficult. However, I have been consistent in trying. The first group of supporters (eighteen people) has received all of the “Walking With Jesus” books. Thousands more are currently somewhere in the process, along with over 300 missionaries in forty foreign countries.

In the early stages of writing the books, I attracted the attention of Dr. Robert Schuler at Crystal Cathedral and was invited to teach a class there for six weeks so they could evaluate the lessons. From that, I received a letter of endorsement from Dr. Tino Ballesteros, Christian Education Minister at Crystal Cathedral. I also received letters of endorsement from Joe Garman at American Rehabilitation Ministries, Dr. Bill Peters at Angel Fire Ministries and others.

Since September 2001, I have committed full-time to working on this ministry. I am convinced that this is what God has called me to do. I am trusting, believing, and walking in faith that He is going to bless my ministry to change the lives of many people and provide a living for me and my wife until He calls us to leave this earth and join Him in Heaven.

The Great Commission Realized

In 2006, I made a proposal to Logos Research Systems for adding “Walking With Jesus” to their software library and signed a contract in August of that year. On April 27, 2007, Logos announced the pre-publication release of “Walking With Jesus” to their software library. This is a major publishing contract and we look forward to the “Walking With Jesus” material going around the world and blessing the lives of many people. This has taken eleven years to get to this point and we are only getting started!

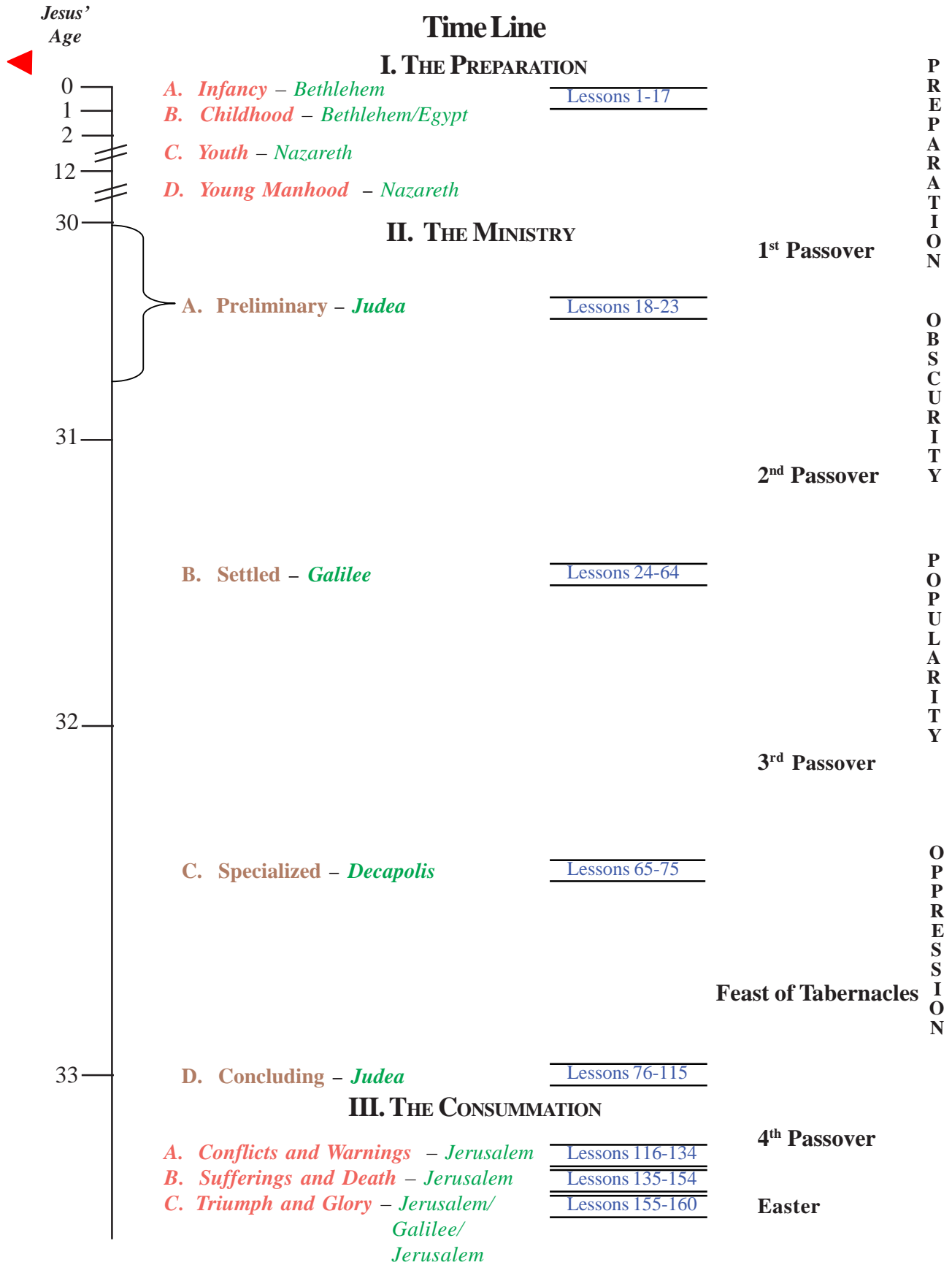
My goal will be to truly spend the remainder of my life helping others in “Walking With Jesus!” When I die, I pray that people will say, “He showed us Jesus.” Thank you for the part that God has called you to have in this ministry.

In His Service,

Dr. Glen M. Copple

WALKING WITH JESUS

Time Line





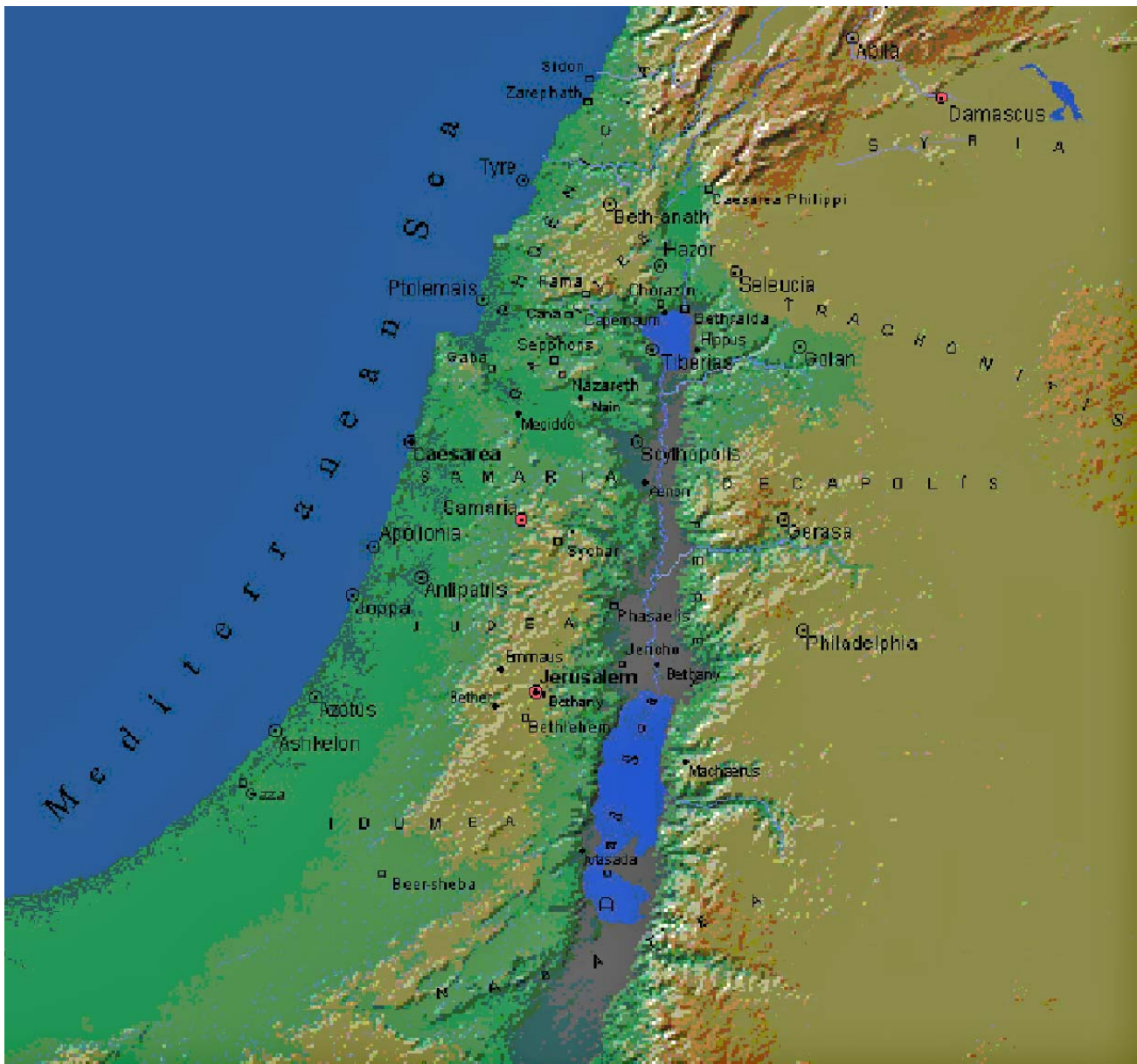
WALKING WITH JESUS

Outline

Outline and Scripture Text

Lesson Number

Introduction	001
Introductory Notes by Gospel Writers	002
Marks Title	<i>(Mark 1:1)</i>
Luke's Preface	<i>(Luke 1:1-4)</i>
John's Prologue	<i>(John 1:1-18)</i>
Matthew's Genealogy (Luke's genealogy included)	<i>(Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38)</i>



With the exception of the excursion to Egypt when He was an infant, this is the extent of the land that Jesus traveled while on this earth.

Map courtesy of Logos Bible Atlas

Lesson 001

Bible Study Text and Questions

The Preparation of the World

Written by
Dr. GLEN M. COPPLE



The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ

from Annunciation to Ascension

New Hope Gospel Ministries

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presents



Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ Bible Study Series

LOC - 001 - The Preparation of the World

Fullness of Time ——— The Inter-testament Period

<i>Persian Captivity -</i>	<i>539 to 331 BC</i>
Hellenistic (Greek) Rule -	331 to 167 BC
Egyptian Oversight -	331 to 198 BC
Syrian Oversight -	198 to 167 BC
Independent (Maccabean) Rule	167 to 63 BC
Herodion and Roman Rule	63 BC to 70 AD

Fullness of Time - Politically

<i>Common language:</i>	<i>Greek - read and spoken by everyone</i>
<i>Scattered culture:</i>	<i>Jews transplanted all over the "known world"</i>
<i>One government:</i>	<i>Roman rule (no war)</i>
<i>Ease of travel</i>	<i>Roman roadways made travel easy</i>

Fullness of Time - Economically

Economic depression as the result of Herod's war and extravagance
Worry, anxiety, despair

Fullness of Time - Morally

Spirit of despair - evil pursued to oblivion
Total abandonment of God's moral standards

Fullness of Time - Religiously

Great expectation of the soon coming Messiah
False messiahs have come and gone



LOC – 001 – The Preparation of the World

Opening Prayer

Lesson Objectives

We will look at the history that prepared the world for the coming of Jesus!
God knows how to accomplish His purpose!
God is still very aware and active in the affairs of this world!
People are searching for what God has to offer!

Lesson Commentary

(Your Notes Here!)

Welcome to the “Walking With Jesus,” Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ Training Series. Many people since the days of Christ have desired to know Jesus just like some Grecians who were in Jerusalem around the time of His Crucifixion (*John 12:21*). Even more people claim to believe in Him, but **how many really know anything about Him?**

*Can you give an accurate answer to anyone who asked you about who Jesus is and what He taught? **The only way we are going to get to know Him is to study what the Bible says about Him and see how it applies to us today.*** In so doing, we will become more intimately acquainted with Him and will find ourselves living more like Him. Our desire is to help you see Jesus in a way that will help you to better understand who He is and what He has done and how it applies to **your** life today. **We want to help you grow into a dynamic, personal and intimate relationship with Jesus Christ in order that you may live your life more like Him.**

Overview of the Class

In order to do this, we are going to embark on a three-year journey through the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. The objective is to get to know Jesus more intimately in an effort to become more like Him. We want to see and feel what He taught and what He did, expecting to become more like Him.

The agenda is to do a weekly Bible study of the Gospels according to *Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John*, taking the events of Christ’s life in chronological order as best we can determine. The four Gospels will be arranged side by side when appropriate so that we may see how each writer saw the event being described. This way we will get a better view of what happened, and how it was understood at that time. From this, we

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will be able to see how we can live our lives in a way that is more pleasing to God.

(Your Notes Here!)

Why Just the Four Gospels?

We will be using *Matthew*, *Mark*, *Luke*, and *John* in our study as our main study books. They give the historical record of Jesus' life and teachings on this earth. By concentrating on the Gospels and what they say and how it is understood by the early readers, we will be better able to make application to our own lives. **The goal is to get to know Jesus more intimately.**

In the Fullness of Time —The Inter-testament Period

To help us better understand culture and period around which these events happened, we need to look into some of the events prior to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. There are four Inter-testament periods. Each one played a part in the preparation for the Jews and the whole world to receive Jesus and the Good News of His salvation.

1. Persian Rule — 539-331 B.C. Persia conquered Judah thus ending their freedom and independence until they were destroyed by Rome in 70 A.D. Nehemiah rebuilt the temple around 440 B.C. This was the first rebuilding of the Temple. Herod later rebuilt it to an even grander scale than it had ever been before. He started about 25 B.C. and finished around 66 A.D. (91 years in construction.) Herod's rebuilding of the Temple was going on through Jesus' life. **The Persian era prepared the world for the coming of Jesus through the rebuilding of the Temple.**
2. Hellenistic (Greek) Rule — 331-167 B.C., Alexander the Great conquered the world. He was successful in this enterprise because he did not try to annihilate his enemies, but scattered and mixed people from all of the countries that he conquered thus making them into a common nation. This was accomplished by:
 - 1) Transplanting groups of peoples all over the known world,
 - 2) Teaching all peoples a common (Greek) language, and
 - 3) Educating them in Greek culture and customs.

