

STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF JESUS, THE CHRIST

1

Introduction The Sermon on the Mount

INSTRUCTIONS FOR YOUR STUDY

This study is important because it looks at the life and teachings of the greatest man who ever lived -- Jesus, the Christ. There are four parts we will study. This part, Number One, has an **introduction** and studies in the **Sermon on the Mount**. Part Two studies the **parables** of Jesus. Part Three studies the **teachings of Jesus**. Part Four studies the **miracles** of Jesus. When you finish this first part mail your test questions back, and begin Part Two.

1. Use your own Bible. The King James version of the Bible is being used in this study, but you may use your own Bible.
2. We encourage you to underline passages in your Bible during your study. Suggest you use a yellow "crayon" type underliner because liquid underliners will soak through the pages.
3. We also encourage you to buy a 1" or 1 ½ " three ring notebook in which to put notes, comments or questions you may have.
4. Read each lesson, then go to the end and answer the test questions.
5. When you complete the test questions, return them to us for grading. Send only the test questions, the lesson material is yours to keep for future reference..
6. At the conclusion of the study, you will be sent a Certificate of Completion.

God bless you as you study your Bible – it is time well spent.

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LIFE OF CHRIST - PART 1

LESSON ONE: THE GREATEST MAN AND THE GREATEST STORY

Jesus of Nazareth was the greatest person who ever lived and his story is indeed the greatest story ever told. The more we know about the life of Jesus, the Christ, and the more we know about his teachings, the better people we will be and will become.

Jesus is the most important person who has ever lived because he was God in the flesh and thus the very center and reason for our salvation. Even our calendars are dated from his birth by use of the initials AD (Anno Domini) and BC (Before Christ).

This four part study will take you on a tour of the first four books of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, which are sometimes called “the gospels” because they teach the good news of the work of Christ.

THE GOSPEL OF THE GOSPELS

We use the word “gospel” a lot, but do you know what the word means? It means “the good news” and it is very much the good news from heaven to save men from their sins. When we use the word “Christ” we understand that it means “the anointed one”, signifying that God’s only begotten son, Jesus, was to be the savior of the world. The word “Jesus,” in Hebrew *Yesuah*, actually means “savior.”

THE FULLNESS OF TIME

Before we begin our study, there is a scripture in Galatians 4:4,5 that explains a lot to us about the circumstances of the coming of Christ into the world. *“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”*

When Jesus was born in the first century, everything was in place for the gospel to spread quickly throughout the world.

1. The Greeks had given a worldwide language, the Koinè (pronounced “coinay”) Greek which was the language of the marketplace and the most common language used in the world in the first century.
2. The Romans’ conquest of the world at that time provided connecting roads which meant the gospel could spread quickly.
3. The Medes and the Persians gave the world a sense of strong obedience to the law of the land.
The phrase, *“The law of the Medes and Persians which alters not”* is found in Daniel 6:8,12.

The world was ready for the coming of the son of God and now, let’s get into our study of the life of Jesus, the Christ.

THE CLAIMS OF CHRIST

Every religion has something people believe is truth, right at its very core, and on which the entire religion is built.

Islam is based on their belief that Mohammed was a true prophet of God and the truest prophet God ever had on the earth; therefore, all his teachings in the Q'uran are from God.

Mormonism is based on their belief that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God and, being a true prophet, his writings in the Book of Mormon also came from God.

Confucianism, an oriental religion, is based upon the sterling character of Confucius and, because he was such a good man, the many good things he said were true.

Hinduism, the religion of India, is based upon their belief that God is manifested in several gods who are very close to the human condition.

Buddhism, the religion of many oriental people, is based upon the teachings of Buddha, a man who lived in the 400's, who taught that people meditate on spiritual things on this earth and achieve Nirvana, which is supposed to be heaven on earth.

But, **Christianity** is based upon the central fact that Jesus is the Son of God; that is, he is God in the flesh. This makes the religion of Jesus which we call Christianity the religion which comes directly from God himself. The religion of Jesus is the only religion that God has.

WHAT MAKES CHRISTIANITY DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER RELIGIONS?

The difference in the religion from heaven and religions from men are the claims that Jesus made. There are about 260 titles and claims in the Bible which specifically refer to Jesus, the Christ. We believe the best way to fully understand his claims is to concentrate on his claims of **SONSHIP**.

THE SON OF GOD

He was called the **SON OF GOD** 47 times in the New Testament. This means he was God in the flesh. "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God*" (John 1:1). Jesus of Nazareth was the living Word of God. He was not an angel (see below).

3

Genesis 3:15 speaks of the birth and death of Jesus when it teaches: "*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.*" The "Thy seed (the devil's seed)" refers to the people who killed Christ and "her seed" refers to Christ being born of a virgin. The reason he was born of a virgin was to fulfill Genesis 3:15 because this is the **only** time in the entire Bible that the "seed of woman" is mentioned.

HIS VIRGIN BIRTH

“And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35). The Holy Spirit was the way God implanted his seed into Mary’s womb.

God implanted his seed into Mary’s womb (her seed); God’s seed came by the Holy Spirit; Christ is therefore called the Word of God and Luke 8:11 teaches: *“The seed is the word of God.”* While Jesus was alive in the flesh in the world, he was the living Word of God; when he left and the Holy Spirit came into the world, what the Holy Spirit produced is the written Word of God. It all fits and is based upon the divinity of Jesus Christ. Paul summarized it when he said in Romans 1:4: *“And declared to be the **Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.**”*

WAS JESUS EVER MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL?

