

Lesson 16

THE PERIOD OF THE INCARNATE WORD— JESUS CHRIST ON EARTH

Memory Verse—*“And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. And we beheld His glory, the glory of the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”* (John 1:14)

This period in Bible history is usually dated from 6-4 BC until 30 A.D.

The significance of this period in redemptive history. Since the fall in the garden, God made clear His promise that Satan would receive a death-blow from the seed of woman (Ge 3:15). From the call of Abraham, God gave a covenant promise that through his seed, “all the nations of the earth would be blessed.” (Ge 12:3b). Paul commented that this was the “gospel preached beforehand to Abraham” (Ga. 3:8). After hundreds of years and hundreds of prophecies, God’s redemptive plan now becomes a reality.

A comprehensive outline of the life of Christ and harmony of the four gospel accounts is not the aim of this study. However, since this record of history is central and pivotal to “Redemption Through the Ages”, the following historical outline is offered as a overview of the life of Jesus Christ centered around the places His ministry was conducted and the Passovers He attended in Jerusalem during His ministry. (Not all parallel passages are listed—please consult a gospel harmony list of references)

1- INTRODUCTION TO THE PERIOD

- a. Prologue- Luke 4:1-4
- b. Christ’s eternal pre-existence- John 1:1-18
- c. Genealogies- Matthew 1:1-17, Luke 3:23-38

2- BIRTH and CHILDHOOD OF JESUS

- a. Angelic Announcements—Luke 1:26-38; Matthew 1:18-25
- b. Caesar’s decree and Jesus’ birth—Luke 2:1-7
- c. Jesus circumcised and presented in the temple—Luke 2:21-38
- d. Young Jesus at the temple—Luke 2:41-52

3- MINISTRY OF JOHN —Mark 1:1-8

4- BEGINNING OF JESUS’ MINISTRY

- a. Jesus’ baptism—Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11
- b. The temptations—Matthew 4:1-11
- c. Calling the first disciples—John 1:35-51
- d. Jesus’ first miracle—John 2:1-12

5- THE EARLY JUDEAN MINISTRY—CELEBRATION OF THE FIRST PASSOVER OF HIS MINISTRY

- a. First cleansing of the temple—John 2:13-25
- b. The meeting with Nicodemus—John 3:1-21

6- FIRST MINISTRY IN SAMARIA—John 4:1-42

7- EARLY GALILEAN MINISTRY

- a. Teaching in Nazareth, at Sea of Galilee, Capernaum. (3 general tours)
- b. His first rejection at Nazareth—Luke 4:16-30
- c. Calling the rest of the disciples—

8- JUDEA, JERUSALEM—CELEBRATION OF THE SECOND PASSOVER OF HIS MINISTRY

- a. Healing many people of diseases.
- b. Twelve disciples designated as APOSTLES—Luke 6:12-19

9- A SECOND GENERAL MINISTRY THROUGH GALILEE—Luke 8:1-13

- a. Jesus raises the dead son at Nain—Luke 7:11-17
- b. The sermon on the mount—Matthew 5-7

10- A THIRD GENERAL MINISTRY THROUGH GALILEE

- a. Last visit to Nazareth—Matthew 13:54-58; Mark 6:1-6
- b. The apostles sent out on preaching mission—Matthew 9:35-11:1; Mark 6:7ff
- c. The feeding of the 5,000.
- d. The close of His Galilean ministry.
- e. His Decapolis ministry. Matthew 15: 29-38; Mark 7:31-8:9

11- JOURNEY TO THE NORTH

- a. Tyre and Sidon—healing of the Syrophenician woman’s daughter—Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30
- b. The Good Confession in Caesarea Philippi—Matthew 16:13-20
- c. The Transfiguration—Matthew 17:1-13

12- JUDEA AND JERUSALEM—CELEBRATION OF THE THIRD PASSOVER OF HIS MINISTRY

- a. The private journey through Samaria to Jerusalem—Luke 9:51-56;
- b. His later Judean ministry. John 7:11ff

13- THE PEREAN MINISTRY—Luke 13:-18;; John 10:40-42**14- JESUS SETS HIS FACE TO GO TO JERUSALEM—Luke 9:51-62; John 7:2-11**

- a. Ministry in Bethany, Bethabara, Ephraim, Jericho, and Judea and back to Bethany.

15- PASSION WEEK—CELEBRATION OF THE FOURTH PASSOVER OF HIS MINISTRY.

(The last effective Passover under the Old Testament era.)