The Greeks transplanted groups of people to other countries to mix and weaken their cultures and histories and to strengthen the Greek culture and rule. Many Jews went to Alexandria, Egypt, named after Alexander the Great. Others went to other places like Corinth, Macedonia, and even Rome. When the early Christians traveled there, they could speak to their fellow countrymen about the promised Messiah, Jesus, and lead these people to become Christians. This weakened the nationalities and religious beliefs of individual nations, groups and individuals and later was helpful in facilitating the spreading of the Gospel because everyone was able to understand the Greek language. This helped start churches that reached out into that community and teach others about the God who became Man to pay for our sins and give us eternal life.

In Egypt, the Old Testament was translated into Greek during this period. It was translated by seventy scholars and called the Septuagint. Later, the New Testament books were all written in Greek, which made it possible for anyone living in the days of the early Church to be able to read and understand what the authors wrote. They didn't need anyone to interpret it for them. (The Jewish religion survived during this time by becoming a "church" or religion instead of a state or government.) **The Greeks prepared the world for the coming of Jesus by giving them a common language and culture.**

The rule over the Jews under the Greeks was sub-divided into two periods:

The Jews were under Egyptian rule from 331-198 B.C. The Ptolemies reigned through this period until about 30 B.C. It was during this time that Cleopatra lived in Egypt. She married Mark Anthony and thus built a relationship with the Caesars in Rome. The Egyptians were kind to the Jews and sponsored the translation of the Old Testament into the Greek language.

Syria (also known as the Seleucids) took Israel away from the Egyptians and ruled over the Jews from 198-167 B.C. They destroyed the walls around Jerusalem and prohibited possessing or reading Hebrew Scriptures.

3. Independent (Maccabean) ruled 167-63 B.C. The Maccabees were a family of Jews who successfully led a



Looking west over the Temple Mount from the Mount of Olives on the East side of Jerusalem as it looks today.

Photograph courtesy of Glen & Sylvia Copple

rebellion during this period. The Jews experienced some degree of independence during this time, but it still was not like what they had lived with during the prophets. This period was characterized by strife and discord caused by the lust for power. The Dead Sea Scrolls were written during this era. **The Dead Sea Scrolls contributed significantly to the validation of the Old Testament.** You can read more about the Maccabees in the Apocrypha (writings attributed to the period between the Old and New Testaments, but not regarded as Scripture by most protestant churches.) The political aims of the Hasmoneans (as the Maccabees came to be called) alienated many of the religious Jews. The descendants of the Hasmoneans became the Sadducees of Jesus' day.

4. Herodion and Roman Rule ran 63 B.C.-70 A.D. After the Greeks had spread their culture, the Romans rose to power and conquered them and the other nations of the known world. The Romans made travel very easy by building roads and aqueducts, and relocating groups of peoples to other locations. This further weakened nationalities, but it also encouraged commerce and travel. When the early Christians spread out from Jerusalem, it was easy to travel to another community, share the Gospel, and start a church in that community. This also facilitated the Apostles in spreading the Gospel through the world. As they traveled or wrote their letters, it was fairly easy to get the message out to other Churches and bodies of believers. **The Romans contributed for the coming of Jesus by making travel easy for the early evangelists.**

Herod the Great got control of Israel through the influence of his father, Antipater, an Idumean. Idumeans were descendants of Esau from the southern portion of the Dead Sea. Herod was an efficient ruler and a clever politician. He provided subsidies during famine and began many building projects, including the beautifying of the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem. In spite of this, most devout Jews hated him. He was known for his jealousy for power that caused him to murder some of his wives and children.

Ways That God Prepared the World for His Church

This is basically another look at how God prepared the world and saw the timing come together for the advent of His Son to save mankind from their sins by instigating a New Covenant that was available to all men, regardless of ancestry or personal history. This is a review of what we have just covered, but in a different light to make it more understandable and useable.

1. Fullness of Time Politically

Common Language – Because of Alexander the Great conquering of the Jewish people and teaching them the Greek language and culture, they had a common language which allowed all men to understand the message when the Apostles

(Your Notes Here!)

started the church several years later. Though many Jews also spoke Aramaic, it was the Greek language that spread the Gospel around the world.

Scattered People – Jews were transplanted all over the “known world” by both the Greeks and the Romans. When the early Christians tried to flee the persecution that started in Jerusalem, they went to their Jewish neighborhoods in other cities and told them about Jesus as the promised Messiah. This started Churches all over the world very rapidly.

Common Government – Rome ruled with an iron hand, but there was no war during this period of time. This is the only time in the earth’s history that there was not a war somewhere. **Oh what a difference the true presence of Jesus makes!**

Ease of Travel – Roman roads made travel easy. One government meant there were no problems with “border crossings”, no need to learn a new nation’s laws and customs. This will later facilitate the rapid spread of the Gospel.

It is the fullness of time today – As we see the events currently transpiring around the world, we don’t know the details, but there is a high expectancy of the Second Coming occurring soon! Souls are seeking peace and significance through politics, possession and media. **Man needs to make God the ruler of his political life.**

2. Fullness of Time Economically

Pending Depression – Though there was a wealthy Jewish aristocracy, most Jews were poor farmers, craftsmen or businessmen. Over half of the world’s population were slaves under the Roman Empire. After a severe war and Herod’s extravagance after the war, the Jews were discouraged and depressed. They are experiencing the rejection of God, which was the result of their rebellion and disobedience to Him. They believed that wealth was proof of God’s blessing on those who had it. Their lives were care ridden, with worry, anxiety and despair. Jesus came and offered hope, forgiveness and life. Those who were slaves were full of fraud, deceit and immorality.

It is the fullness of time today – In a world that is filled with financial insecurity, greed and economic turmoil, man needs to look to something besides money for security and meaning. Jesus Christ is the rock of stability on which we can build a foundation that will give us security whether we have money or not.

3. Fullness of Time Morally

Spirit of Despair – Israel had grown neglectful of God’s absolute moral standard. They thought they could write their own “laws” and break them at will. Because of their abandonment of God and general moral decay, evil was pursued to disaster and oblivion. They thought it was acceptable as long as they didn’t get caught. The prevailing attitude was to eat, drink

and be merry because they saw no hope, future or reason to try to do otherwise.

(Your Notes Here!)

Jesus presented a moral alternative of abstaining from sin and justification from past sins. Many people decided to repent of their sin and follow Him. To them, He gave hope and a reason to live a moral and righteous life.

It is the fullness of time today –immorality and crime can only be rehabilitated through a relationship with Jesus Christ. He is the alternative to sin and hell. There are many people today who want a reason to not do evil. They want to know of a moral absolute that provides some security and hope instead of the hedonistic selfishness that leaves people empty and lonely.

4. Fullness of Time Religiously

Jews had a great expectation of Messiah coming after 400 years of prophetic silence. But the prophetic signs given in the Old Testament show that it was time for the Messiah to come. Many false messiahs had recently come and gone. John the Baptist increased that expectation by his establishing himself as a prophet. No prophet has lived among the people of Israel for 400 years. Into this expectation, Jesus came and went and many missed Him because they had different expectations than what He delivers.

It is the fullness of time today – false saviors, cults, satanism and misconceptions surround us and leave many people seeking, wanting, feeling condemned and without hope. Jesus is the solution to their problems and events indicate that He could be coming soon. It is time to get ready now!

Today is the Day of the Lord. What is your role in it? What are you doing to help others in “Walking With Jesus?” Maranatha – “Come Lord Jesus” – If Jesus comes before we have completed “Getting To Know Jesus,” class will be completed in Heaven. See you there!

Next, we will look at the Gospels and how each writer approached his account of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. We will be further introduced to a life changing journey through the Good News of God sending His only Son to live among us and die for our sins in order that we might live forever with Him. If any of you are curious, we will be looking into the events of the actual birth of Jesus in Lesson 007.

Please read lesson 002 for next week. Bring a friend and join us as we get started “Walking With Jesus.”





LOC – 001 – The Preparation of the World

Questions for Thought, Discussion, and Application

1. In what way do you now see that God has been preparing you through the events in your life for His purposes?
2. How have you personally experienced God's timing and intervention in your life?
3. What does the word “Gospel” mean? What does it mean to you?
4. What do you hope to get out of “Walking With Jesus?”
5. What have you learned out of this study that has or will change your life?

LOC – 001 – The Preparation of the World

Questions for Homework



Homework is for those who want to study a little deeper or seek college credit.

(You will possibly need a concordance and other translations of the New Testament for this homework. Other study tools may be helpful but are not required.) You may have to write your answers on a separate sheet and insert it here in your book.

1. The homework for this lesson is to read the first five pages and become familiar with the guidelines for this class and the outlines of the four Gospels.

2. Do a word study on the Greek word - “logos.” What does it mean and how is it used in the Bible?

Lesson 002

Bible Study Text and Questions

Introduction to The Gospels and Their Writers

Written by
Dr. GLEN M. COPPLE



The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ

from Annunciation to Ascension

New Hope Gospel Ministries

“WALKING WITH JESUS”

LOC - 002 - The Authors of the Four Gospels



MATTHEW

Written to: The Jews

Theme: Jesus is the Messiah: The King of the Jews.

Key Phrase: “Kingdom of Heaven,” the Kingdom God had promised.

The key verse is stated at the very beginning. *Matthew 1:20-23 (v.22)* “ ...Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled ...”

Key Word: “Fulfilled”: Jesus has fulfilled all of the prophecies of the Old Testament.

Focus: What Jesus said.

Date: The Gospel according to Matthew was written around 60-70 A.D.

Author: Matthew is credited as being the author, although nothing is said about it in the Gospel.

MATTHEW - A TOPICAL OUTLINE



Birth and Infancy of the Messiah	1:1—2:23
Genealogy	1:1-17
Birth Narratives	1:18-2:18
Removal to Nazareth	2:19-23
Prelude to the Messianic Ministry	3:1—4:25
Preparation Ministry of John the Baptist	3:1-12
Baptism of Jesus	3:13-17
Temptation of Jesus	4:1-11
Summary of Galilean Ministry	4:12-25
Discourse 1: Righteousness of the Kingdom	5:1—7:29
The Beatitudes	5:1-16
The Character of Kingdom Righteousness	5:17-48
The Practice of Kingdom Righteousness	6:1—7:12
The Choice of the Kingdom	7:13-27
The Manner of Jesus' Teaching	7:28-29
Narrative 1: Mighty Deeds of the Kingdom	8:1—9:38
A Series of Miracles	8:1—9:8
The Kingdom and the Old Order	9:9-17
More Miracles	9:18-38
Discourse 2: Proclamation of the Kingdom	10:1-42
The Preachers and Their Mission	10:1-15
The Response To Be Expected	10:16-42
Narrative 2: The Presence of the Kingdom	11:1—12:50
The Kingdom and John the Baptist	11:1-15
The Challenge to the Present Generation	11:16-30
Opposition to the Kingdom	12:1-45
Fellowship in the Kingdom	12:46-50
Discourse 3: Mystery of the Kingdom	13:1-58
The Parable of the Sower	13:1-9
Parabolic Method Explained	13:10-23
Other Parables	13:24-52
The Response to Jesus' Parables	13:53-58
Narrative 3: Crisis of the Kingdom	14:1—17:27
Crisis of Opposition	14:1—15:20
Withdrawal to the North	15:21-39
Further Conflict	16:1-12
Crisis of Faith	16:13-20
Preparation of Jesus' Disciples for His Death	16:21—17:27
Discourse 4: Fellowship of the Kingdom	18:1-35
Humility	18:1-20
Forgiveness	18:21-35
Narrative 4: Conflict Caused by the Kingdom	19:1—23:39
Teachings on the Way to Jerusalem	19:1—20:28
Healing at Jericho	20:29-34
Events in Jerusalem	21:1-22
Controversies with the Jews	21:23—22:46
Denunciations of the Scribes and Pharisees	23:1-39

Discourse 5: Future of the Kingdom

- Prophecy of the Coming of the Kingdom
- Warnings to Readiness
- The Judgment of Nations

Passion of the King

- The Plot to Betray Jesus
- The Last Supper
- Events in Gethsemane
- The Trials
- The Crucifixion
- Burial

The Resurrection

- The Women and the Angel
- False Witness of the Guards
- The Ascension

24:1—25:46

- 24:1-36
- 24:37—25:30
- 25:31-46

26:1—27:66

- 26:1-16
- 26:17-30
- 26:31-56
- 26:57—27:26
- 27:27-56
- 27:57-66

28:1-20

- 28:1-10
- 28:11-15
- 28:16-20



Masada was built between 22 and 10 BC as a fortress for Herod. Jesus never visited there, but it factors strongly in Jewish history in AD 70 when over 1,000 Jews killed their families and each other until the last man who committed suicide rather than fall into the hands of the Romans where were ready to storm the walls and capture them.

Photograph courtesy of Glen & Sylvia Copple

MATTHEW: THE GOSPEL OF THE MESSIAH: an alternative outline

The Prophecies of the Messiah Realized	
The Advent	<i>1:1—4:11</i>
Preaching of John the Baptist	<i>3:1-12</i>
The Principles of the Messiah Announced	
The Inaugural Address (Sermon on the Mount)	<i>4:12—7:29</i>
Challenge to Enter	<i>7:13-14</i>
The Power of the Messiah Revealed	
The Miracles	<i>8:1—11:1</i>
Challenge to Follow	<i>10:34-39</i>
The Commission	<i>10:1-42</i>
The Program of the Messiah Explained	
The Parables	<i>11:2—13:53</i>
Challenge to Acceptance	<i>11:28</i>
Challenge to Understanding	<i>13:51</i>
The Parables	<i>13:1-52</i>
The Purpose of the Messiah Declared	
The Crisis of the Cross	<i>13:54—19:2</i>
Challenge to Testify	<i>16:13-15</i>
The Meaning of Forgiveness	<i>18:1-35</i>
The Problems of the Messiah Presented	
Conflict with Opponents	<i>19:3—26:2</i>
Challenge to Repentance	<i>23:37-39</i>
Denunciation and Prediction	<i>23:1—25:46</i>
The Passion of the Messiah Accomplished	
The Death and Resurrection	<i>26:3—28:10</i>
Epilogue	
Rumor and Reality	<i>28:11-20</i>
Challenge to Action	<i>28:16-20</i>
The Great Commission	<i>28:18-20</i>

MARK

Written to: The Romans
Theme: Jesus is the Son of God
Key Verse: *10:45* "...For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."
Key Word: "Immediately": Jesus was always "doing" something. The action in this Gospel moves rapidly from one event to another.
Focus: The Super-Human Power of Jesus: What He did as opposed to what He said.
Key Phrase: "Jesus as a Servant" (*10:45*)
Date: 60-70 A.D.
Author: John Mark, under the instruction of Peter.