IMPORTANT NOTE: Many people believe that Jesus of Nazareth was once **Michael** the archangel and when God wanted someone to come to earth to be his son, he selected Michael to become Jesus. In a translation of the Bible, which they call the “New World Translation”, John 1:1 reads something like “In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was **A god**” rather than “the word **WAS God.**” People better not change the Bible, but when they have a false idea about something in the Bible, they’ll try to put their human teachings into their version of the Bible. The Bible teaches what it teaches -- no more and no less.

Do you know why this “Michael” teaching is false? It’s very simple. Hebrews 1:5 plainly teaches: *“For unto **which of the angels** said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?”*

God never said to any angel that he wanted him to become his son and that includes Michael. Believe the Bible!

THE SON OF MAN

He is called the **SON OF MAN** 88 times in the New Testament which teaches us that though Christ was in the flesh he was still a human being *“... **made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons**” (Galatians 4:4,5)*

The purpose of Jesus being the son of God, but also the son of man is shown in Matthew 9:6: *“But that ye may know that the **Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house.**”* Only **God** can forgive the sins of man and since Jesus could forgive sins, he was God in the flesh as well as the son of man.

Another reason for his being the son of man is found in Hebrews 4:15: *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the **feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**”* While Jesus was in his human form, he was tempted just like we are, but he never yielded to temptation. That encourages us as we identify with the son of man.

Notice Acts 8:36,37: “*And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*” The eunuch did not confess Christ as the son of man, but as the son of God and his confession was followed by his baptism. That is what Ananias taught Paul in Acts 22:16: “*And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.*”

THE SON OF DAVID

He is called the **SON OF DAVID** 16 times in the New Testament which teaches us that he is our king. In the first century, kings were the highest authority in the land. They weren't governors, they weren't magistrates, they were kings. They made laws, they enforced laws, they made decisions based upon law and they executed judgment according to law. Jesus fills all those kingly roles.

What law does Jesus have? It is the gospel truth, the New Testament is that law and he will enforce his law at the judgment day. His gospel, his law, came from heaven and that is why Paul said in Acts 17:31: “*Because he (God) hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.*”

THE SON OF ABRAHAM

He is called the **SON OF ABRAHAM** 3 times in the New Testament which teaches us of the strong faith we should have in Christ just like Abraham had strong faith in God. Speaking of Abraham, Paul wrote in Romans 4:18: “*Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.*”

The seed of Abraham is Jesus, the Christ. Galatians 3:16 teaches us: “*Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.*” Jesus was Abraham's seed in that he was he was a descendant of Abraham, “*...the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David...*” (Revelation 5:5).

Abraham was promised a son through whom Christ would eventually come and when he was a hundred years old, his wife, **Sarah**, became pregnant with **Isaac**, the promised child. Isaac had two sons, **Jacob** and **Esau**, and it was Jacob who produced the **twelve tribes of Israel**, the **seed bed of the humanity** of Jesus. The lesson we learn is that just as Abraham had great faith in the promise of God, so should we.

God never makes a promise that he will not keep but God's promises come with conditions: he will deliver if we will obey!

LESSON TWO: HOW WILL WE STUDY THE LIFE OF CHRIST?

We could study Matthew, Mark, Luke and John verse by verse and get the gospels' message but let's study the life of Christ by dividing it into these six parts: The **land** in which he taught, Information about his **life**, The **Sermon on the Mount**, The **parables** of Jesus, The **miracles** of Jesus, The **teachings** of Jesus that he gave to individuals or to groups. Let's begin to study the

life and teachings of Christ and may God bless us as we take this wonderful journey.

This is a **Map of Palestine** during the days of Jesus. We'll be referring to it often as we get some idea of where he lived, the distances mentioned in the gospels and learn from lessons from the "dirt" of the holy land!



THE LAND IN WHICH HE TAUGHT

Palestine has been called many names in the Bible: the **promised land**, the land of **Canaan**, a land **flowing with milk and honey**, **Israel**, **Judah**, **Palestine** and other descriptive names. The name "Palestine" literally means "**Philistine Land**", referring to the Jews' bitter enemies, the Philistines, who lived in the southwestern part of the land.

As we study the life of Christ and you read your New Testament, you're going to be reading words such as **Galilee**, **Decapolis**, **Perea**, **Samaria**, **Idumea**, **Tetrarchy** and others. That's why there's a map of Palestine in New Testament days supplied in this lesson. Please refer to that map so you may become familiar with it.

THE DISTANCES INVOLVED

When I was younger, somehow I always had it in my mind that Palestine covered a large area. When I finally looked at a map, I was surprised to find that this land is relatively small. As a matter of fact, the entire promised land can be put **between Valdosta** on the Florida line and **Macon** in middle Georgia and have plenty of room to spare between Columbus and Augusta!

To get some idea of the distances, look at the bottom of the map and find the **Dead Sea**. Now trace the line up to the **Sea of Galilee** in the north. That line you're tracing with your finger is the **JORDAN RIVER** and the distance between the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea is about **sixty miles**. The Sea of Galilee is also called the sea of **Genessaret** and the Sea of **Tiberius**. It's a freshwater sea known in the Bible for its wonderful fish industry. It sends its waters down the Jordan to the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea has no river outlets and that's why it's called "Dead." Nothing goes out and everything comes in. The Dead Sea is the saltiest place on the earth and if you were to take a swim in it, you'd never sink because of the high salt and mineral content.

