

The Life of Jesus

Our Goal is to understand more fully the life and divine identity of Jesus

The Gospels – Portraits of the life of Christ

The Authors

- *Matthew* Formerly a tax collector – then disciple of Jesus
- *Mark* A young follower of Christ – interviewed Peter
- *Luke* A doctor and historian – interviewed Mary and the Apostles
- *John* The most intimate disciple of Christ

The “Synoptic” Gospels – Matthew, Mark and Luke

Similar in their chronological format

John

Different from the other three. More philosophical in perspective; emphasizing the divine nature of Christ. Includes significant material not included in the other three.

What would the Messiah be like? What did the people expect?



A Conquering King!

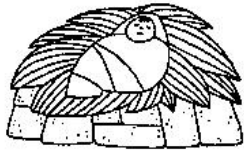
“..And the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom...form that time on and forever....”

Isaiah 9:6-7

For generations the Israelites had expected the fulfillment of prophecies such as this one – the great Messiah to deliver his people. Throughout the centuries the prophets had promised that he would come, *a great king, like David*, to conquer the enemies of God and establish the kingdom of God on earth. He would be a universal king, establishing a new order of peace, glory and joy. At the time of Jesus’ earthly ministry, the Romans oppressed and dominated the people of Israel. Not surprisingly, then, the Jews awaited a political savior, to remove the oppression of the despised Roman Empire. *But who would have expected someone like Jesus?*



Profetas del Antiguo Testamento



Jesus surprised them all!

But a manger? A carpenter? A poor and humble man? A friend of prostitutes and thieves? A violent and gruesome death – and by crucifixion no less?!! No one expected that glory would be preceded by suffering; before the throne – a cross. No one, absolutely no one, expected someone remotely like Jesus.



What does the name, “Jesus Christ, mean?”

“Christ” is a title – like “President,” “Officer,” “Governor,” or “Your Majesty.”

The title, *“the Christ,”* means *“The Anointed One.”* In that era, kings were designated by being “anointed” by oil. This symbolic and prophetic action indicated that God had chosen this individual for a special role of leadership, and endowed them with the Spirit of God. The word *“Messiah”* is this exact same term in Hebrew, also meaning, *“The Anointed One.”*



His name - Jesus

Jesus (Greek) = “The Lord Saves”

His title - Christ

“Christ” (Greek) = “Messiah” (Hebrew = “The Anointed King”

The Baptism of Jesus – God identifies and anoints Jesus as the “Christ/Messiah”



Visualize a crazy prophet, dressed in animal skins, with fiery eyes, shouting in the desert.

“Repent! Prepare the way for the coming of the Lord!” Then Jesus appears, mingling through the crowd like any other Hebrew carpenter, coming to be baptized by John the Baptist. A dove descends and a voice from heaven resounds. *“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”* The Lord himself has done the anointing. The Lord himself has declared Jesus the Messiah; the Christ; the King.



The Earthly Ministry of Jesus

His Message – The Gospel - The “Good News”

“The time has come; the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe the good news.”

Jesus Taught with Authority



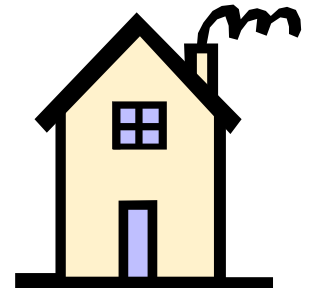
“...the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.” - Matt 7:29

He used “stories” – parables – comparisons and illustrations from daily life

A comparison can take an abstract, spiritual concept and make it concrete and understandable to those who may lack formal education, but possess a simple, open and teachable heart.

Parables drawn from domestic life – family and home
The Kingdom of God is like....

- A rebellious son who runs away from home
- Another son – well behaved – but resentful and distant
- A woman who loses a valuable coin
- An annoying friend who knocks on the door at inopportune moments
- A thief in the night



Parables drawn from the workplace – Agriculture and Business
The Kingdom of God is like....