MARK – A MARK - A GEOGRAPHICAL OUTLINE DETAILED OUTLINE**The Period of Preparation**

Ministry of John

Baptism of Jesus

The Temptation of Jesus

1:1-13*1:1-8**1:9-11**1:12-13***The Galilean Ministry****First Period (Popularity)**

The First Four Disciples

A Busy Day at Capernaum

Healing the Paralytic

The Call of Levi (Matthew)

Sabbath Controversy

1:14—9:50**1:14—3:12***1:14-20**1:21-45**2:1-12**2:13-22**2:23-22***Second Period (Specialized)**

Friends and Foes

Teachings in Parables

First Withdrawal: Gerasene Demoniac

Raising Jarius' Daughter

Rejection at Nazareth

Mission of the Twelve

Death of John the Baptist

Second Withdrawal: Feeding of the Five Thousand

Controversy over Cleansing

3:13—7:23*3:13-35**4:1-34**4:35—5:20**5:21-43**6:1-6**6:7-13**6:14-29**6:30-56**7:1-23***Third Period (Concluding)**

Third Withdrawal: Tyre & Sidon

Healing the Deaf Mute

Fourth Withdrawal: Feeding the Four Thousand

Teaching and Healing

Fifth Withdrawal: Caesarea Philippi

The Transfiguration

Teaching on Humility

7:24—9:50*7:24-30**7:31-37**8:1-10**8:11-26**8:27—9:1**9:2-29**9:30-50***Perean Ministry****Teaching on Divorce****Riches and Ambition****Blind Bartimaeus****10:1-52****10:1-16****10:17-45****10:46-52****Passion Week****11:1—15:47**

SONday: The Triumphal Entry

11:1-11

Monday: Cursing the Fig Tree

11:12-14

Cleansing the Temple

11:15-19

Tuesday: Faith and Fear

11:20-33

Parable and Controversy

12:1-44

The Olivet Discourse

13:1-37

The Anointing at Bethany

14:1-11

Thursday: The Last Supper

14:12-25

Friday: Jesus in Gethsemane

14:26-52

The Jewish Trials

14:53-72

The Roman Trial

15:1-20

The Crucifixion and Burial

*15:21-47***The Resurrection****16:1-20**

LUKE

Written to: The Gentiles: Greeks, non-Jews.

Theme: A chronological account of the Life of Jesus.

Key Verse: *1:3* "...it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order..." Another Key Verse is *19:10*: "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Key Word: Savior

Focus: Jesus the Man, the Divine Human Savior. Luke looks at Jesus' life and His miracles.

Date: 64-70 A.D.

Author: Luke, the physician

LUKE - A DETAILED OUTLINE



The Gospel's Preface	1:1-4
Preparation for the Savior's Mission	1:5-80
Birth of the Savior's Forerunner	1:5-80
Birth and Childhood of the Savior of the World	2:1-52
The Savior's Way Prepared by the Forerunner	3:1-20
Baptism, Genealogy, and Temptation of the Savior	3:21—4:13
Galilean Ministry of Jesus	4:14—9:50
Jesus' Declaration that He is the Savior Sent by God	4:14-32
Revelation of His Divine Authority	4:33—5:26
Jesus' Role as Savior of Sinners	5:27-32
Inauguration of a New Order by the Savior	5:33—6:49
Revelation of His Unlimited Power	7:1—8:56
Continued Revelation of His Divine Authority	9:1-27
The Savior's Divine Glory Revealed	9:28-50
Journey from Galilee to Jerusalem	9:51—19:44
The Savior's Mission of Redemption	9:51—10:37
The Savior's Special Instructions on Service and Prayer	10:38—11:13
Christ's Warnings to Both Enemies and Followers	11:14—14:35
The Savior of the Lost	15:1-32
The Savior's Commands to His Followers	16:1—17:10
Ingratitude of Nine Lepers Healed by the Savior	17:11-19
Suddenness of His Return Predicted	17:20—18:14
The Savior, Little Children and the Rich Young Man	18:15-30
Toward the End of the Journey	18:31—19:44
The Last Days of the Savior, His Crucifixion & Burial	19:45—23:56
Second Cleansing of the Temple: Silencing His Enemies	19:45—21:4
Coming Destruction of Jerusalem Announced	21:5-24
His Return to be in Glory and Majesty	21:25-36
Judas' Arrangement to Betray Jesus	21:37—22:6
Institution of the Holy Communion	22:7-38
The Savior's Atonement for the Sin of the World	22:39—23:56
Resurrection, Appearances, & Ascension of the Risen Lord	24:1-53
The Savior's Triumph over Death	24:1-35
Doubts of His Followers Dispelled	24:36-49
The Savior's Return in Triumph to the Father	24:50-53

JOHN

Written to: Unbelievers

Theme: "...that you might believe..." John is a spiritual Gospel. It is a revelation of Who Jesus is.

Key Verse: *20:30-31* "...these things are written that you might believe..."

Focus: Who Jesus IS! The King, not the Kingdom. Jesus is the King. Jesus is portrayed as deity, the mystery of the person of Jesus. He was like a man, yet unlike man. John focuses on Jesus the Man, Who He was, and what He did.

Date: 90 A.D.

Author: John, the Apostle



This is most of the populated world in Jesus day. All of the events in the New Testament occurred within this area.

Map courtesy of Logos Bible Atlas

JOHN - A REVEALING OUTLINE

The Revelation of the Word in Eternity	1:1-2
The Revelation of the Word in Creation	1:3-4, 9
The Revelation of the Word in Redemption	1:5—21:25
The Sweeping Witness of the Prologue	1:9-14, 16-18
The Crowning Witness of the Old Dispensation	1:5-8, 15, 19-28
The Opening Witness of the New Dispensation	1:29-51
The Great Signs and Public Discourses	2:1—12:11
The First Sign: Water and Wine	2:1-12
The Second Sign: Cleansing the Temple	2:13-22
Feast: Messiah in the Temple: Passover	2:23-25
Discourse (Nicodemus): Christ the Source of New Life	3:1-21
Dispute over John the Baptist and Jesus	3:22-4:3
Discourse (Samaritan Woman): Christ the Water of Life	4:4-42
The Third Sign: Healing at a Distance	4:43-54
Feast: Messiah in the Temple: Passover	5:1
The Fourth Sign: Healing the Impotent Man on the Sabbath	5:2-16
Discourse (Scribes & Pharisees): Christ the Divine Son	5:17-47
The Fifth Sign: Feeding the Five Thousand	6:1-15
The Sixth Sign: Walking on Water	6:16-21
Discourse (Multitudes): Christ the Bread of Life	6:22-59
Discourse (Disciples): Christ the Life-giving Spirit	6:60-71
Feast: Messiah in the Temple: (Dedication)	7:1-52
The Woman Taken in Adultery	7:53—8:11
Discourse (Pharisees): Christ the Light of the World	8:12-30
Discourse (Professed Followers): Christ the Fount of Freedom	8:31-59
The Seventh Sign: Healing the Man Born Blind	9:1-41
Discourse (Pharisees): Christ the Good Shepherd	10:1-21
Feast: Messiah in the Temple: Dedication	10:22-42
The Eighth Sign: Raising Lazarus	11:1-44
Withdrawal to Ephraim as Jews Lie in Wait	11:45-54
Jesus Anointed by Mary in Bethany	11:55—12:11
The Climatic Passion Week	12:12—19:42
The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem (SONday)	12:12-19
The Gentiles Seek for Jesus (Tuesday)	12:20-36
The Jews Reject Jesus	12:37-50
Feast: Messiah in the Temple: Passover and Lord's Supper (Thursday)	
Jesus Instructs by Example	13:1-38
Discourses in Parting (Disciples): Christ's Legacy to His Followers	
Discourse on Comfort	14:1-31
Discourse on Admonition	15:1-27
<i>Discourse on Prediction</i>	16:1-33
Prayer for Intercession	17:1-26
Betrayal and Arrest in Gethsemane (Friday)	18:1-12
Trial of Jesus	18:13—19:16
Crucifixion and Burial	19:16-42
The Risen Lord and His Redeemed Family	20:1—21:25
The Empty Tomb	20:1-18
Other Resurrection Appearances	20:19—21:2
Instructions to His Disciples	21:3-23
Devotional Postscript	21:24-25

WALKING WITH JESUS



LOC – 002 – The Authors of the Four Gospels

Opening Prayer

Lesson Objectives

God prepared and guided four men to write the Gospels.
 Each writer targets a specific audience and purpose.
 Four different writers tell their perspectives of Jesus' life and teachings.
 Jesus is both God and man (deity and human.)

Lesson Commentary

(Your Notes Here!)

Welcome to "Walking With Jesus," the life and teachings of Jesus Christ Bible study series. Many people since the days of Christ have desired to know Jesus just like the Greeks who were in Jerusalem around the time of His Crucifixion (*John 12:21*.) Even more people claim to believe in Him, but **how many really know anything about Him, His life and teachings?** In this lesson, we are going to look at the four writers and their audiences, backgrounds and style. This way, we will be better able to understand why they tell the story about Jesus the way that they do.

Matthew



Author: None of the four Gospels identify their authors. The names of the writers were added later and represent the thinking of the early Church.

Matthew doesn't identify himself as the author, but he is given such credit from the earliest of scholars to today. *Matthew*, also known as Levi, was a Jew who was a tax collector for the Roman government in the city of Capernaum. This made him despised among his brethren. He was considered a traitor. Why would Jesus want to have anything to do with such a man?

He gave up his past to become a disciple of Christ. Later, Jesus chose him to be one of the Apostles.

The Gospel according to *Matthew* is known as the Gospel to the Jews. Tradition holds that it was originally written to the Church in Jerusalem. Much of Jewish civilization was built around their scriptures, the Old Testament. *Matthew* appeals frequently to their Scriptures.

Overview: *Matthew* is the most quoted of the four Gospels. *Matthew* sought to show the Jews that Jesus had fulfilled all of the

prophecies of the Old Testament. He is the one for which they had been searching and waiting. His writing style would assume that his readers were familiar with Jewish custom and teaching. He makes frequent reference to those teachings in the Old Testament when showing Jesus was the Fulfiller.

Matthew's arrangement of the events of Jesus is both biographical and topical. Rather than just follow a specific order of events, he also dealt with particular topics. The biographical part is in two sections. The first section begins in *4:17*; the second begins in *16:21*.

The topical structure is peculiar to *Matthew*. There are five blocks of text that are grouped around one dominant theme. See the attached outline. Each block ends with the phrase, "When Jesus had finished . . ." With the attached introductory narrative and concluding story, there are seven divisions in all. Each is summed up in the Epilogue that confronts the reader with the consequences of Jesus claims. The readers will either choose for Christ or against Him.

Jesus was the Messiah of the Old Testament promise and His mission was to bring the Kingdom of God to men. Jesus was a humble servant and dying on a cross was a stumbling block, contrary to current Jewish way of thinking. *Matthew* showed Jesus fulfilling the Old Testament prophecy. The Jews were looking for someone different. They looked for glory, power, and earth-shaking conquering of their enemies. Jesus' Kingdom infiltrated rather than conquered. He was the Messiah, but not the One the Jews were expecting. *Matthew* writes to establish that fact.

When we read from *Matthew's* Gospel, we need to remember that he was writing to Jews. He would refer to customs and prophecies that they understood, which are not common to us. We must understand how the Jews would have understood this before we can make appropriate application to our lives. **We will need to ask ourselves, how would the Jew of Jesus' day understand Him?**



Mark

Author: *John Mark*, under the instruction of Peter

John Mark is credited with being the author. His mother's name was Mary. He was a cousin of Barnabas. He started with Paul on his first missionary journey, but turned back. Later he was found with Paul in Rome; however, tradition suggests that he was more closely connected to Peter. His Gospel strongly reflects Peter's character. The personality of Peter is reflected in almost every page. *Mark's* Gospel has movement, quick, and impulsive. Rapidity of action is a main characteristic. *Mark* has been called a moving picture of the ministry of Jesus.

Overview: The Gospel of *Mark* seems directed mainly at Rome and was possibly written there. It is also an active

Gospel. Either *Mark* had a personality much like Peter's or Peter had a strong influence in writing this Gospel. Many scholars consider the latter to be a strong possibility. *Mark* isn't concerned with chronological order. Roman civilization gloried in government and power. Therefore, *Mark* concentrates more on what Jesus did.

Mark uses ten Latin words not found elsewhere in the New Testament. He also explains customs because he is writing to Gentiles. *Mark* shows the active side of Jesus. He records fewer words of Jesus than any other Gospel. Chapter Four with four parables and Chapter Thirteen, a discourse on the Apocalypse, comprise the major portion of Jesus teachings as recorded by *Mark*. This Gospel contains a vivid, vigorous, straightforward account of the public ministry of Jesus. The Romans were power seekers, and *Mark* portrayed Jesus in His power and glory. The Last Week, Death, and Resurrection comprise one-third of the book.

Three Characteristics of *Mark*:

1. Rapidity of Action – Moving quickly from one event to another.
2. Vividness of Detail – Added detail brings the narrative to life.
3. Picturesqueness of Description – A pictorial Gospel. Each event is portrayed as a living picture.