- a. The triumphal entry—Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11
- b. The second cleansing of the temple—Matthew 21:12-13; Luke 19:45-46
- c. Teaching daily in the temple—Luke 19:47-48 (Much teaching in parables)
- d. Weeping over the city—Luke 19:41-44
- e. THE LAST PASSOVER and Institution of the LORD’S SUPPER—Matthew 26:17-30; Luke 22:7-20
- f. The prayers and arrest in Gethsemane—Matthew 26:20-46; Luke 22:39-46
- g. The trials of Jesus—Annas, Caiaphas, Sanhedrin, Pilate, Herod Antipas, Pilate

- h. The crucifixion—Matthew 27:31-34; Mark 15:20-23; Luke 23:26-32; John 19:16-17
- i. His burial—Matthew 27:57-66; John 19:31-42
- j. The resurrection—Matthew 28:2-15; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56; John 19:31-42
- k. Many post-resurrection appearances for 40 days.
- l. Jesus' ascension—Luke 24:50-53

Resources for this Outline:

Studies in the Life of Christ, R.C. Foster. Baker: Grand Rapids, 1971.

The NIV Harmony of the Gospels. Thomas and Gundry. Peabody, Mass., 2003.

The New Analytical Bible. Dickson. Chicago, Dickson Publ., 1966.

The Biblically Stated Purposes for Jesus' Coming

Throughout the Scriptures, we are given specific reasons for the first coming of the Lord. Here is a partial listing:

- 1- He came to reveal, disclose, explain God.—John 1:18
- 2- He came to accomplish the works of the Father—John 5:36
- 3- He came to do the will of the Father and please God—John 8:29; Hebrews 10:7
- 4- He came to seek and save the lost—Luke 19:10
- 5- He came to provide the real essence of life—John 10:10
- 6- He came to provide an atonement offering once for all men and once for all time and mediate a new covenant—Matthew 26:28; Romans 3:24-5; Hebrews 9:14-15
- 7- He came to testify to the truth—John 18:37
- 8- He came to render powerless the one who had the power of death—Hebrews 2:14-15
- 9- He came to destroy the works of the devil—1st John 3:8

The Impact of Christ- Consider this summary from Global Ministry Outreach, "*Who Is Jesus—Really?*" (www.whoisjesus-really.com) accessed on 8/28/12.

Nobody has changed the world the way Jesus has. Nobody.

Throughout history, the influence Jesus had on the lives of people has never been surpassed. No other great leader has inspired so many positive changes in the lives of his followers. People who encounter the risen Christ are totally transformed. Their outlook on life is altered forever. Staying true to their faith, they do not hesitate to face hardship, persecution and even death. Many devote their lives to serving others, minimizing their own needs and desires.

First Century Christians

Following Jesus' crucifixion, his disciples were devastated. They had forsaken him in the Garden of Gethsemane to save their own lives. But after they met the

resurrected Christ, they were radically changed. Suddenly, they were willing to give their lives to tell Jesus' story to the world. Many were tortured and killed because they proclaimed Jesus was alive.

Skeptics and enemies were also transformed. Jesus' younger brother, James, didn't think Jesus was the Messiah. But after his resurrected brother appeared to him, James not only believed Jesus was Lord but became the leader of the Jerusalem church and died a martyr in 62 AD.

Saul of Tarsus was a chief persecutor of early Christians. He dragged people to prison. When they did not recant their faith, he participated in their execution. But he had a dramatic encounter with the risen Christ on his way to Damascus and he was transformed from Saul, the enemy of Christianity, to Paul, the main propagator of its message. He left his position of prestige in Jewish society to become a traveling missionary who experienced incredible suffering while sharing the love of Christ throughout the Roman empire.

Roman governor Plinius Secundus wrote in his Epistles X96 that Christians were people who loved the truth at any cost. Although he was ordered to torture and execute them for refusing to curse Jesus, he was continually amazed and impressed with their firm commitments "not to do any wicked deeds, never to commit any fraud, theft, adultery, never to falsify their word, not to deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up." For centuries, true Christians around the world have stood as shining examples of the standards of truth and love established by Jesus of Nazareth.

Historian Philip Schaff described the overwhelming influence which Jesus had on subsequent history and culture of the world. "This Jesus of Nazareth, without money and arms, conquered more millions than Alexander, Caesar, Mohammed, and Napoleon; without science...he shed more light on things human and divine than all philosophers and scholars combined; without the eloquence of schools, he spoke such words of life as were never spoken before or since, and produced effects which lie beyond the reach of orator or poet; without writing a single line, he set more pens in motion, and furnished themes for more sermons, orations, discussions, learned volumes, works of art, and songs of praise than the whole army of great men of ancient and modern times.

The Importance of Accepting the PERSON of Christ and the TEACHINGS/DOCTRINE of Christ. To accept Jesus Christ is to accept His teachings, which were from God. To deny His teachings is to deny Jesus, the Son of God. His teachings and His person cannot be separated without losing the very benefits of the gospel He came to provide. There can be no salvation or a relationship with God without embracing both His person and His doctrine. Read 2nd John 9.