Now, take your finger and go just to the right of the Dead Sea. From there over to the **Mediterranean Sea** is about **sixty miles** also. To the right of the Dead Sea is **Mount Nebo** where "*Moses went up from the plains of Moab unto the mountain of Nebo, to the top of Pisgah, that is over against Jericho. And the LORD showed him all the land of Gilead, unto Dan, and all Naphtali, and the land of Ephraim, and Manasseh, and all the land of Judah, unto the utmost sea, and the south, and the plain of the valley of Jericho, the city of palm trees, unto Zoar*" (Deuteronomy 34:1-3). I also wondered how Moses could see that much territory, but when you remember the short distances (in our minds at least) involved, you can understand how he could see the whole promised land.

Now, find the word "**Idumea**" at the bottom of the map and trace your finger all the way up **Mt. Lebanon** around **Caesarea Philippi**. You're looking at **about 120 miles**, the length of Palestine. Incidentally, Idumea gets its name from **Edom** (Esau), Jacob's brother and the Herod kings of Judea during the first century were from Idumea. They were a combination of the bloodlines of **Esau** and the **Arabs** that conquered the Edomites.

Now, let's look at the names of the provinces on the map. Find **Jerusalem** right to the left of the upper part of the Dead Sea. Jerusalem was in the province of **JUDEA** and is where **Bethlehem** and **Jericho** were. We've already mentioned about **IDUMEA**, but look to the left of Idumea and you'll see two cities by the sea, **Ascalon** and **Gaza**. These were two Philistine cities about which you can read in the Old Testament.

Go about an inch up from the top part of the Dead Sea and you'll see **PEREA** to the right and **SAMARIA** to the left. Perea occupied the same area that the present day country of **Jordan** does. Right above Perea is the region of **DECAPOLIS**.

A note about Samaria: Samaria was formed after the ten northern tribes of Israel went into Assyrian captivity in 736 BC. The Assyrians had left some Jews behind who intermarried with people of other nations and thus became the Samaritans. The Jews **hated the Samaritans** so much that when they traveled from Jerusalem to Galilee, they wouldn't go due north through Samaria, but would take a route north east through Jericho, cross the Jordan and go to Galilee through Perea and Decapolis. Religious hatred is the worst kind!

Now, let's take a quick look at the **seacoast cities** of Palestine. We've already mentioned **Ascalon** and **Gaza** at the bottom of the map. The next seacoast city is **Joppa** where Simon Peter was staying with Simon the tanner when the men from Cornelius the centurion came and asked Peter to come with them. The next city is **Caesarea**, a beautiful jewel of a city built by Herod the Great who named the city after the Roman king, Caesar. **Cornelius** lived in Caesarea which was about **thirty miles** from Joppa (Acts 10).

NOTE: There was another Caesarea called **Caesarea Philippi**. Go to the sea of Galilee up to your right about two inches. Caesarea Philippi was built by **Philip**, Herod's brother, and also named Caesarea to get some attention from the Roman king, Caesar. Incidentally, Philip had a wife who left him and married his brother, Herod. It was this Philip's ex-wife whose daughter danced before Herod and who made him behead John the Baptist (Matthew 14:9-10).

The next seacoast city is **Ptolemais** which is only mentioned once in the New Testament and that was on Paul's journey to Jerusalem when he stopped over at Ptolemais (Acts 21:7). The two Phoenician cities of **Tyre** and **Sidon** are mentioned twelve times in the New Testament and are usually mentioned together.

The thing we need to remember about the geography of Palestine is that it was a very small country which contained events which affected the entire world and still does.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT JESUS, THE CHRIST

Before we get into the teachings of Jesus, let's take a few minutes and study some interesting, and extra, information about him, which are necessary for a good understanding of him.

HIS VIRGIN BIRTH

No one who has ever been born since the world began was born in the manner that Jesus was. Isaiah 7:14 prophesied: "*Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.*" (The word "**Immanuel**" means "**God with us**" and the name "**Jesus**" means "**Jehovah saves.**"). He was born of a virgin because prophets never lie (Deuteronomy 18:22).

Mary, his mother, had never known a man (Luke 1:34). The virgin Mary was a virgin until after Jesus was born. Matthew 1:25 says: "*And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus.*" Joseph and Mary were husband and wife in the complete sense after the birth of their son. She was not a "perpetual virgin" (a virgin forever) as some teach.

WHEN DID JESUS BECOME THE SON OF GOD?

Some people wonder when Jesus became the son of God and this kind of wondering usually doesn't produce any good fruit, but it's worth a quick mention. Did he become the son of God at birth, at the age of twelve, at his death, at his resurrection, at his ascension or when he's coming again? The answer is found in Hebrews 1:5: *"For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, **this day have I begotten thee?** And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?"* **The day Jesus was begotten by God through the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35) was the day when he became the only begotten son of God.**

John 3:16 also talks about Jesus being the only begotten son of God: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* The words "**only begotten**" come from one word in the Koiné Greek language, "**monogenes**" – "mono" meaning "one and only" and "genes" meaning "begotten." He is God's one and only son begotten by the Holy Spirit in the flesh of woman. However, Christians are *"all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ"* (Galatians 3:26,27).

He was God's uniquely begotten son in the flesh and we are God's spiritual children by adoption (Galatians 4:5).

LESSON THREE: MORE INFORMATION ABOUT JESUS, THE CHRIST

THE WISE MEN

Christmas cards, manger scenes and other religious relics emphasized by the Catholic church and passed on to Protestant churches always show the three wise men coming to the manger to worship the baby Jesus. **The Bible doesn't teach how many wise men there were.**

Matthew 2:11: *"And when they were **come into the house**, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh."* **The wise men never went to the manger, but worshipped the baby Jesus in a house that Joseph had evidently moved his little family into after Jesus' birth.**

The wise men are sometimes called the "**magi**" and there is nothing in the Bible that tells us how many there were who made the long journey from the east. Be careful that you believe only the things written in the Bible.