Mark includes eighteen Miracles of Jesus (about the same as *Matthew* & *Luke*). *Mark* only has four parables (*Matthew* has eighteen, *Luke* has nineteen).

Mark has only thirteen verses of introduction. (*Matthew* has seventy-six, *Luke* has one hundred eighty-three). The last twelve verses of *Mark 16:9-20*, are not found in the oldest manuscripts.

When we read from *Mark's* Gospel, we want to remember that he wrote to Roman citizens. He didn't deal as much with what Jesus said because those words were directed at Jews and were spoken in the context of Jewish custom. Romans would appreciate and understand Jesus' actions much easier than His words. They would appreciate the displays of power over the rhetoric. We will want to ask ourselves what would the Romans think about what *Mark* was telling them? **We will want to see how *Mark's* Gospel points us to the real source of power.**

Luke



Author: *Luke*, the physician

Luke, an educated and skilled physician, set out to write a chronological account of the life of Jesus. The Apostle Paul probably influenced him very much. He was Paul's personal physician, an educated and thorough, first-rate historian. The Gospel according to *Luke* was probably written after *Matthew* and *Mark's* Gospels. Most scholars suggest that *Luke's* Gospel was written while Paul was in prison in Caesarea, from where *Luke* was able to travel and talk to many witnesses first-hand. *Luke* stated his purpose for writing in the first four verses: “. . .

(Your Notes Here!)

.that you might know the exact truth about the things you have been taught," *Luke 1:3*.

Overview: *Luke's* preface is in the elaborate style of many such among historians. He uses common language with grace and vigor. *Luke* goes into the greatest detail on the birth of Jesus. He is the only writer to mention anything about Jesus' youth. He gives the human genealogy of Christ traced to Adam, vs. *Matthew's* legal genealogy through Mary to Abraham. *Luke* records several events not found in *Matthew, Mark, or John*. Greek civilization represented culture, philosophy, wisdom, reason, beauty and education. *Luke* focuses on the life and miracles of Jesus, His humanity and His power. He writes a Gospel that will appeal to the interests of the Greeks. More attention is given to the power of Jesus in doing miracles.

Much attention is given in *Luke* to Jesus as the Divine Savior, from Chapter One, His birth, to Chapter twenty-four, His Resurrection. As one reads through the Gospel, Jesus is revealed as the Divine Redeemer who came to save the lost. He saves us from the power of evil spirits, severe illness, leprosy, the power and consequence of sin. He also raises the dead, calms a storm, and saves the multitudes from hunger.

Jesus' exaltation of womanhood and His attitudes toward the poor are emphasized in *Luke*. He plays more lightly on the faults of the Apostles to focus more strongly on Christ. Much joy is found throughout the book's account along with considerable focus on the work of the Holy Spirit and prayer. Over half of the book deals with Jesus' last journey to Jerusalem and the events following His Ascension. Though Jesus came to save and not to destroy, those who refuse to be saved bring terrible suffering upon themselves. Jesus is not only the Divine Savior, but also the Almighty Redeemer who is the only Son of God. Proof is given through His Resurrection: Jesus, Savior of the World, sent, approved, and equipped by God.

Luke's Gospel is universal for people of all ages and conditions:

Jews	<i>1:13; 2:10</i>
Samaritans	<i>9:51-56</i>
Heathens	<i>2:32; 3:6, 38</i>
Publicans, sinners, and outcasts	<i>7:37-50</i>
Respectable people	<i>7:36</i>
The poor	<i>1:53</i>
The rich	<i>19:2; 23:50</i>

When we read from *Luke*, we might want to consider that he wrote to the, Gentiles. However, we will still need to interpret it in first century context, which may differ from our thinking. *Luke* is revealing Jesus to us as a human being that was also God. Jesus is a man who is God in a fleshly body. We don't want to forget the qualifications and related skill of the author, a respected and educated physician. Most of our chronology of the Gospels will be taken from *Luke's* account.

Luke's readers wanted to know. What are you seeking to know about Jesus?

(Your Notes Here!)

Man’s most important question is “Who is Jesus?” *John* answers:

- The Word of God 1:14
- The Lamb of God 1:29, 36
- The Messiah 1:41
- The Son of God 1:49
- The King of Israel 1:49
- The Savior of the World 4:42

Seven signs are recorded that reveal the person and mission of Jesus.

- Turning water into wine 2:1-12
- Cure of the nobleman’s son 4:46-54
- Cure of the paralytic 5:1-18
- Feeding of the five thousand 6:6-13
- Walking on water 6:16-21
- Giving sight to the blind 9:1-7
- Raising of Lazarus 11:1-45

The purpose of these signs is disclosed in *John 12:37-43*.

John records seven great “I Am” sayings of Jesus.

- The Bread of Life 6:35
- Light of the World 8:12
- Door of the Sheep 10:7
- Good Shepherd 10:11
- Resurrection and the Life 11:25
- The Way, the Truth, and the Life 14:6
- The True Vine 15:1

When we read from *John*, we are going to see the behavior, actions, and thoughts of the King, Jesus. *John* mentions the love of God more than any other Bible writer. We see the love of God and the love of Jesus portrayed throughout the Gospel. This with the key verses (*John 20:30-31*) will bring us to answer the question: “To love or not to love Jesus and the God who sent Him.” *John* answers the question **“What is truth?”**

Next week, we will open the Gospels and look at *Mark’s* introduction, *Luke’s* Preface, *John’s* Prologue and *Matthew’s* Genealogy. How do they introduce their accounts of the life and teachings of Jesus Christ?

Read *Matthew 1:1-17*; *Mark 1:1*; *Luke 1:1-4*; *3:23-28*; *John 1:1-18*, bring a friend and join us for “Walking With Jesus.”



LOC – 002 – “Background on the Four Gospels”



Questions for Thought, Discussion, and Application

1. What is the wisdom in Matthew writing his Gospel to the Jews? How can that influence you in witnessing to others today?
2. Mark’s Gospel speaks of Jesus’ power. How do you relate to Jesus’ power?
3. How does Luke’s diligence in searching for the truth about Jesus challenge you in your walk with Him?
4. John talks about the “Word.” What does “Word” communicate to you?
5. What have you gotten out of this study that has or will change your life?

LOC – 002 – “Background on the Four Gospels”



Questions for Homework

Homework is optional for those who want to study a little deeper or seek college credit.

(You will possibly need a concordance and other translations of the New Testament for this homework. Other study tools may be helpful but are not required.) You may have to write your answers on a separate sheet and insert it here in your book.

1. What can you find out about the person, personality, and character of each of the Gospel writers?

2. How did their personae influence their style of writing?

Matthew:

Mark

Luke

John

3. Do a word study on the Greek word - euangelion (gospel.) What does it mean and why is it used in the Bible?

Lesson 003

Bible Study Text and Questions

Introductions To Each Gospel

Written by
Dr. GLEN M. COPPLE



The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ

from Annunciation to Ascension

New Hope Gospel Ministries

INTRODUCTORY NOTES BY THE GOSPEL WRITERS*



1. MARK'S TITLE

Mark. 1:1

*God's Good News
(Mark 1:14)
concerning His Son
(Romans 1:1-4).*

¹The beginning of the Gospel^{**}
about Jesus Christ, the Son of God.^{***}

2. LUKE'S PREFACE

Luke 1:1-4

*What others
have written.*

¹Many have undertaken
to draw up an account
of the things
that have been fulfilled among us,
²just as they were handed down to
us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses (*II Peter:16-18; I John.1:1-2 Acts 1:21-22*)
and servants of the word,

*What Luke
proposes
to write.*

³Therefore, since I myself
have carefully investigated everything
from the beginning,
it seemed good also
to me to write an orderly account
for you, most excellent Theophilus,

*What his
purpose is.*

⁴so that you may know the
certainty of the things you have been taught.

NOTE: Lettered footnotes are part of the New International Version text.

Starred footnotes are the author's comments.

^aSome ancient authorities omit the Son of God. [But cf. *Luke 1:32,35;4:3,9; Matthew 4:3,5; Mark 1:24;14:61,62; Luke 22:67-70*]

^bOr accurately.

^{*}These "Notes by the Gospel Writers" are not properly a part of the story of Christ's Life itself, but introductory to it.*

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

1. To find the passage you wish to study turn to the index. Gospel references are at the right side of the page.
2. Read the title or subject of the incident, e.g. "Luke's Preface"
3. Read the marginal titles on left of page.
4. Note that the ideas are grouped into paragraphs.
5. See how the "Marginal Titles" summarize the paragraphs.
6. See the relation and sequence of the paragraphs.
7. Consider how the "Marginal Titles" for a complete outline of the story.
8. Visualize each scene and see it merge into the next, like a moving picture.
9. Consider what the main message of the whole story is, and the truth it teaches.
10. Think out its application to life today, in yourself, in others, and in society.
11. Do this for every incident in the book, then you will "see Christ openly set forth before your eyes,"
and He and His message will be much more real to you.

[YOU CAN REMEMBER the
Outlines of "Mark's Title" and of
"Luke's Preface," by noting how
the Marginal Titles of the
paragraphs are related to each
other. Try it.]

Study these pages man times, until you have mastered them and they have become your habits of thought and conduct.)

"Scripture taken from the HOLY BIBLE: NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION_R NIV_R Copyright C 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan Publishing House."



3. JOHN'S PROLOGUE

John 1:1-18

THE WORD

(His Essential Nature and Relationships (1-5))

His Pre-Existence

¹In the beginning was the Word,

*His Relation
to God*

and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

*His Relation
to Things*

²He was with God in the beginning *
³Through him all things were made; (*Colossians 1:16*)
without him nothing was made that has been made.

*His Relation
to Men*

⁴In him was life,^a
and that life was the light of men (*John 1:9,14*)
⁵The light shines in the darkness,
but the darkness has not understood** it.

(2) His Historical Manifestation and How He was Received (6-13)

*John comes
to testify
concerning Him.*

⁶There came a man who was sent from God;
his name was John.
⁷He came as a witness
to testify concerning that light,
so that all men might believe through him.
⁸He himself was not the light;
he came only as a witness to the light.

*The true light
of all men
was coming.*

⁹The true light
that gives light to every man
was coming into the world.

*He had been
in the world
since its creation
through Him.*

¹⁰He was in the world,
and though the world was made through him,
the world did not recognize him.

*His own people had
not received Him.
Some had believed
and so had
received Him.*

¹¹He came to that which was his own,
but his own did not receive him.

*They became
Children of God,
by being born of
God (*John 3:3-5*).*

¹²Yet to all who received him,
to those who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God—

(3) His Unique Character and Mission (14-18)

*He became
the incarnate Word
full of gracious truth.*

¹³children born
not of natural descent,
nor of human decision
or a husband's will,

[YOU CAN REMEMBER
the Outline of John's Prologue.
The Title is "The Word".
There are three Main Divisions.
See how they fit together. Next,
note how the paragraph titles in the
margin are associated. Then
repeat them aloud with eyes shut.
Then write them. Proceed with the
second and third main points in the
same way. Do this again just
before retiring. Repeat next
morning.

^aOr was not anything made. That which has been made was life in Him.

* *1 John 1:1; 2:13,14; Genesis 1:1; Isaiah 40:21*

** Or understood it.



*He manifests
God's unique glory.*

¹⁴The Word became flesh (*Philippians 2:5-8*)
and made his dwelling among us.
full of grace and truth. (*Colossians 1:15-20*)
We have seen his glory, the glory
of the One and Only [Son], (*John 2:11; II Corinthians 4:6*)
who came from the Father,

*He is
incomparably
greater than
John.*

(¹⁵John testifies concerning Him. He cries out,
saying, “This was He of whom I said,
‘He who comes after me has surpassed me
because He was before me.’”) (*John.1:30*)

¹⁶From the fullness of his grace we have all
received one blessing after another.

*He is greater
than Moses.*

¹⁷For the law was given through Moses;
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

*He only
adequately reveals
the Father.*

¹⁸No one has ever seen God, * (*John 6:46; 1 John 4:12; Colossians 1:15; Exodus 33:20*)
but God the Only [Son],
who is at the Father’s side, has made him known.

4. MATTHEW'S GENEALOGY

*(Compared with Luke's)**

THE HUMAN ANCESTRY OF THE MESSIAH

Matthew. 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38

*From Abraham
to David
(1,000 years)*

¹A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ
the son of David, the son of Abraham:

²Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

³Judah the father of Perez and Zerach, whose mother
was Tamar, Perez the father of

Hezron, Hezron the father of Ram,^a

⁴Ram the father of Amminadab,
Amminadab the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon,

⁵Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother
was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose
mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse,

⁶and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother
had been Uriah's wife,

⁷Solomon the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam
the father of Abijah, Abijah the father of Asa,^b

⁸Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat
the father of Jehoram, Jehoram the father
of Uzziah,

Luke 3:23-38

*(Luke tells the genealogy in reverse order
and differs in some items. We lack data
to make a complete comparison because*

neither gives the facts.)

*being the son, (as was supposed) of
Joseph*

²⁴ *the son of Matthat,*

the son of Levi,

the son of Melchi,

the son of Jannai

the son of Joseph

²⁵ *the son of Mattathias*

the son of Amos

the son of Nathum

the son of Esli

the son of Naggai

the son of Joanan,

the son of Simein

the son of Josech

the son of Joda

²⁷ *the son of Joanan,*

the son of Rhesa,

the son of Shealtiel^d

the son of Neri

²⁸ *the son of Melchi,*

the son of Addi

the son of Cosam

the son of Elmadam

the son of Zerubbabel,

the son of Er

²⁹ *the son of Jesus*

the son of Eliezer

the son of Jorim^e

the son of Matthat

the son of Levi

*From Joseph
and Mary Back
to David.*

*From David
to the Captivity
(100 years)*

^a *Bodily senses cannot perceive spiritual realities.*

*From Captivity
to Christ*

⁹Uzziah the father of Jotham, Jotham the father of Ahaz, Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

¹⁰Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, Manasseh the father of Amon,^c Amon the father of Josiah,

¹¹and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

¹²After the exile to Babylon: Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,^d Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

¹³Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, Abiud the father of Eliakim, Eliakim the father of Azor,

¹⁴Azor the father of Zadok, Zadok the father of Akim, Akim the father of Eliud,

¹⁵Eliud the father of Eleazar, Eleazar the father of Matthan, Matthan the father of Jacob,

¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

¹⁷Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ.