- A shepherd who loses a sheep
- A dishonest employee
- A tree that fails to give fruit
- A lazy worker
- A contractor who builds on sandy soil
- Various types of seed and soil
- A mixed catch of fish
- Separating the sheep from the goats

Jesus preached sermons

The most famous is *“The Sermon on the Mount”* (Matthew 5-8).

Jesus delivered prophecies (Mark 13; Matthew 25)

Jesus predicted the destruction of Jerusalem, the end of the world, and his second coming.

Jesus calls the disciples -- - Intensive Training!

Jesus did not minister alone. He called a group of men, mostly from humble origins, to follow him and learn from his example. They were called the “Disciples.” They walked with Jesus; they ate with Jesus; they even fought with him from time to time! Through it all, Jesus “rubbed off” on them!



“Disciple” = Apprentice; Student

Jesus Performs Miracles and Exorcism

Miracles demonstrate vividly Jesus’ identity and authority! They proclaim – “The Kingdom of God has arrived!”



The Miracles of Jesus

- He cast out demons
- He touched lepers
- He healed the blind, lame, and mute
- He changed water into wine
- He multiplied the loaves and fishes among thousands
- He walked upon the waters
- He restored a severed ear
- He calmed a storm
- He provoked a miraculous catch of fish
- He had Peter find a coin in a fish’s mouth
- He raised the dead!



Jesus confronted the corrupt religious establishment

Pharisees and Scribes –Religious leaders dedicated to the strict legalistic obedience to the Old Testament ceremonial law.

- They fasted two days a week – minimum
- The memorized scripture
- They obeyed the ceremonial laws
- They invented an even more elaborate legal code
- They became arrogant
- They used their power to oppress the people and reinforce their social position.

Envious of Jesus, they accused him of being lascivious and gluttonous, a “friend of prostitutes and sinners.” Ultimately, they arrested him and manipulated the Roman authorities into crucifying him on the cross.

The Suffering of Christ (Holy Week)

The last scene of a movie. The final note of a symphony. The dying words of a loved one. The last inning of a baseball game. Almost always, *we save the most important for last.*

Likewise in the life of Jesus. Almost half the gospel narratives are devoted to the final week of Jesus' earthly life; coming to a climax with his death and resurrection. We will briefly touch the principal events of this final week.

The “Triumphal Entry” into Jerusalem – Matthew 21:1-11

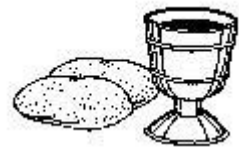
Exclamations! Leaps of joy! Children shouting! A truly “holy” chaos! Jesus arrives in Jerusalem.

In place of the traditional white stallion, used in war, Jesus arrives in peace and humility, mounted upon a donkey, fulfilling old Testament prophecy -



“Rejoice greatly O daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

Zechariah 9:9



The Last Supper – Mark 14:12-31

The Last Supper = The Passover Meal - Jesus becomes the sacrificial lamb!

Remember the night in which the Israelites escaped from slavery in Egypt? Remember how their lives were spared as the angel of death passed through the city, leaving dead the first born son of each family? Every family killed a lamb and smeared the blood on the doorframe of their home. From that night, the Israelites celebrated the feast which commemorated that salvation - *The Passover.*

The annual passover meal served to memorialize this salvation, through the blood of the sacrificed lamb. Jesus now sits to eat with his disciples, explaining, “This wine represents my blood; and this bread represents my body. I am the lamb of God. I lay down my life for you..”

What parallel do we see between Jesus' sacrifice and the Passover story?_____

_____.

The Crucifixion – Luke 23:32-49 – A sacrifice for our sins

“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” (Jn 15:13)

Jesus died – the lamb of God – in our place

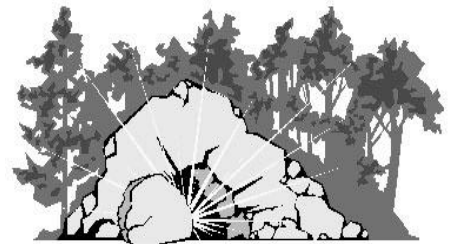
The Bible provides several examples of sacrifice – in which one dies in place of another.