JESUS' HOMES

Jesus was born in **Bethlehem** because he was of the family of King David and Caesar Augustus had ordered a census in the first century that required every one to go to the town of their family's origin (Luke 2).

When Herod killed all children under the age of two in Bethlehem following the wise men's visit, Joseph took Mary and the baby to **Egypt** and when Herod died, Joseph brought his family to **Nazareth** in fulfillment of two prophecies:

Matthew 2:15: “*And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **Out of Egypt have I called my son***” and Matthew 2:23: “*And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, **He shall be called a Nazarene.***” Nazareth was located in the area of the Sea of Galilee, along with other cities, such as Cana, Chorazin and Capernaum.

Remember Deuteronomy 18:22: “*When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him.*” Jesus fulfilled **every** prophecy written in the Old Testament concerning the Messiah (the anointed one). Today, the Jewish people are still waiting on their Messiah to come. This is a sad commentary on their unbelief.

THE AGES OF JESUS

Besides, his birth, we have two times in the New Testament where the age of Jesus is mentioned. The first is Luke 2:42: “*And when he was **twelve years old**, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.*” This is the occasion when Jesus was found by his parents discussing the scriptures in the temple with the religious leaders of his day.

Also, before Luke begins his extensive genealogy (the list of Jesus’ ancestors), he tells us how old Jesus was when he began his ministry. “*And Jesus himself began to be **about thirty years of age**, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli...*” (Luke 3:23). He continued his earthly ministry for about three and one half years, making him between thirty-three and thirty-four when he died on the cross.

When he died on the cross that is identified as the first half of Daniel’s seventieth week for Daniel 9:24 teaches: “*Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.*” In verse 27, Daniel says of Messiah: “*And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the **midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease...***”. In the middle of that week (three and one half), the sacrifice and oblation ceased. This refers to Jesus’ death on the cross because Colossians 2:14 says: “*Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross*”. The “*handwriting of ordinances*” refers to **the law of Moses (the Old Testament)** and Jesus took “*...away the first, that he may establish the second*” (Hebrews 10:9).

THE APOSTLES OF JESUS

Matthew 10:2-4 gives us the listing of the twelve apostles of Jesus: “*Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called **Peter**, and **Andrew** his brother; **James** the son of Zebedee, and **John** his brother; **Philip**, and **Bartholomew**; **Thomas**, and **Matthew** the publican; **James** the son of Alphaeus, and **Lebbaeus**, whose surname was **Thaddaeus**; **Simon** the Canaanite, and **Judas** Iscariot, who also betrayed him.”*

Catholic church tradition says that all of these apostles died a martyr’s death except for John who is said to have died of natural causes at a very old age. This may or may not be a fact because the New Testament speaks only of the actual death of James, the brother of John (Acts 12:2) and Judas Iscariot whose death was by suicide (Matthew 27:5).

The description of Peter's death was prophesied by Christ in John 21:18,19 and Paul mentioned his own death in 2 Timothy 4:7. Other than these references, we know nothing about the deaths of the other apostles.

What did Jesus give the apostles? First, he had the full measure of God in himself for John 3:34 says: *"For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him."* That means he had **all** of heaven's blessings in him.

When Jesus breathed on the apostles in John 20:22,23, he said *"Receive ye the Holy Ghost: whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained."* We can call this the "**authority measure**", meaning that when they preached the gospel they were preaching something that would save obedient people from their sins or condemn them if they were not obedient. Their authority came from heaven (Matthew 28:18-20).

There were also miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament days. These gifts were given only by the apostles to New Testament Christians, *"But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will"* (1 Corinthians 12:11). We can call this the "miraculous measure" which was **only** in New Testament days. Many people today claim to be able to perform miracles, but the **Bible** teaches that the **apostles were the only ones who could pass on this gift. There are no apostles today so there are no miracles today.**

For these and many other reasons, the twelve apostles were important in Jesus' plan for heaven's will to be done. Of the eight writers of the New Testament (**Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, Paul, James and Jude**), four were apostles (**Matthew, John, Peter and Paul**) and two were **human brothers of Jesus (James and Jude)**.

A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF HOW CHRIST SPENT HIS LIFE ON EARTH

The life of Jesus, the Christ, is divided into nine divisions, which are:

1. The thirty years of **private life** from his birth in Bethlehem to the sojourn into Egypt to his return to Palestine and to his home in Nazareth.
2. The **opening events of his work** from the coming of John the Baptist until Jesus appeared publicly in Jerusalem
3. The **early Judean** work from his appearance in Jerusalem to his return up to Galilee.
4. The **first** period of his work in the **Galilee** area from his return to Galilee to the choosing of the twelve apostles.
5. The **second** period of his work in the **Galilee** area from the choosing of the twelve until he withdrew into north Galilee because of danger to him personally.
6. The **third** period of his work in the **Galilee** area from his work in northern Galilee until he departs to Jerusalem.
7. His **Perean** work took place on the east bank of the Jordan River, the area called **Perea**, and extended from the time he left Galilee for the final time until he arrived in Jerusalem.
8. The week of his **crucifixion** is called the **Passion Week** and was from his final arrival in Jerusalem until his resurrection.
9. **Forty days** was the time period between his **resurrection** and his **ascension**.

We hope you've enjoyed studying some of these interesting facts about Jesus! And, now, it is time to study his wonderful teachings, the gospel of Christ.