Summary

³⁰the son of Symeon
the son of Judas
the son of Joseph,
the son of Jonam
the son of Eliakim,
³¹the son of Melea
the son of Menna
the son of Mattatha
the son of Nathan
From David
son of David back
³²the son of Jesse, to Abraham
the son of Obed
the son of Boaz,
the son of Salmon,^e
the son of Nahshon,
³³the son of Amminadab,^f
the son of Arni,^g
the son of Hezron
the son of Judah,
the son of Perez
³⁴the son of Jacob,
the son of Issac, From
the son of Abraham Abraham back
to Adam

the son of Terah,
the son of Nahor,
³⁵the son of Serug
the son of Reu
the son of Peleg
the son of Eber,
the son of Shelah
³⁶the son of Cainan,
the son of Arphaxad
the son of Shem
the son of Noah,
the son of Lamech
³⁷the son of Methuselah,
the son of Enoch,
the son of Jared,
the son of Mahalaleel,
the son of Cainan
³⁸the son of Enos
the son of Seth
the son of Adam
the son of God



**The Talmud hints that Matthew gives Joseph's descent and Luke Mary's. Luke calls Joseph the son of Heli. By marrying Mary, the daughter of Heli, he became his son or as we would say son-in-law. These genealogies connect the Old Testament and the New Testament and indicate the fulfillment of the prophecy. The Old Testament says the Messiah will be a descendant of David and also of Abraham.*

^aGreek Aram. ^bGreek Asaph. ^cSome authorities read Amos. ^dGreek Salathiel. ^eSome ancient authorities read Sala. ^fMany ancient authorities insert son of Admin or Son of Aram. ^gSome ancient authorities write Aram.



LOC – 003 – Introduction to the Four Gospels - From the Writers

Opening Prayer

Lesson Objectives

We want to understand the author’s purpose for writing their Gospel.

We want to see how the Gospels introduce their stories about Jesus.

Understanding the background will help us to better apply what we learn about Jesus.

Lesson Commentary

Read *Mark 1:1; Luke 1:1-4; John 1:1-18; Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38*

(Your Notes Here!)

In the first lesson, we looked very briefly at the period between the Old and New Testaments. We also got some background information (the who, what, how, when, where and why) on Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We learned that each writer was addressing a different audience. Matthew was an Apostle, a Jew and wrote to a Jewish audience. Mark was writing to the Romans under the instruction of the Apostle Peter. Luke wrote to all Gentiles under the direction of the Apostle Paul. John wrote to any that were unbelievers in order that they might believe. From time to time, you will want to refer back to Lesson 001 and the outlines and summaries of each of the Gospels until you can remember their contents.

Today we will look at the introductory comments made by each of the four Gospels to introduce their works to their readers. Keep in mind that each writer came from a different background and wrote to a different audience. This will influence how they introduce their Gospel stories.

Mark’s Title:

Mk. 1:1 – Everything has a beginning on this earth. In Mark’s Gospel, the beginning is not only of Jesus life on earth, but of the narrative of that Gospel about Jesus. Even though He was with the Father in the act of creation, His life and ministry on earth had a beginning.

The Greek word for Gospel is “Euangellion.” It literally means “Good News.” Jesus is the Good News of God coming and living among man, to redeem us from our sins, and to set us a godly example. The Gospel is Christ and the Gospel is about Christ. Mark is the only writer to use the word “Gospel” in the title of his book.

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Jesus is the Greek word for the Hebrew word “Joshua.” It means “Yahweh,” or “God, is salvation.” Christ is the Greek word for “Anointed One.” The Hebrew word is “Messiah.”

Mark wrote to Romans. They sought POWER! They wanted to know about this God who became a Man. They understood gods as beings of power. Jesus is the Son of the only GOD! (“Son of God” is not found in some of the older manuscripts). Romans were interested in stories about His power, so Mark only gave one verse of introduction and then went right into the history and action of Jesus' life. The title “Son of God” points to Jesus' unique relationship to God. He was a Man (Jesus), and God's “Special Agent” (Messiah), but He is also fully divine. As the Son, He depends on and obeys God the Father.

Luke's Preface:

Luke's preface employs the style of contemporary historical and technical writers. It contains sources, research, method, purpose, and addressee. He used this style of introduction in *Luke 3:1-2* and in *Acts 1:1-2*. None of the other writers of the Bible used this approach to their writings. John's Gospel contains a prologue, but it is more a theological statement than a mere introduction.

Lk. 1:1 – “Others have written” could easily mean that Luke's audience already had knowledge of Matthew, Mark, and others who had written about Jesus. Luke seeks to give a chronologically accurate historical account. Where Mark uses the theological term “Gospel”, Luke uses an historical term “account”.

Lk. 1:2 – Luke consulted with others who had seen Jesus, for accuracy of his details. He tells the gentiles who this MAN called Jesus really is. Jesus is the Savior. Luke recognized that there were several other stories being passed around about Jesus. Some of these stories had become distorted, so he set out to find out the truth and convey it to his audience.

Lk. 1:3 – Luke's message is primarily to those who are Greeks and gentiles. Since “everyone” spoke Greek, all gentiles were included in this definition.

Theophilus means Lover of God. “Theos” means God. "Philus" is one of the Greek words for Love, brotherly love, friendship. It is unclear whether Theophilus is referring to a particular person or to anyone who loves God. By using the term, “most excellent”, Luke is recognizing Theophilus as a person of honor. This could possibly be a Roman leader who is open to the Gospel and will facilitate its spread. **We should consider Theophilus as a title describing our attitude towards God. Are you one who loves God?**

Lk. 1:4 – Luke wants to assure his readers of the TRUTH about what they have heard regarding Jesus. They want to know about the Man. Luke tells them about His life on this earth.

Jn. 1:10 – This verse is very similar to *John 1:5* about the fact that the world is too busy looking the other way to realize that they have missed the living presence of God.

Jn. 1:11 – Jesus came to His own countrymen first, and as we will see as we continue “Walking With Jesus,” He reached out to them and they rejected Him. **How many times have you seen testimony about Jesus before you accepted Him?**

Jn. 1:12 – Jesus gives the “right,” the POWER, to become sons of God to those who will accept Him. Come to Jesus! History shows that the oppression of the Church has failed. No power on earth can conquer the Church, which is the Kingdom of God on earth!

Jn. 1:13 – Being born again into God’s Kingdom is a different process than physical birth. It is something that only God can do to us for us. It is something that gives eternal life and something that you have a choice in whether you want to do it or not. **Are you “born again?”**

Jn. 1:14 – The “Word” is a continuation of the comments in *verses 1-3*. Compare what Paul will later write in *Philippians 2:6-8*. Jesus is the essence of Grace and of Truth.

Jn. 1:15 – John (the Baptist) realized who Jesus, his cousin, really was and told others so they could follow Jesus. Jesus is so great, compared to John, because Jesus existed before John.

Jn. 1:16 – John (the Baptist) reminds his followers that **we have all already been the recipients of God’s grace!**

Jn. 1:17 – The Mosaical Law can only condemn. There is no provision for the forgiveness of sin in the Old Testament, only a rolling back of the penalty until Jesus could come and pay the price. Only Jesus saves! **Aren’t you glad that you have accepted Him and are saved from the penalty for your sins?**

Jn. 1:18 – No one can prove that God exists, but Jesus’ life and teachings are evidence to who God is, what He has done, and how he wants us to live.

Matthew’s Genealogy (Compared with Luke’s)

Here are the legal descendants. Tracing the family tree is important to prove one’s heritage or right. Jesus being of the lineage of David is important to qualify Him as the King according to prophecy. These genealogies are more for theological purposes than for biological.

Matthew follows Joseph’s line. The legal lineage of Jesus is important to the Jews. This will show the Jews that Jesus is a qualified descendant of David. *Matthew* does mention Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, and Bathsheba. Tamar and Rahab were prostitutes and foreigners. Ruth was also a foreigner. Bathsheba was the woman with whom David had an adulterous affair. **God can**

(Your Notes Here!)

line through Nathan whereas Matthew followed the line through Solomon.

Many events preceding the coming of Christ have brought the Jews to a point where they are looking for the prophesied Messiah. Others have come and claimed to be the Messiah, but have been rejected for one reason or another. Jesus has to establish Himself as the true Messiah. His lineage is one step in that process.

Next week, we will look at the annunciation of John the Baptist, and his birth to Zechariah and Elizabeth. We are going to begin our journey from annunciation to ascension. There will be times of excitement and times of information. It will be a time to see how you can become more like Jesus so He can change your life. We are going to enter into a more intimate relationship with God through His SON!

Read *Luke 1:5-25* and join us for “Walking With Jesus.”



LOC – 003 – Introduction to the Gospels - From the Writers

Questions for Thought, Discussion, and Application



1. How did Mark relate his Gospel to the Romans who were so impressed with power? How does that help you relate the Gospel to people you know?
2. How can you “proclaim” the “Gospel”, the Good News?
3. Can you relate to “Theophilus” (God lover)? Explain.
4. Why is John’s description of Jesus as the “Word” so fitting?
5. In *John 1:10* we learn the world did not recognize Jesus. Why? Would you have recognized Him?
6. What have you learned from this study that has or will change your life?

LOC – 003 – Introduction to the Gospels - From the Writers**Questions for Homework**

Homework is optional for those who want to study a little deeper or seek college credit.

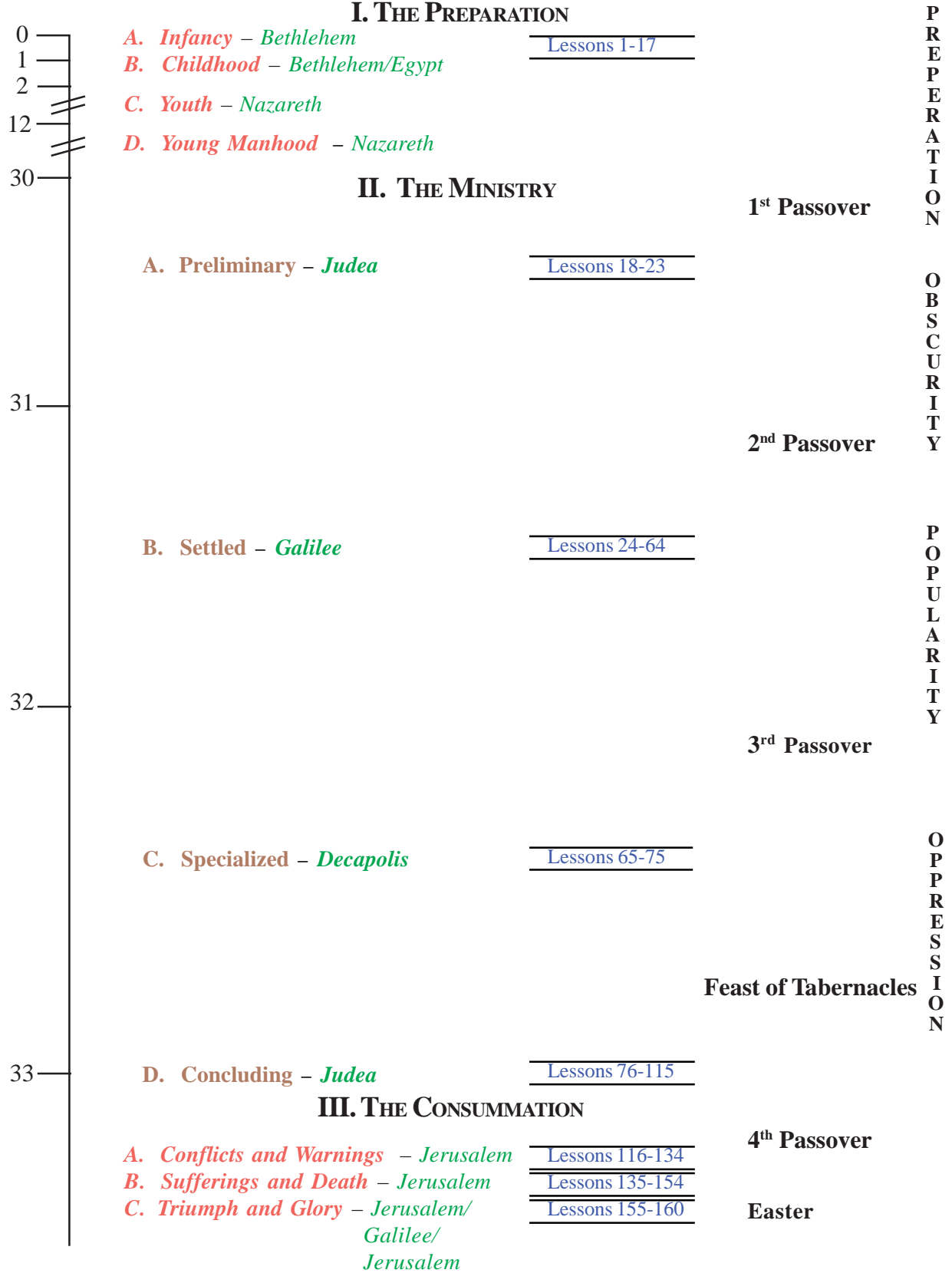
(You will possibly need a concordance and other translations of the New Testament for this homework. Other study tools may be helpful but are not required.) You may have to write your answers on a separate sheet and insert it here in your book.

1. Do a word study on “Logos”, word, using your concordance. How many times is the word used? Is there any other reference to Jesus as the “Word”?
2. Discuss the differences between the genealogies of Matthew and Luke.
3. Who are some others who had written about Jesus that were not included in the Bible we have today?
4. Do a word study on the Greek word - huioi (son) used in *Luke 3:23*. What does it mean and why is it used in the Bible?