- An animal died in the garden of Eden to provide skins to cover the nakedness of Adam and Eve, after their sin.
 - A ram died in place of Isaac
 - A lamb was slaughtered and blood used on the doorframes to save the Israelites on the night of the Exodus.
- Thousands of animals were sacrificed in the tabernacle and temple to pay for the sins of the people of Israel.

The Resurrection – Matthew 28:1-10

The tomb is empty! Jesus is no ghost! After being raised from the dead he walked and ate with his disciples, allowing them to touch and feel him. *He is alive!!*



Read John 21:24-30

What does Thomas say after touching Jesus' wounds?_____.

Before Jesus' death his entire band of disciples denied him and fled. After their encounters with him after his resurrection, however, all of these apostles, except for John died to affirm their testimony:

“We have seen Jesus. And he is alive!”

John was exiled to an island for this testimony. The others were burned alive, tortured, and crucified for this same testimony. Would any sane person die for a lie? Of course not!



Jesus is alive!

Who is Jesus – God or Man?

Both! Jesus -- Completely Divine and Completely Human

The Bible teaches clearly that Jesus is the God-Man. He was crucified precisely for this claim – identifying himself as the divine Son of God. Jesus constantly spoke and behaved as if he were God Himself – in the flesh!

Jesus is not 50% Divine and 50% Human. Jesus is completely human and completely divine – 100% / 100%!

Examples of the Humanity of Jesus

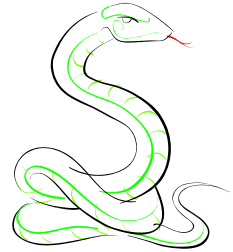
God understands people! Because he lived a completely human life, Jesus can identify with any human emotion or struggle we may have. He became “one of us.”

“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil.” Hebrews 2:14

Jesus was Tempted!

“Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are experiencing temptation...” – Hebrews 2:18

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are – yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.” –Heb. 4:15-16



According to these verses, why is it important for us to know that Jesus experienced temptation?

Jesus experienced fatigue after a long day of activity

In describing his trip through Samaria, the gospel writer reminds us that “Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well...” (John 4:6)

Asleep in the boat after a long day – Mark 4:35-38

“That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat... a furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion...”



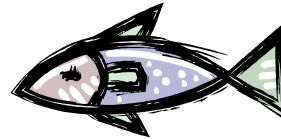
Jesus experienced hunger and thirst

He asked for a drink during his trip through Samaria.

*“When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her,
“Will you give me a drink?” John 4:7*

On the cross

Jesus said, *“I am thirsty.”* -- John 19:28



After the Resurrection

“And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, ‘Do you have anything here to eat?’ They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence.” Luke 24:41-42

Jesus experienced Anger

He rebuked the Pharisees

“You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell?” Matthew 23:33



He cast out the merchants from the temple

“...In the temple courts he found men selling cattle, sheep and doves, and others sitting at the tables exchanging money. So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. To those who sold doves he said, ‘Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father’s house into a market!’” John 2:14-16

He experienced frustration with his disciples

“Oh unbelieving and perverse generation! How long will I be with you? How long will I put up with you?” Matthew 17:17

Jesus experienced Sadness

He wept for Jerusalem

“As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it... ” ... ” (Luke 19:41)

Emotion at Lazarus’ tomb

“Jesus wept.” John 11:35

He experienced intense grief before his arrest

“Then he said to them, ‘My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.’” Matthew 26:38

“And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.” Luke 22:44

It is important to recognize that many times our image of Jesus does not line up with the reality described in the New Testament. Which aspect of Jesus’ humanity is most difficult for you to visualize?