FIRST: A REMINDER ABOUT THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS CHRIST

Jesus of Nazareth was the **promised One**, the **prophesied One**, the **holy One** of Israel, the **anointed One**, the **expected One** and the entire Bible points to his coming, to his teachings and to his kingdom. That is the reason that the sixty-six books of the Bible written by forty different men has no contradictions in it. It cannot have holes in it because it comes from God and it exactly tells of the teachings of Christ. When many of disciples stopped following him because of his teachings, he asked the apostles, *“Will ye also go away?” (John 6:67)* to which Peter answered, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.”*

But how do we get a full picture of the teachings of Christ?

1. We look at his teachings in the **sermon on the Mount**. Like the ten commandments were the skeleton framework of the Old Testament, the teachings in the sermon on the Mount are the nucleus and skeleton framework of the New Testament. When we study the teachings of the sermon on the Mount, we understand a lot of what the rest of the New Testament teaches.
2. We look at the **parables of Christ**. Matthew 13:11-13 tells us that the disciples were curious as to why he spoke to them in parables. *“He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.”*

A parable is a **story which illustrates a truth**. If the truth is a hard saying, Jesus put parable clothes on it so the people could learn. There are twenty-nine parables in the New Testament.

3. We look at the lessons of Christ he taught one-on-one or to groups of people. These are called “discourses” and there are twenty-four of them in the New Testament.
4. And we look at the thirty-three miracles Jesus performed which he did to show that he was not only from God, but was God.

LESSON FOUR: THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Some folks teach that Matthew just jotted down notes during the three and a half years of Jesus’ ministry, then at a much later time, collected all his notes and compiled what we call the “Sermon on the Mount.” This is just not true because Matthew 5:1,2, Matthew wrote: *“And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and **when he was set**, his disciples came unto him: and he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying...”* **Matthew’s wrote his account of the sermon on the Mount all at one time.**

But, the teachings in the sermon are repeated in other places such as **Luke 12** when he spoke to multitudes or in **Luke 11** where he taught in a “certain place” or in **Luke 13** when he again spoke of the things contained in the sermon on the mount. The lesson we get from this is that the Lord knows we have to have things **repeated over and over before we get the message!**

Now, let’s look at the teachings of the sermon on the mount in Matthew 5, 6, 7. Please read all three of these chapters before we begin.

After you read all three chapters, begin studying this lesson again by reading the bold faced scriptures and the comments.

Matt. 7:21-27 -- THE BASIS OF CHRISTIANITY

The basis (in our generation, the phrase is “bottom line”) of living the Christian life is found at the end of the sermon in Matthew 7:21-27 where Jesus tells us **faith only** in him is not enough: we must **obey** his teachings (vv 21-23). It’s not enough to say “Lord, Lord” or “I believe in Jesus”, we **must obey** his teachings or be like the foolish man who built his house upon the sand (vv 26,27). **It is foolish to read the Bible, know what it says and then refuse to do what Jesus has taught! That is the basis of Christianity.**

When we build a house, it doesn’t just sit there; we fill it with furniture, we keep it maintained, we polish the floors, we cut the grass and we are glad to have a house to care for. All right then; while we’re building our spiritual house, what do we put into it? The teachings of the New Testament which are built around the Sermon on the Mount.

Now, let’s study the rest of the sermon on the mount to how to **build our spiritual houses**.

HOW TO HAVE A BLESSED LIFE

Matt. 5:3-12 -- We work to become happy. “**Happy**” is another word for “**blessed**”. We are **humble** and **meek** (v 3; 5) so we can be spiritually blessed. “*Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up*” (James 4:10) **The humble and meek spirit will listen to the teachings of the Bible and do them.**

When we **mourn** (v 4), we will be **comforted** because we have been baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3,4; Galatians 3:27) and are living the Christian life. When we lose a loved one to death, we are so sad, but if that loved one is a Christian, we are comforted that we will meet them again in heaven.

When we **seek the will of God** in the Bible (v 6) we will be fed and filled with heaven’s teachings. When we show **kindness** to other people, either in the church or out of the church, God will have mercy toward us (v 7). The **pure in heart** (v 8) are those who accept **all** of what the Bible teaches and not just some of it – these obedient, pure people will go to heaven. The word “**peace**” means “**putting my will in harmony with God’s will.**” “**Peacemakers**” are those who have **obeyed the will of God and become God’s people** (v 9). They’ve made their peace with God through the teachings of the New Testament. Living the Christian life is not easy because sometimes being a Christian will cause us to be **persecuted**, just like all righteous people throughout the Bible have been persecuted (vv 10-12).

Matt. 5:13-16 – Christians improve their world by being **salt, light** and **conspicuous**. A Christian who just goes to church and is a hypocrite the rest of the time brings shame to Christ. Walking in the light (1 John 1:7) means what Jesus said in John 3:21: “*But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*”

CHRIST OR MOSES?

Matt. 5:17-20 – Christ is the fulfillment of the law of Moses. Many folks today believe that the law of Moses (the Old Testament) is still the law for Christians but Colossians 2:14 teaches differently. *“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.”*

One of Jesus’ purposes in coming to the earth was to fulfil the law of Moses and take it out of the way at the cross. This does not mean the Old Testament is not inspired because of Romans 15:4: *“For whatsoever things were written aforetime [the Old Testament] were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.”* The Old Testament is inspired of God (2 Timothy 3:16,17), but it is no longer law for Christians – it has been fulfilled by Christ.

CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS

Matt. 5:21-26 -- We are judged by our **attitudes** as well as our **actions**. The Old Testament Taught in Exodus 20:13 *“Thou shalt not kill (murder)”* and we had better not commit murder. But, Jesus teaches that it’s just as bad to be **angry with a brother without a cause** (v 22) because that angry attitude will cause us to come into judgment.