“WALKING WITH JESUS”

Jesus' Age`

Time Line



THE LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF CHRIST



PART ONE

[In Detailed Outline] (*Learning The Father's Message in the Laboratory of Life-Hebrews 5:8-9*)
 (From His birth, B.C. through His childhood. A.D. 9)

Outline and Scripture Text (The rest of this outline will be included in Book 3) (B.C. 4 to A.D. 7) (<i>Ideal Childhood</i>)	Lesson Number
THE PREPARATION (LEARNING GOD'S MESSAGE IN THE LABORATORY OF LIFE)	004-017
(From His Birth around 5 B.C. to the Beginning of His Public Ministry around 27 A.D.)	
I The Infancy of Jesus (6-5 B.C.)	004-009
A. The Annunciation to Zechariah and Elizabeth (<i>Luke 1:5-25</i>)	004
B. The Annunciation to Mary (<i>Luke 1:26-38</i>), (Bethlehem) and Her Visit to Elizabeth (<i>Luke 1:39-56</i>)	005 005
C. The Annunciation to Joseph (<i>Matthew 1:18-25</i>)	005
D. The Birth and Early Life of John the Baptist (<i>Luke 1:57-80</i>)	006
E. The Birth of Jesus (<i>Luke 2:1-20</i>) (Bethlehem) (Continued from outline in Book 2 page 2.)	007
F. The Circumcision and Naming of Jesus (<i>Matthew 1:25b; Luke 2:21</i>)	008
G. The Consecration of Jesus (<i>Luke 2:22-39a</i>) (Jerusalem)	008
H. The Visit of the Magi (<i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>) (Bethlehem)	009
I. The Flight to Egypt (<i>Matthew 2:13-18</i>)	009
II The Childhood of Jesus (4 B.C. to 7 A.D.)	010
A. His Nazareth Home (<i>Matthew 2:19-23; Luke 2:39b</i>)	010
B. His Normal Growth (<i>Luke 2:40</i>)	010
1. His Physical Growth	
a. In Size	
b. In Strength	
2. His Mental Growth	
a. The Increase	
b. The Fullness	
3. His Spiritual Growth	
a. The Source	
b. The Use	
III THE YOUTH OF JESUS (8 A.D. TO 25 A.D.)	010
A. The Inquiring Boy (<i>Luke 2:41-50</i>)	010
B. The Obedient Son (<i>Luke 2:51</i>)	010
C. The Developing Youth (<i>Luke 2:52</i>)	010
1. In Wisdom	
2. In Stature	
3. In Grace	
a. With God	
b. With Men	
IV The Young Manhood of Jesus (36 A.D. to 27 A.D.)	011-017
A. John is Preaching and Baptizing (<i>Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 1:2-8; Luke 3:1-18; Cf. John 1:33</i>)	011-012
B. Jesus is Baptized by John (<i>Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-23a</i>)	013

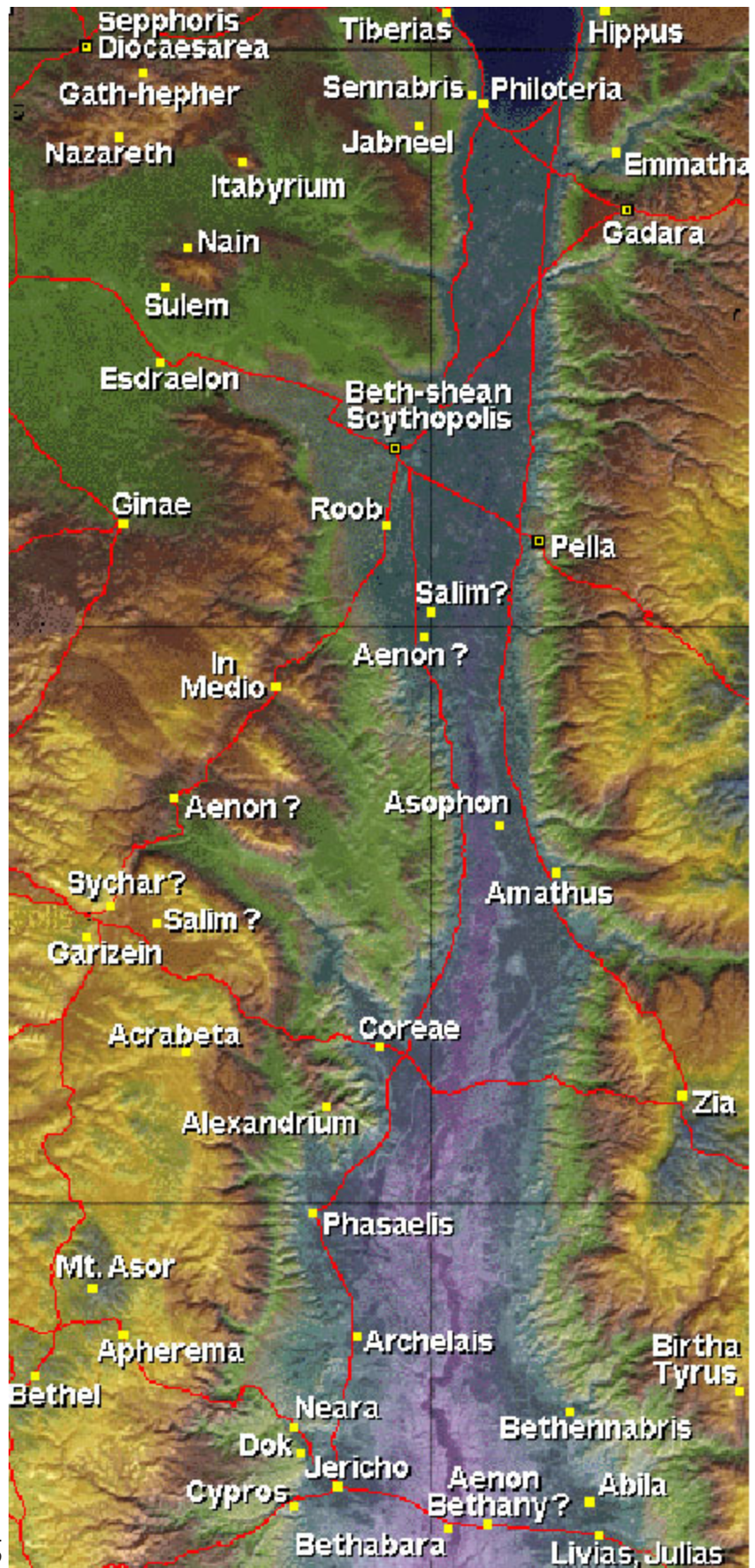
[You Can Remember Try committing this outline. First Note Its Subject, "The Preparation."
 Then Note its Three Main Points and how they naturally follow each other.
 Now take the details under Point 1. There are 9 of them.
 See how the first three are related; then the next two;
 Circumcision was eight days after birth and consecration was at 40 days.
 Then follow "Magi," and "Flight to Egypt."
 Locate each story on the map.
 Review night and morning.



"WALKING WITH JESUS"

Outline

Outline and Scripture Text	Lesson Number
C. JESUS IS TEMPTED BY THE DEVIL (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13)	014
D. JOHN TESTIFIES CONCERNING JESUS (John 1:19-34)	015
1. His Testimony to the Official Committee from Jerusalem (John 1:19-28)	015
2. His testimony to the Multitudes (John 1:29-34)	015
E. Jesus Wins His First Disciples (John 1:35-51)	016
* These last three points, E-G, may be classified as the opening events of Jesus' "Ministry." They are in fact introductory and transitional events of a semi-private nature. However, the real "Public" Ministry was launched at Jerusalem, at Passover time, as is shown in the next section beginning with lesson 017.	
F. Jesus Attends a Wedding (John 2:1-11)	017
G. Jesus Visits Capernaum (John 2:12)	017
The First Passover (John 2:13)	
THE MINISTRY (GIVING GOD'S MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE)	018-119
(From His First Public Appearance in Jerusalem at the First Passover, 27 A.D. to His Final Return to Jerusalem to Die, at the Passover, 30 A.D.)	
I. THE PRELIMINARY MINISTRY (HERALDING THE MESSIANIC KINGDOM IN ALL PARTS OF PALESTINE)	018-024
(From His First Public Appearance in Jerusalem, Passover 27 A.D. To His Settlement in Capernaum, 6 or 8 months later)	
A. In Judea	017-021
1. In Jerusalem (He Begins in the Nation's Capital, at the Great Passover Festival) (John 2:13—3:21)	018
a. Jesus Cleanses the Temple (John 2:13-22)	018
b. Through His Signs Many Believe (John 2:23-25)	018
c. Nicodemus is an Example of These (John 3:1-21)	019
2. In the Country (Jesus Merges His Campaign with John's) (John 3:22—4:1-4; Matthew 4:12; Mark 1:14a; Luke 3:19-20; 4:14a; cf. Matthew 14:3-5; Mark 6:17-20)	020
a. Jesus is Baptizing Disciples in Judea (John 3:22)	020
b. John also is Baptizing at Aenon (John 3:23-24)	020
c. John Testifies Concerning Jesus at Aenon (John 3:25-36)	020
d. John is Imprisoned by Herod (Luke 3:19-20 compare Matthew 4:12)	020
e. Jesus Leaves Judea for Galilee, via Samaria (John 4:1-4; Matthew 4:12; Mark 1:14a; Luke 4:14a; cf. Matthew 14:3-5; Mark 6:17-20)	021
B. In Samaria	021-023
1. Jesus Talks With a Samaritan Woman at Jacob's Well (John 4:5-26)	021
2. The Woman Appeals to Her People (John 4:27-30)	022
3. Jesus Appeals to His Disciples (John 4:31-38)	022
4. The Revival in Sychar (John 4:39-42)	022
C. In Galilee	023-024
1. Jesus Returns to Galilee (John 4:43-45)	023
2. Jesus Teaches in the Synagogues of Galilee (Luke 4:14-15)	023
3. Jesus Heals a Nobleman's Son at Cana (John 4:46-54)	023
4. Jesus is Rejected at Nazareth (Luke 4:16-30)	024
The Removal to Capernaum (Matthew 4:12-16)	
II. THE SETTLED MINISTRY (SYSTEMATIC AND INTENSIVE EVANGELIZATION) (IN GALILEE)	025-066
A. The First Period, or The Earlier Galilean Ministry (4-6 months)	025-030
(From the Settlement in Galilee to the "Second" Passover)	
1. At Capernaum	025-026
a. The Settlement at Capernaum (Matthew 4:13-17; Mark 1:14b-15; Luke 4:31a)	025
b. The Call of the Four to Learn Evangelism (Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11)	025
c. The Day of Miracles (Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:21-34; Luke 4:31-41)	026
(1) Forenoon – At the Synagogue: A Demoniac Healed	
(2) Afternoon – At Peter's House – Peter's Mother-in-law Healed	
(3) Evening – At the Street Door – Many Healed	



Most of John the Baptists life is spend at the Jordan River around Aenon, where He was baptizing.

Map courtesy of ROHR Productions, LTD. 1999



Bethlehem's Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity.

Photo courtesy of Corel Corporation, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Lesson 004

Bible Study Text and Questions

Annunciation to Zechariah and Elizabeth

Written by
Dr. GLEN M. COPPLE



The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ
from Annunciation to Ascension

New Hope Gospel Ministries

A. THE PREPARATION* (for the Ministry of Jesus)



1. The Infancy of Jesus (6-5 B.C.)

(ANCIENT PROMISES AND PROPHECIES COMING TRUE IN HIS DIVINE—HUMAN INFANCY)

A. The Annunciation to Zechariah and Elizabeth (*Luke 1:5-25*)*The Introduction**The Time, Place, and Persons.* ⁵In the time of Herod king of Judea*The King.**The parents of John are characterized.**Their priestly descent.**Their names.**Their character.*

there was a priest named Zechariah,
 who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; (Cf. *I Chronicles 24:1-10*)
 his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron.

⁶Both of them were upright in the sight of God,
 observing all the Lord's commandments and
 regulations blamelessly.

Their one great sorrow.

⁷But they had no children,
 because Elizabeth was barren;
 and they were both well along in years.

The Story

*In the Priests' quarters
 the one who is to offer incense
 is chosen by lot.*

⁸Once when Zechariah's division was on duty
 and he was serving as priest before God,
⁹he was chosen by lot,
 according to the custom of the priesthood,
 to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. (*Exodus 30:1-10; Revelation 8:3-5*)

*The people are praying
 outside the Temple.*

¹⁰And when the time for the burning of incense came,
 all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

*Inside the Holy Place at the
 Altar of Incense an angel
 appears to Zechariah.*

¹¹Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him,
 standing at the right side of the altar of incense.

Zechariah is overawed.

¹²When Zechariah saw him,
 he was startled and was gripped with fear.

The angel tells his message:

¹³But the angel said to him:
 "Do not be afraid, Zechariah;
 your prayer has been heard.

A son is promised.

Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son,
 and you are to give him the name John. (*Luke 1:60, 63*)

He will bring joy to many

¹⁴He will be a joy and delight to you,
 and many will rejoice because of his birth,
¹⁵for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.
 He is never to take wine or other fermented drink,
 and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit
 even from birth.^a

He will be Spirit-filled,

*He will bring Israel
 to Repentance.*

¹⁶Many of the people of Israel will he
 bring back to the Lord their God.

(Malachi 4:5-6)



*Zechariah asks
for assurance.*

¹⁷ And he will go on before the Lord,
in the spirit and power of Elijah,
to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children
and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—
to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

¹⁸ Zechariah asked the angel,
“How can I be sure of this?
I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.”

The angel replies I am Gabriel.

*God has sent me to
tell you this message,*

and you will be dumb.

¹⁹ The angel answered,
“I am Gabriel.
I stand in the presence of God, (verse 26)
and I have been sent to speak to you
and to tell you this good news.

*The people outside
wonder at the Delay:*

²⁰ And now you will be silent and not able to speak
until the day this happens,
because you did not believe my words,
which will come true at their proper time.” (verse 64)

²¹ Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah
and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple.