Circle one option:

Fatigue

Anger

Sadness

Hunger/Thirst

Temptation

Which did you choose, and why?

The Divinity of Christ

Examples of the Divinity of Jesus

Many cults teach that Jesus is not truly God in the flesh. Sometimes the Bible teaches this fact explicitly, and at other times the actions and words of Jesus imply this divine identity. Consider the following examples.

1. ***Jesus forgave sins***, a right reserved exclusively for God.
(Mark 2:5-7)
2. ***Jesus accepted worship*** on various occasions, knowing that adoration is reserved exclusively for God.
(Matthew 2:11; 14:33; 28:9,17; Luke 24:52; John 9:38)
3. ***Jesus calls God his “Father”*** in a way which made himself equal to God, for which he was accused of blasphemy by the religious leaders. (John 5:18)
4. ***Jesus said, “The Father and I are one.”*** Again, provoking the religious leaders to accuse him of blasphemy and attempt to stone him. (John 10:30)
5. Jesus explained to his disciples, ***“The one who has seen me, has seen the Father.”***
(John 14:7-9)
6. The Apostle Thomas called him ***“My Lord and my God.”*** (John 20:28)
7. ***Jesus called the angels of God, his angels.*** (Luke 12:8-9; y Matthew 13:41)
8. ***Jesus called the chosen of God, his chosen.*** (Mark 13:20, y Matthew 13:41)
9. ***Jesus called the kingdom of God, his kingdom.*** (Matthew 13:41)
10. ***Jesus said that he would judge the world one day***, and only God is Judge.
(Matthew 25:31ff; 2 Timothy 4:1; 2 Corinthians 5:10)
11. ***Jesus called himself “Lord of the Sabbath”*** (Mark 2:27-28)
12. The Apostle Paul taught that ***“in him (Jesus) the fullness of the deity dwells”***
(Colossians 1:15-20; 2:9)
13. Hebrews teaches that ***the universe was made through Jesus***, and that he is “the radiance of God’s glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word.” (Hebrews 1:1-4)
14. Most importantly – ***Jesus was raised from the dead and called “Lord”!***

15. Jesus is the Divine “Word”

The Gospel of John says,

*“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**”* (Juan 1:1)

Further on, John explains that...

*“the **Word became flesh** and dwelt among us...”* (John 1:14)

Which means that...

The Word = God = Jesus!

16. Jesus called himself the great “I AM” = Jehovah

Jesus said to the Pharisees,

*“Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was born, **I AM.**”* (John 8:58)

Upon hearing this, his enemies...

“took up stones to kill him....”

What so infuriated them?

Because the name, “I AM” means, Jehovah!
Jesus was taking the name of God as his own identity!
(Éxodus 3:14-15)

Jesus called himself “Jehovah”!

¡Jesus is Jehovah!
¡Jesus is God!



Review Questions: The Gospels

What is the difference between the synoptic gospels and the gospel of John? (p.71)

_____.

Which are the three “synoptic” gospels? (p.71)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

What type of Messiah did people expect? (p.71) _____.

How was Jesus a surprise to all? (p.72)_____

_____.

What does the name “Jesus” mean? (p.72)_____.

What does the title “Christ” mean? (p.72)_____.

Who baptized Jesus? (p.72) _____.

What does the word “gospel” mean? (p.73)_____.

What is a “parable”? (p.73)_____

Which is the most famous sermon Jesus gave?
(p.73)_____.

What does the word “disciple” mean? (p.74)_____.

What is the role of miracles? What does Jesus demonstrate through his miraculous signs?
(p.74)

_____.

What is a “Pharisee”? (p.74)_____

_____..

Jesus died as a “sacrifice” for sin. Mention another example of sacrifice in the Bible?
(p.76)

_____.

Mention four examples of Jesus’ humanity. (p.79)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Mention seven examples of Jesus’ divinity. (pp.80-81)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____