“Raca” is an Aramaic term meaning **“worthless”** and **“fool”** is a word meaning despicable. What’s his point here? When we call a person a fool, we are looking down our pious noses at that person when the Lord says our attitude should be one of love.

Even if we come to worship and remember that a brother has something against us, we first make it right with that brother, and then come to worship (vv 23, 24). **Christians are to get along with people, even our enemies** (v 25) or else be punished for it (v 26).

Matt. 5:27-32 – **The adulterous look, putting away offenses, marriage and divorce**. This part of Jesus’ teachings is some of the hardest for people to accept. The law of Moses said don’t commit adultery, but Jesus teaches that an **adulterous heart** is just as bad as the **act of adultery** (vs.27,28). **“Adultery”** is defined in the Bible as sexual actions between men and women, period!, in spite of new definitions in our day and time. What does it mean to pluck out the eye and cut off the hand (vv 29,30)? It simply means to **do away with anything in our lives that will keep us out of heaven**.

Jesus’ teachings on marriage and divorce are very straightforward and strong. People cannot get a divorce unless there is **fornication** and when fornication is not present, when they remarry, they commit **adultery** (vv 31, 32). **“Fornication”** is defined in the Bible as wrong sexual actions between a man and a woman (*adultery*), a man and a man (*homosexuality*), a woman and a woman (*lesbianism*) and a human being and an animal (*bestiality*). **Adultery starts in the heart** and remember, **“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.”** Divorce is a curse on our nation.

Matt. 5:33-37 – **Taking oaths**. What is swearing (v 33)? It is giving one’s word and taking the Lord as a guarantee that one’s word will be kept. Why did Jesus say “swear not at all?” It’s the same thing that he taught in verse 37: *“But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.”* **Christians keep their word because they are Christians.**

Matt. 5:38-48 – How do Christians deal with evil? Christians do not retaliate (v 39) even though the law of Moses permitted retaliation (v 38). We are taught in Romans 12:18: *“If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men”* This is what Jesus is teaching with his illustrations of the coat and cloak (vv 40, 41) -- live at peace with all men.

There is no harm in a Christian because he has God and Christ for an example of how to act, even to the point of **loving our enemies** (vv 44) which makes us true children of God (v 45). If we only love them that love us, we are no better than sinners (vv 46,47). God loves all people equally and Christians are to do the same. **That’s the only way we can be perfect like God – to love people like God loves them.**

Matt. 6:1-4– Our attitude toward our money for the poor. “Alms” is money given for poor folks and Christians cannot blow their own horn when they’re generous with money (vv 1-4). The money we give for the poor are for the poor and not for our own glory.

Matt. 6:5-15 – Our attitude toward prayer. This is very long part of Jesus’ teaching about our attitudes. Our prayers are like our giving money to the poor, except prayer is for us. God has been gracious to us in providing the right of prayer for his children. He also knows what we need before we ask, but he still wants us to ask (v 8).

The Lord gave his disciples a model prayer (vv 9-13) which is one of the most familiar passages in all the Bible. It was the **Lord’s prayer** because he prayed it; it was the **disciples’ prayer** because it was for them and it’s the **model prayer** because it’s our standard. At the time Jesus gave this prayer, the kingdom had not yet come (v 10) because Acts 2 had not occurred yet. Today we pray for the church to be strong, to grow, to be pure and to go into all the world.

The word “**debt**” means “**something that is owed**” and when we ask forgiveness for our sins, we owe it to God to do so. The only part of the Lord’s prayer that Jesus explains is that part about forgiveness. **A Christian will never be forgiven unless he forgives** (vv 14,15).

Matt. 6:16-18 – The Christian’s attitude toward fasting. Fasting is doing without food for a period of time for a spiritual purpose. We don’t fast much today, but in the New Testament days, fasting was a common religious thing for people to do. Jesus fasted forty days and forty nights before being tempted of he devil. Before Paul and Barnabas went on the first missionary journey they prayed and fasted. Moses fasted for forty days and forty nights **without bread**, and also **without water** (Exodus 34:28).

Some people ask, “We pray; but why don’t we fast?” Good question and here’s the answer: Prayer is **commanded and regulated** whereas fasting is **regulated** but **not commanded**. Christians can fast if they want to, but we are not commanded to do so.

Matt. 6:19-24 – The Christian’s attitude toward money. Christians look to go to heaven where money doesn’t mean anything (vv 19,20) and one of the most powerful passages in the Bible is, *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”* (v 21). **We are supposed to rule our money, but when money begins to rule us**, we remember 1 Timothy 6:10: *“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”*

A single eye is a clear eye; an evil eye is a foggy eye. This is another way of Jesus teaching us to **focus on spiritual things**, not physical things. “**Mammon**” is the old Canaanite idol of money. **Jesus wants to be our master and money can get in the way.**

Matt. 6:25-34 – God cares for his children. One of the hardest things in the world is to put our trust completely in God, especially when it comes to the necessities of life. We spend so much of our time worrying about those necessities of food, shelter and clothing, but Jesus tells us to **focus** on spiritual things (vv 25,26). “Take thought” is another phrase for “worry” and as Christians read these beautiful words, we let the worry go out of our minds.

The key to Christian living is verse 33: “**But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**” If we want to be blessed by God, we had better be in the kingdom of God. Are you a Christian?

PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN LIVING

Matt. 7:1-5 – Christians do not hypocritically judge others. This is one of the seven descriptions of judging in the Bible, and what’s the Lord’s point? **Christians do not look for faults in others when they’re guilty of the same fault!**

Matt. 7:6 – Holy things must always remain holy. People don’t give precious things to dogs or pigs and the same is true of Christians. We don’t use God’s name in vain because it’s holy. We don’t play in church because worship is holy. We don’t ignore the Bible because it is holy.