*Zechariah comes out,
and dismisses
the service in silence.*

²² When he came out, he could not speak to them.
They realized he had seen a vision in the temple,
for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

The Conclusion
Zechariah returns home.

²³ When his time of service was completed,
he returned home.

The angel's promise comes true.

²⁴ After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant
and for five months remained in seclusion.

²⁵ “The Lord has done this for me,”
she said.
“In these days he has shown his favor
and taken away my disgrace among the people.”

^aGreek Zacharias.

* For the complete outline of the life of Christ, see preceding pages. It will greatly help you if you refer to it often.



LOC – 004 The Annunciation to Zechariah & Elizabeth

Opening Prayer

Lesson Objectives

God can intervene in the lives of individuals against the laws of nature.
 Nothing is impossible with God.
 We should pray and never lose hope.
 God determines who is righteous.

Lesson Commentary

Read *Luke 1:5-25*

(Your Notes Here!)

We begin our adventure with the annunciation of the birth of *John* the Baptist. This is significant because of the role that *John* played in preparing the way for Jesus Christ and fulfilling the prophecies of the Old Testament. This event takes place 4-6 B.C.

Our dating system that centers on the birth of Christ, was devised by the historian Dionysius. He missed three to four years in computing the actual birth year of Jesus. Luke records the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, writing to the Gentiles, who liked culture, wisdom, reason, beauty, and education. He sought to show Jesus’ humanity and power. Let’s begin seriously “Walking With Jesus.”

The Cast

Lk. 1:5 – Herod the Great will rule from 37 BC to 2 BC. He will die shortly after the massacre of children in Bethlehem (to be discussed in a few weeks.) He is a powerful, yet ruthless ruler. He murders anyone who poses a threat to his throne. In this paranoia, he even had his own sons killed.

Zechariah is a descendant of Aaron, whose descendants are the priests of Israel. God made a covenant of priesthood with the descendants of Aaron. He made a covenant of royalty with the descendants of David. John the Baptist comes through the line of Aaron, and Jesus will come through the line of David. Zechariah and his wife, Elizabeth, are advanced in years and they have no children. She is past menopause so she is past the age of child bearing.

Lk. 1:6 – Zechariah and Elizabeth are upright (many translators use “righteous”) by God and man’s standards. They love God, obey Him and worship Him from very deep within themselves. This shows in their lives and is recognized by their peers.

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A good way to interpret “righteous” is right living. *To be righteous is a hard concept to understand.* It is something to be determined or imputed by God alone and something that we will struggle with trying to understand and do for the rest of our lives.

Thank God for His grace and His righteousness.

Lk. 1:7 – Incidental to this story is the fact that Zechariah and Elizabeth have no children. This is usually “blamed” on the woman (although we know that isn’t always the truth.) Add to this the fact that they are advanced in years and it establishes the power of God in what is about to take place.

In the Temple

Lk. 1:8 – Zechariah is serving in the Temple as a Priest. There are so many priests by this time that they take turns serving in the Temple. (See *I Chronicles 24:1ff* for an explanation.)

Lk. 1:9 – Because of the large number of priests by this time, this will probably be the only time in Zechariah’s life that he will get to offer incense. There are twenty-four divisions. Each division serves for one week, twice per year. Zechariah is of the descendants of Abijah and it has finally come time for him to serve in Jerusalem.

Lk. 1:10 – Zechariah is offering incense in the Holy Place of the Temple. This represents the prayers of the entire nation. The people are praying outside while this is being done. At this moment, Zechariah is the focal point of the entire Jewish nation. He is their spiritual representative before God. **Prayer is significant in that it is not only a time to petition God for healing from sin and deliverance from the trials of this world, but it is also an opportunity to pour out your heart in worship and praise to God.**



Model of the Temple as it looked before Herod rebuilt it.

Photo courtesy of Cheryl Eastman

The Angel's Message

(Your Notes Here!)

Lk. 1:11 – An angel appears standing just to the right of the Altar of Incense. The prophet, Zechariah, of the Old Testament is the last person to have had contact with an angel. Now we have a priest named Zechariah being visited by an Angel after some 400 years of silence with not even a prophet to speak for God.

Lk. 1:12 – Zechariah is somewhat afraid. This is not your typical every day experience. Though he is righteous before God, he is still discomforted at this interruption to the laws of Nature. How many angel visits occurred over the four thousand-year history of the Old Testament?

Lk. 1:13 – The angel responds. “Do not be afraid.” This is the first of several times this phrase will be said in the New Testament. Even in his old age, Zechariah believes that God can give him and Elizabeth a son and that they are to name him “John.” This son fulfills a prophecy given in *Isaiah 40:3ff*. We will get to know him as *John* the Baptist. (They already know the sex of the child and that he will grow up to do great things for God.

How much would you new parents like to know that your child will do great things? Prayers of faith filed in heaven are not forgotten. **God does not take our prayers lightly, even when we only offer them lightly. Your communication with Him is very important to Him.** He always wants to hear you. **He always listens. He always answers,** even when we don't realize it.

Lk. 1:14 – Zechariah is assured that his child will be healthy and will fulfill a specific mission for God. **Many parents would long for this kind of reassurance from God, that they will not have to worry about what their child will be like, or if he will grow healthy and pleasing to God.** *Luke* frequently uses the word “joy” in his writings. Most of the time, it is closely associated with “salvation.” The salvation of God will bring joy to all who receive it.

Lk. 1:15 – Not only will Zechariah have a son, but he will also be great before the Lord. *Luke* uses “in the sight of” thirty-five times in *Luke* and *Acts*. It is only used once elsewhere in the New Testament. There are health restrictions (no strong drink) imposed on this baby and he is promised to be filled with the Holy Spirit's presence. Later John will voluntarily take on the restrictions of the Nazarite vow. His manner of dress and the vow and other behaviors will stress the urgency of the message he is sent to proclaim. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even while still in his mother's womb. We will see when Mary comes to visit, that *John*, the unborn baby, leaps in his mother's womb in response to Mary's visit.

Lk. 1:16 – John the Baptist will prepare the way for Jesus; who will not be their king in an earthly sense, but will be their Lord and Messiah. There is such an expectancy of the Messiah coming soon that people are eager to hear John's message.

Contrary to what people expect, even today, Jesus is a spiritual leader, not a physical one.

Lk. 1:17 – John will do work like Elijah, the prophet did, and preach like him, and be bold like he was. Herod and his wife, Herodias, will hate him as Ahab and Jezebel hated Elijah. Though many missed it at the time, *John* will fulfill the prophecy that had been spoken of in *Malachi 3:1* and *4:5-6*. This isn't the only time that God granted a baby to a couple that was past child-bearing years. Cf. Sarah (*Genesis 15:3; 16:1*); Rebecca (*Genesis 25:21*); Rachel (*Genesis 29:31*); the wife of Manoah (*Judges 13:2*); Hannah (*1 Samuel 1:2*) were also technically too old to conceive and bear a child. They looked to God who can do the impossible. **God can do what seems impossible in your life as well.**

Zechariah's Response

Lk. 1:18 – Zechariah asks the angel for a sign, as though the angel wasn't a sufficient sign in itself. It is not uncommon for a prophecy from God to be accompanied with a sign. Sometimes it was requested by the recipient, like Elisha or Gideon. Sometimes it was offered by God, like Moses, or the shepherds at Jesus' birth.



Map from Jerusalem to Ein Karem some believe that Zacharias and Elizabeth lived. He will travel about 10 miles (16 kilometers) east to Jerusalem when it is his duty to serve in the Temple.

next few months of Israel's history. Next week, we will look at the annunciation to Mary and her visit with Elizabeth. It sounds like some exciting things are about to happen to some people in Judea and Galilee. Plan on being here.

Read *Luke 1:26-56* and join us for “Walking With Jesus.”



Looking west, southwest towards the modern city of Jerusalem. The Old City is just over the horizon.

Photo courtesy of Glen & Sylvia Copple
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LOC – 004 The Annunciation to Zechariah & Elizabeth

Questions for Thought, Discussion, and Application



1. Discuss what “righteousness” involves, and what it does not. How does it relate to right vs. wrong?
2. How would you feel if you saw an angel?
3. Why was Zechariah’s consequence for questioning the angel so significant?
4. How does God speak to us today? Have you ever felt that God was speaking directly to you?
5. What is the relationship between righteousness, good deeds and the grace of God?
6. What have you learned from this study that has or will change your life?

LOC – 004 The Annunciation to Zechariah & Elizabeth**Questions for Homework**

Homework is optional for those who want to study a little deeper or seek college credit.

(You will possibly need a concordance and other translations of the New Testament for this homework. Other study tools may be helpful but are not required.) You may have to write your answers on a separate sheet and insert it here in your book.

1. Where else is Gabriel mentioned in the Bible? What else can you learn about him?
2. Do a word study on “righteous,” writing on what you discover.
3. What other Scriptures tell us how we can be righteous?
4. Look up *Isaiah 40:3*. Is John referred to anywhere else in the Old Testament?
5. How has the world been changed by the coming of Christ (schools, governments, societies)?
6. Do a word study on the Greek word - epeidon (favor) used in *Luke 1:25*. What can you find out about what it means and how it is used in the Bible?

Lesson 005

Bible Study Text and Questions

Annunciation to Mary and Visit to Elizabeth

Written by
Dr. GLEN M. COPPLE



The Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ
from Annunciation to Ascension

New Hope Gospel Ministries

**2. The Annunciation to Mary (Luke 1:26-38),
and Her Visit to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56)**



<i>The Angel's Coming:</i>	²⁶ In the sixth month, (v.19) God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,
<i>He Is Sent To Nazareth To Mary</i>	²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.
<i>He Comes To Mary and Greets Her</i>	²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." ^a
<i>She Is Startled</i>	²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.
<i>The Angel's Message Is A Wonderful Promise</i>	³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.
<i>Mary Is To Be the Mother of the Messiah, His Greatness and Fame His Kingdom Will Never End</i>	³¹ You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. (Matthew 1:21) ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. (v.35) The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end." (Isaiah 9:6-7; Zechariah 9:9-10)
<i>Mary Wonders How It Can Be</i>	³⁴ "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"
<i>The Angel Explains</i>	³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born ^b will be called the Son of God. (v.32)
<i>He Gives A Thoughtful Suggestion</i>	³⁶ Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month.
<i>Mary Vows Obedience</i>	³⁷ For nothing is impossible with God." (Mark 14:36) ³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said."
<i>The Angel Departs</i>	Then the angel left her.

^aSome ancient authorities add "Blessed are you among women!"

^bSome ancient authorities add "of you."



Mary's Coming and Greeting

³⁹At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea,
⁴⁰where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

Elizabeth's Response

⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

What She Said

⁴²In a loud voice she exclaimed:
"Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!

*She Blesses Mary
And Her Child
She Rejoices*

⁴³But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

⁴⁴As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

and Prophecies.

⁴⁵Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be^a accomplished!"

Mary's Song of Praise:

*For God's
Blessing to
Her*

⁴⁶And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me-- holy is his name.

*For God's
Mercy
and Judgment
Upon All*

⁵⁰His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

⁵²He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.

⁵³He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.

For God's

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful

⁵⁵to Abraham and his descendants forever, even as he said to our fathers."

*Blessing to Israel
Mary's Prolong
Stay
Her Return Home*

⁵⁶Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about three months and then returned home.

^aor Believed, for there will be.



LOC – 005 – The Annunciation to Mary and Visit to Elizabeth

Opening Prayer

Lesson Objectives:

Angels are real.
God’s way is not always the same as man’s way.
Sex outside of marriage is wrong!
Marriage is an institution ordained by God.
Nothing is impossible with God.
God keeps His word!

Lesson Commentary

Read *Luke 1:26-56*

(Your Notes Here!)

This event takes place somewhere 4-6 B.C. — Our dating system that was computed around 532 A.D. missed 4-5 years in computing the actual birth year of Jesus. By the time the error was discovered, it was determined that it would be too difficult to change all of the calendars, so it has been left as it is to this day. We are looking at the humanity, the life of Jesus. As a Greek (Gentile) ask yourself, “Who is this man?” In lesson 002, we looked at the lineage in Matthew through Joseph and in Luke through Mary. In the last lesson, we looked at the annunciation to Zechariah that he and Elizabeth were going to be the parents of John the Baptist who is a fore-teller that the Messiah is coming. Now a young woman named Mary is about to receive a very special visit from an angel. That’s two angelic visitations in about six months! This is quite a change from the four hundred years of silence. It sounds exciting! Let’s look into “Walking With Jesus.”

Something is Coming — Something is about to happen!

Lk. 1:26 – It is a typical day in Nazareth. In Elizabeth’s sixth month of pregnancy, an angel stops by to talk to a young girl named Mary. Mary, probably only 15 or 16 years old, is working around the house taking life for granted as most of us do. She’s engaged to a man named Joseph, so she is probably much absorbed in wedding plans and preparing for married life and wondering when he is going to come and take her to be his wife.

God is not willing for His Son to be raised in a single parent home. She will soon be married and Jesus will have an earthly father.

Lk. 1:27 – The Greek word, “parthenon”, means she is a “virgin,” one who has never had sexual relations. She is a descendant of the house of David, which qualifies her as royalty, even though she is poor. Luke reminds us of the lineage of Joseph (likewise of the house of David) to establish the lineage of Jesus. To be betrothed is a much stronger bond than what we know as being engaged. It is almost the same as being married, but not yet living together or having sexual relations. A betrothal can last up to a year and it can only be broken by a divorce.

Lk. 1:28 – Suddenly, an angel appears and says, “Greetings, You are highly favored. The Lord is with you.” The actual Greek says, “Grace, O favored one. The Lord is with you.” The grace of God is being bestowed on Mary because God has a special purpose for her. Mary does not consider herself a “favored one,” so this greeting is also a strong statement of her value in the eyes of God. She is just a simple Jewish girl living in Nazareth, thinking and doing what any girl her age is thinking and doing. That God is with her is a most reassuring comment, considering the unusual phenomenon that is occurring. **How would you feel if you were working around the house or watching television and an angel appeared and said, “Grace to you, you are favored by God?”**

Lk. 1:29 – What is going through Mary’s mind? The Bible says she is afraid – When was the last time that an angel greeted you? How often does such a phenomenon occur? The Bible says that angels are working all around us, but seldom, if ever, are we actually “visited by an angel.”

Lk. 1:30 – For Mary to “find favor (the Greek word is “charos” which means “grace”) with God” is a very special comment. Whoever she is and whatever she has done, God is well pleased with her! This speaks volumes about Mary’s character. Imagine that God trusts her to be the mother (and her fiance, Joseph, to be the earthly father) of His only Son.

Lk. 1:31 – The angel explains to Mary that she will become pregnant. She is told that she is going to have a baby boy (long before ultrasound would tell her) and she is to give Him the name, Jesus.

Lk. 1:32 – The angel said that the father of this child is the Holy Spirit. The baby, Jesus, will be the Son of God. What does that mean – “Son of God?” Many others had claimed to be the “Messiah.” Jesus will be the real thing. “Not a want-a-be.”

Five things are said of Jesus in the *Luke 1:32-33*.

1. He will be great.
2. He will be the Son of the Most High. This will not escape Mary’s understanding. The angel is telling her that He will be equal to, and carry the qualities of Yahweh, GOD. Her child will be God in a human body.
3. He will be given the throne of His father, David. Jesus will reign forever in the millennium kingdom of David.

- 4. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. His reign will be for eternity.
- 5. His kingdom is spiritual and unending.

(Your Notes Here!)

Lk. 1:33 – His kingdom will never end. The Church has survived persecution from all kinds of sources and governments for over two thousand years. But none have been successful in overcoming it. The Church will never be destroyed. Even today, Christians are persecuted and murdered because of their faith. Where persecution is rampant, the Church thrives.

Lk. 1:34 – Mary questions the angel because she isn’t married. She is stating that she is a virgin. She doesn’t doubt the angel, as Zechariah did. She only asks how this is going to be accomplished. I wonder what this young Jewish maiden is thinking? Let’s see if we can read her mind.

“I’m going to what? Have a baby? What do you mean ‘Son of the most High?’ Are you trying to tell me that a poor Jewish girl is going to be the mother of our King?” “Kings are born in palaces to the rich and famous, not to poor “peasants” like me. And besides, how can this be, I’m not even married.” The penalty for adultery was stoning (*Leviticus 20:10*). Anxiety runs through her veins. What is going through her mind?

Lk. 1:35 – The angel assures Mary that the Holy Spirit can accomplish her conception without the involvement of a man. What God can do is simply beyond our comprehension.



Basilica of the Annunciation where the angel appeared to Mary to announce that she is to be the mother of the Messiah.

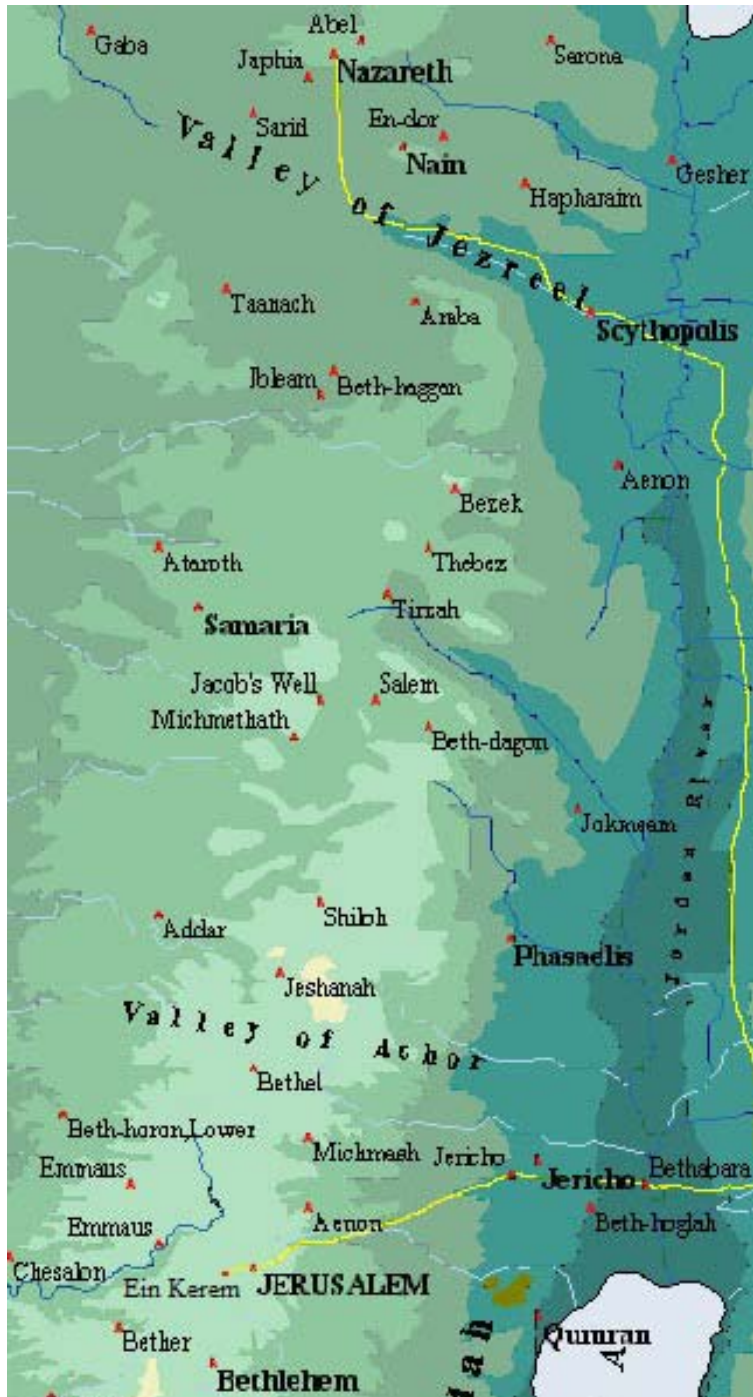
Photo courtesy of Glen & Sylvia Copple

Elizabeth's Good News

Lk. 1:36 – The angel informs Mary that her cousin, Elizabeth is six months pregnant. (With this information, we see that Jesus and John the Baptist are second cousins, and probably only six months apart in age.)

Lk. 1:37 – **“NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD!”**
What more can we say? He writes the rules and He can set them aside temporarily or overwrite them at His discretion.

Lk. 1:38 – “Okay, if you say so, so be it.” – Mary trusts the angel without any further question. Think about the potential ridicule she is risking in trusting the angel and allowing herself to



The route that Mary most likely took from Nazareth to visit Elizabeth (assuming that Zechariah and Elizabeth live in Ein Kerem). Since Jews didn't travel through Samaria, She would cross over to the other side of the Jordan River and then cross over again near Jericho. Travel distance would be around 80 miles (128 kilometers) across some very dangerous terrain including the infamous Jericho Road. Mary, a teenager, appears to have traveled alone, pregnant with the Son of God!

become pregnant before she is married. She risks her marriage and reputation to submit to the will of God. **Are you as willing to trust God with your life?**

(Your Notes Here!)

Mary Visits Elizabeth

Lk. 1:39 – Mary, hearing that her cousin who was barren is now pregnant, decides to go and visit her. At this moment, there it is unlikely that there is anyone that Mary can talk to who would understand what she has just experienced except her cousin, Elizabeth, and she needs someone that she can talk to!

What would you do if you were Mary and had just been told you are going to have a child whose father is God?

This is not a short hop down the block, but probably a two or three day’s journey to a town in the hill country of Judea. Elizabeth is about the only person she can talk to about her situation who will be open to understanding what is happening.

Lk. 1:40 – Mary lives in Nazareth, just northwest of the Sea of Galilee. We are uncertain, but some believe that Elizabeth lives in the “hill country” (Cf. *Luke 1:39*), a distance of about sixty miles (in a straight line.) It is very hilly terrain from Nazareth, down to the Jordan River and then back up towards Jerusalem to Elizabeth and Zechariah's home. Assuming that she can cover twenty miles per day on foot, it will be a three to five days journey to get there. It is also a risky journey for a young, unaccompanied (pregnant?) woman. Part of it will likely be up the Jericho Road that is known for thieves and criminals.

Elizabeth (and John the Baptist) Greet Mary

Lk. 1:41 – Elizabeth’s unborn baby, John, responds in a dynamic way when he hears Mary’s greeting to Elizabeth. He knows that the Spirit of God is mightily involved in this event. Reference *Luke 1:15*

Lk. 1:42 – Elizabeth is moved, by her baby’s reaction, to praise God in a loud voice and bless Mary because of what the Holy Spirit has revealed in her. Elizabeth didn’t even know that Mary was coming. Therefore, she most likely does not know the nature of Mary’s visit except as the Lord has chosen to reveal it to her. Prior to this moment she does not know that Mary is pregnant with God’s own Son.

Lk. 1:43 – What does Elizabeth know from the Lord, and what is she told by Mary? They don’t have telephones, newspapers, radio or television to send the word ahead. However, she immediately knows via the Holy Spirit’s revelation that Mary has been chosen to be the mother of the Messiah.

Lk. 1:44 – John also knows of Mary’s joy. This is an indication that he is filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born.

Mothers, has the kicking of your child ever revealed a “special” message to you?

(Your Notes Here!)

Lk. 1:45 – Mary is blessed because she has acted in faithful obedience to God’s instructions. We too are blessed when we act in faithful obedience to God.

Mary’s Magnificent

Lk. 1:46 – Mary’s response is to praise God. What she sees and hears from Elizabeth blesses her and she expands on it even more. If she had any doubts, this is a real encouragement to her. She is also overjoyed in her love for God. If she thought highly of God before, she does even more so now. This is an outward expression of an inward feeling. **How do you feel about God?**

Lk. 1:47 – Are soul and spirit parallel or different? Hebrew poetic style is to say something and then repeat it in different words. Like being redundant with each phrase of the poem.

(Note—Mary is called “blessed,” not “Savior.” God (Jesus) is our Savior. **Salvation and grace are on those who fear God, (not Mary)**. She calls God (Jesus) her Savior, but she is not yet aware of the cross and the resurrection and God’s plan for the forgiveness of sin.)

Lk. 1:48 – Mary does have some understanding that what is happening to her is awesome, and of great significance. However, she does not know what is yet to come. She is indeed blessed, but she is not to be the object of worship. She is not God. She is only the person whom God is using to generate a body for His Son to inhabit while on earth.

Lk. 1:49 –Mary recognizes that, by human terms, she isn’t as worthy of this honor as most other women might be. Yet God has chosen her for His divine birth. Her greatest response is to praise His name. Her humility shows that she is not to be exalted

Lk. 1:50 – God does not regard political, social or financial status important in His kingdom or in the life of His only Son. Often He has honored the humble and humbled the haughty. The source of favor with God is to fear Him and keep His commandments (see *Ecclesiastics 12:13-14*).

Lk. 1:51 – The most immediate mighty deed of God is what Elizabeth and Mary are experiencing at this very moment in their lives. God’s presence is being manifested to them in a very powerful way. **Can you imagine the emotions they are experiencing?**

Lk. 1:52 – Mankind has a tendency to put its trust in rulers. God can bring a ruler down in the blink of an eye. He can build up someone who is humble and lowly just as quickly.

Lk. 1:53 – Mary is recognizing her status as poor in comparison to the religious and political leaders of her day who are wealthy. **Financial or social status means nothing in our relationship to God.**

Lk. 1:54 – **God keeps His word** to Abraham (compare *Genesis 12:1-3*). Two thousand years later, Jesus is the final fulfillment of that promise. He will bring salvation to all nations, not just the Jews. We will eventually learn that most Jews are looking for deliverance from Rome, not from sin.

Lk. 1:55 – God had promised Abraham four things: 1. a son, 2. a great nation, 3. possession of a land, 4. and that through his seed all nations will be blessed. Abraham lived to see only the first promise. **Could you trust and believe God to accomplish such a promise to you?**

Lk. 1:56 – Mary stays about three months, which would be the time for Elizabeth to deliver. Was Mary there for John’s birth? This text also suggests that when she returns home, she will already be three months pregnant with God’s Son.

Something exciting is coming! What does this all mean? Remember that Mary, Elizabeth and those around them don’t know the end of the story like you and I do.

Next Week — Mary still has to address the issue with her fiance, Joseph. How is he going to react when he finds out she is pregnant? Come back next week as we continue an adventure into the life and teachings of Jesus Christ.

Read *Matthew 1:18-25*; *Luke 1:57-80* and join us again, we are just starting in our journey of “Walking With Jesus.”

(Your Notes Here!)



LOC – 005 – The Annunciation to Mary and Visit to Elizabeth

Questions for Thought, Discussion and Application



1. What does it mean to find favor with God?
2. If you were Mary, what might you have been thinking following the angel's visit?
3. In *Luke 1:47*, what does Mary mean about, "...God my Savior...?" (Remember, she is a simple Jewish girl who does not know about what Jesus is going to do.)
4. What does "... nothing is impossible with God," mean? Apply that to Elizabeth and to Mary. Apply it to yourself.
5. What have you learned from this study that has or will change your life?

LOC – 005 – The Annunciation to Mary and Visit to Elizabeth



Questions for Homework

(You will possibly need a concordance and other translations of the New Testament for this homework. Other study tools may be helpful but are not required.) You may have to write your answers on a separate sheet and insert it here in your book.

1. What did the Mosaical Law say about persons pregnant outside of marriage?
2. What is the significance of the Holy Spirit as the father of Jesus instead of Joseph?
3. What is Mary's role in the lineage of Jesus?
4. What are the occasions when the Holy Spirit has visited one or more individuals? What can we learn about the "receiving of the Holy Spirit" from that?
5. Do a word study on the Greek word - parthenos (virgin) used in *Luke 1:26*. What does it mean and how is it used in the Bible?