Matt. 7:7-12 – Faith in prayer and the Golden Rule. God always answers prayers (vv 7, 8) because “*the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear*” (Isaiah 59:1). We provide physical things for our own children and God provides us with spiritual things (vv 9-11). Verse 12 is often called the Golden Rule and it is another of Jesus’ teachings that are very popular and well known – and also very seldom practiced.

Matt. 7:13,14 – The two destinies of all men and the roads to them. It’s easy to give ourselves over to sin (the wide gate), but those who go through that gate will pay the price in hell (v 13). The word “**strait**” means “**sometimes difficult to enter**” and that’s true of the Christian life. We have to fight our pride to accept the Bible, the Lord of the Bible and the clear teachings of the Bible. When we obey the Lord, we will be rewarded with heaven (v 14).

Matt. 7:15-20 – False prophets and fruit inspectors. People who don’t teach the Bible are false prophets and though they may be smooth talkers, they’ll condemn many souls (v 15). James 3:1 teaches: “*My brethren, be not many masters [teachers], knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.*” **When a preacher teaches something that is not in the Bible or when he adds something to the Bible’s teachings, those who believe him instead of the Bible will be condemned but he will be more condemned.** It’s a serious thing to teach the Bible, so let’s teach it exactly as it is written.

So, what do we mean by “fruit inspectors?” Christians are to inspect the fruit of any preacher because good fruit never comes from a rotten tree (vv 17,18). Does a preacher teach the Bible? Does he live by the Bible? Is he teaching others the Bible? Preachers today must teach the Bible or else God will condemn them (vv 19,20).

Matt. 7:21-27 – The basis of living a Christian life. This is where we began by teaching that we are all engaged in building our spiritual houses. We fill that house with the Bible, with the practice of the Bible's teachings and we make sure that we are taught properly by inspecting the "fruit" of our teachers.

The sermon on the mount is the hub, the skeleton and the nucleus of the New Testament. In booklet number two, we will look at the parables of Jesus.

THIS COMPLETES PART ONE OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST

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LIFE OF CHRIST - PART 1

TEST QUESTIONS

YOUR NAME _____

YOUR ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

WHERE DO YOU GO TO CHURCH? _____

LESSON ONE: The Greatest Man and the Greatest Story

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. God never makes a _____ that he will not keep, but God's promises come with _____; he will deliver if we _____.
2. The word "gospel" means the good _____; the word "Christ" means the _____ one; the word "Jesus" means _____ saves and in the Old Testament, the name Jesus was pronounced _____.
3. Hebrews 1:5: "For unto which of the _____ said he at _____ time, Thou art my _____; this day have I _____ thee."
4. Hebrews 4:15: "For we have not an high _____ which cannot be touched with the _____ of our _____; but was in all points _____ like as we are, yet without _____.
5. Only _____ can forgive the sins of man and since _____ could _____ sins, he was _____ in the flesh as well as the son of _____."

TRUE FALSE (Check the correct answer)

- | | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| 1. Jesus was once Michael the archangel | T ___ | F ___ |
| 2. Mary, the mother of Christ, was a virgin forever | T ___ | F ___ |
| 3. The word "gospel" means "good news" | T ___ | F ___ |
| 4. Islam is a true religion because Mohammed was a true prophet of God | T ___ | F ___ |
| 5. The Ethiopian eunuch in Acts eight confessed Christ as the son of God | T ___ | F ___ |
| 6. Christianity is based on the fact that Jesus is God in the flesh | T ___ | F ___ |
| 7. Jesus is called the son of man 189 times in the New Testament | T ___ | F ___ |
| 8. The seed of Abraham is Jesus | T ___ | F ___ |
| 9. We date our calendars from the birth of Christ | T ___ | F ___ |
| 10. Christ had power on earth to forgive sins | T ___ | F ___ |
| 11. We can trust Mohammed as our true prophet | T ___ | F ___ |
| 12. The common language in the New Testament day was Koinè Greek | T ___ | F ___ |

MULTIPLE CHOICE (Circle the correct answer)

1. As part of the “fullness of time, the Greeks provided **A** roads **B** A worldwide language **C** The rule of law
2. As part of the “fullness of time”, the Medes and Persians provided **A** Roads **B** The rule of law **C** A worldwide language
3. As part of the “fullness of time”, the Romans provided **A** A worldwide language **B** Roads **C** The rule of law
4. In the New Testament, Jesus is called **A** The son of God **B** The son of man **C** The Messiah **D** The Christ **E** All of these
5. Jesus was the most important person who ever lived because **A** He was God in the flesh **B** The Jews hated him **C** He was first Michael the archangel in heaven

LESSON TWO: How will we study the life of Christ?

MULTIPLE CHOICE (Circle the correct answer)

1. The name “Palestine” means **A** one of the seven hills of Rome **B** Philistine Land **C** Jordan
2. The two Philistine seacoast cities mentioned were **A** Ascalon and Gaza **B** Tyre and Sidon **C** Ptolemais and Joppa
3. Jesus became the son of God **A** When he died **B** When he was begotten in Mary’s womb **C** When he ascended
4. The land of Palestine could easily fit **A** Between Valdosta and Macon, GA **B** Between Seattle, WA, and Washington DC **C** Between Canada and the US
5. How many cities named “Caesarea” are mentioned in the New Testament? **A** Fifteen **B** Four **C** Two

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Isaiah 7:14: “Behold, the _____ himself shall give you a sign; behold a _____ shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name _____.”
2. Galatians 3:27: “For as many of you as have been _____ into _____ have put on Christ.”
3. The Idumeans were a combination of the bloodlines of _____ and the _____ who conquered them.
4. Besides Judea and Samaria, the other three provinces are **G** _____, **D** _____ and **P** _____.
5. John 3:16: “For _____ - so _____ the world that he gave his only _____ son, that whosoever believeth in him _____ not _____ but have everlasting life.”

LESSON THREE: More information about Jesus, the Christ

TRUE FALSE (Check the correct answer)

1. The three wise men visited Jesus in the manger T ___ F ___
2. Jesus lived to be between thirty three and thirty four years of age T ___ F ___
3. All of the apostles were killed by the Jews and Romans T ___ F ___
4. Jesus was born in Nazareth T ___ F ___
5. Jesus never went out of the land of Palestine T ___ F ___
6. Jesus had three periods of work in the region of Galilee T ___ F ___
7. When Jesus died on the cross, he took away the old law to establish the new T ___ F ___
8. Jesus was fifteen years of age when he went to the temple with his parents T ___ F ___
9. The apostles could perform miracles T ___ F ___
10. The apostles could pass on the miraculous gifts to first century Christians T ___ F ___
11. There are 40 writers of the New Testament T ___ F ___
12. Two of the writers of the New Testament were human brothers of Jesus T ___ F ___
13. The week of Jesus' crucifixion is called the Passion Week T ___ F ___
14. The apostles received both the authority and miraculous measures of the Holy Spirit T ___ F ___
15. There are no apostles alive today and no miracles being done today T ___ F ___

LESSON FOUR: The sermon on the mount

MULTIPLE CHOICE (Circle the correct answer)

1. Matthew wrote his account of the sermon on the mount **A** By collecting pieces of information
B At one time **C** In the night time
2. Christ is the fulfillment of **A** the law of Moses **B** The Old Testament **C** Both of these.
3. Fasting is **A** Running rapidly **B** Doing without food to diet **C** Doing without food for a spiritual purpose.
4. Concerning fasting, **A** We are commanded not to fast **B** Fasting is not commanded, but regulated **C** We are commanded to fast
5. The Lord's Prayer is also called **A** The disciples' prayer **B** The model prayer **C** Both of these
6. "Alms" is **A** Money given for the poor **B** The upper part of our hands **C** Guns
7. "Mammon" is **A** The old Canaanite god of money **B** Used by Christ as something we cannot serve **C** Both of these
8. If a preacher teaches something not in the Bible he is **A** Wrong **B** A false teacher **C** Will be lost **D** All of these
9. The "Golden Rule" is **A** Well-known **B** Seldom practiced **C** Both of these
10. The "narrow gate" leads to **A** Life eternal **B** Hell **C** A tight fit

FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. The word "peace" means _____ my _____ in _____ with God's will
2. Christians improve our world by being _____ and _____ and _____.
3. Romans 15:4: "For whatsoever things were _____ aforetime were written for our _____, that we through _____ and _____ of the scriptures might have _____."
4. As Christians, we are judged by our _____, as well as by our _____.
5. People cannot get a _____ unless there is _____ and when fornication is not present, when they _____, they commit _____.
6. Romans 12:18: "If it be _____, as much as lieth in your, live _____ with all men."
7. Matthew 6:33: "But seek ye _____ the _____ of God and his _____ and all these _____ shall be added unto you."
8. It's easy to give ourselves over to _____, the _____ gate, but those who go through that _____ will pay the price in _____.
9. When we _____ the _____, we will be rewarded with _____.
10. The _____ and _____ spirit will listen to the _____ of the _____ and do them.
11. Matthew 7:21: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall _____ into the _____ of _____, but he that _____ the _____ of my _____ which is in heaven."
12. Matthew 7:12: "There all _____ whatsoever ye would that _____ should do to you, do ye even so to _____."
13. Matthew 7:24: "There whosoever _____ these _____ of mine and _____ them, I will liken him unto a _____ man which built his house upon a _____."
14. Matthew 5:8 "_____ are the _____ in _____, for they shall see _____."
15. Matthew 5:27, 28: "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shall no commit _____, but I say unto, That _____ looked on a _____ to _____ after her hath committed _____ with her already in his _____."

TRUE FALSE (Check the correct answer)

1. God knows what we need, but we still need to pray for it T ___ F ___
2. Christians should let our money be the guiding thing in our lives T ___ F ___
3. Christians should let everyone know when we help the poor T ___ F ___
4. Christians should pray not to be glorified by men T ___ F ___
5. Christians keep their word because they are Christians T ___ F ___
6. A person has to commit adultery before he's guilty T ___ F ___
7. When Jesus prayed the Lord's prayer, the kingdom had not come yet T ___ F ___
8. Moses fasted for 40 days without bread or water T ___ F ___
9. God does not hear our prayers T ___ F ___
10. Jesus nailed the Old Testament to the cross T ___ F ___
11. We can play and cut up in church T ___ F ___
12. Christians can't judge, but we can be fruit inspectors T ___ F ___
13. If a preacher teaches something not in the Bible, he only hurts himself T ___ F ___
14. The key to Christian living is seeking the kingdom of God first in our lives T ___ F ___
15. A single eye is a clear eye; an evil eye is a foggy eye T ___ F ___
16. "Blessed" means "happy" T ___ F ___
17. Peacemakers are those who have obeyed the gospel T ___ F ___
18. We build our "spiritual houses" by knowing the truth and obeying the truth T ___ F ___
19. People can get divorced for any reason they want T ___ F ___
20. People can only get divorced because of fornication T ___ F ___