

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

I. INTRODUCTION.

- A. The Birth Of Christ Jesus Of Nazareth Has Affected The Course Of Human History More Than Any Other Birth Among Men.

NOTE: The historical narratives of Christ's life are *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts 1:1-11.*

- B. The Life Of Christ Is *Historical And Demonstrable Proof* Jesus Of Nazareth Was And Is The Son Of God Sent From The Only True God, The Creator Of Us All.

NOTE: Read the book by *Mark* for a fast-moving and thrilling account of Jesus' life.

II. AIM.

- A. To Gain An Historical Perspective Of The Life Of Christ.

NOTE: For a chronological account of His life read *Luke's* first letter to Theophilus and *Acts 1:1-11.*

- B. To Realize That This Jesus Of Nazareth Confronts Every Human Being As A Past And Present Living Person And Reality: *He Is Man's Only Savior And Hope.*

III. OUTLINE.

- A. THE CHRONOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF HIS LIFE (4 B.C.(?) - 33 A.D.).

1. The birth of Christ to John the Immerser: *His first thirty years.*
2. The public appearance of Christ in Jerusalem: *His ministry and first events.*
3. The Judean ministry of Christ: *His early Judean ministry and return to Galilee.*
4. The first period of the Galilean ministry of Christ: *The choosing of the twelve.*

5. The second period of the Galilean ministry of Christ: *His increasing fame.*
6. The third period of the Galilean ministry of Christ: *His withdrawal into Northern Galilee.*
7. The Perean ministry of Christ: *His final ministry and departure for Jerusalem.*
8. The last week of Christ: *His triumphal entry into Jerusalem and His triumphant victory from the grave.*
9. The final forty days of Christ: *His post-resurrection appearances and His ascension.*
10. *The present ministry of Christ: He is High-Priest and King.*

NOTE: See Supplement for expanded analytical outline (with references) of *the life of Christ.*

B. THE CONCLUSIVE ACTUALITIES OF HIS LIFE.

1. The historical actuality of *His birth.*
 - a. The scriptures.
 - 1) *Luke 2:1-7 cf. Matt. 1:18-25.*
 - 2) *John 1:1-18.*
 - b. The significance.
 - 1) Proves His pre-existence. (*John 1:1-4, 14*)
 - 2) Demonstrates His Deity. (*Luke 1:35; Gal. 4:4-5 cf. John 1:1ff*)
 - 3) Announces His mission: *To save sinners.* (*1 Tim. 1:15 cf. Matt. 1:18-21; Luke 2:11*)
 - 4) Fulfills prophecy. (*Isa. 7:14; Micah 5:2 cf. Matt. 1:18-23*)
2. The historical actuality of *His ministry.*
 - a. The scriptures.

1) *Matt. 4:23; Luke 19:47 cf. John 3:2*

2) *John 10:38; 14:11 cf. 20:30-31.*

b. The significance.

1) His words.

a) He taught authoritatively. (*Matt. 7:29 cf. 28:18*)

b) He taught graciously. (*Luke 4:22*)

c) He taught truthfully. (*John 8:40; 14:6*)

d) He taught simply. (*Matt. 12:37*)

e) He taught divinely. (*John 7:16; 12:49-50*)

f) He taught in purity. (*1 Pet. 2:21*)

g) He taught with permanency. (*Matt 26:75; Luke 24:8 cf. John 7:46*)

2) His works.

a) His miracles declared His Deity. (*John 20:30-31*)

b) His miracles confirmed His claims. (*John 11:25-26 cf. 11:41-45*)

c) His miracles revealed His character. (*John 20:28-31*)

d) His miracles demonstrated His power. (*John 10:17-18 cf. Rom. 1:4*)

3. The historical actuality of His death.

a. The scriptures.

1) *Matt. 27:11ff; Mark 15:1ff; Luke 23:1ff; John 18:1ff.*

2) *Matt. 27:31; John 19:17 cf. Luke 23:33.*

b. The significance.

1) *God's forgiveness is declared by Christ's crucifixion. (Eph. 1:7 cf. Heb. 1:3 and Acts 2:23-39)*

- 2) *God's righteousness is declared by Christ's crucifixion. (Rom. 1:16-17 cf. 1 Cor. 1:18-30)*
- 3) *God's reconciliation is declared by Christ's crucifixion. (2 Cor. 5:19-21 cf. Col. 1:16-21)*
- 4) *God's means of man's end (i.e. sinful self) is declared by Christ's crucifixion. (2 Cor. 5:14-17; Rom. 6:1-11 and Col. 2:12 - 3:4)*
- 5) *God's means of unity declared by Christ's crucifixion. (Eph. 2:14-22 cf. 4:1-6 and Gal. 3:26-29)*
- 6) *God's power and wisdom is declared by Christ's crucifixion. (Rom. 1:4, 16-17 cf. 1 Cor. 1:18-26)*

4. *The historical actuality of His resurrection.*

a. *The scriptures.*

- 1) *Matt. 28:1ff; Mark 16:1ff; Luke 24:1ff; John 20:1ff.*
- 2) *Acts 2:22-36; 13:16-41; 17:22-31 cf. Rom. 1:4.*

b. *The significance.*

- 1) *The actual, literal, bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ is the foundation of Christianity: The confirmation of prophecy and Jesus' pre-crucifixion claims!*
- 2) *If Christ did not actually rise from the dead:*
 - a) *Preaching is vain!*
 - b) *Faith is vain! (cf. 1 Cor. 15:12ff)*
 - c) *Yet in sins!*

NOTE: The empty tomb and Jesus' post-resurrection appearances are indisputable historical evidence of His actual resurrection! (cf. Rev. 1:18)

5. The historical actuality of *His ascension*.

a. The scriptures.

- 1) *John 14:3, 12, 28 cf. Acts 1:9-11; 2:33-36.*
- 2) *Psalms 68:18 cf. Eph. 4:8-10; Phil. 2:9-11.*

b. The significance.

- 1) Completes His Lordship. (*Acts 2:33-36*)
- 2) Completes His Priesthood. (*Heb. 4:14; 7:26; 8:4; 9:11-12, 24-28*)
- 3) Causes reality of forgiveness. (*Acts 5:29-32*)
- 4) Causes establishment of His kingdom. (*Dan. 7:13-14*)
- 5) Causes Spirit to come. (*John 16:7-13*)
- 6) Commits all rule and authority to Christ. (*Eph. 1:20-23*)
- 7) Causes us to keep our affections upon the heavenly and look for His coming. (*Col. 3:1-4 cf. Acts 1:9-11; 17:30-31; and Heb. 9:28*)

IV. CONCLUSION.

A. Two Great Points Stand Out In Human History:

1. *The fulness of the times.*
2. *The Unique Figure - The Son of man, the Son of God - Who rocked the world at that time!*

B. *Jesus Christ With His Intervening Life, Left An Undeniable Imprint And Unremovable Impression Upon This Globe For All Time!*

ANALYTICAL OUTLINE OF CHRIST'S LIFE

I. THE THIRTY YEARS OF PRIVATE LIFE.

A. Introductory.

1. Prologue of John's gospel. (*John 1:1-18*)
2. Preface of Luke's gospel. (*Luke 1:1-4*)
3. The two genealogies. (*Matt. 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38*)

B. The Annunciations.

1. Birth of John the Baptist promised. (*Luke 1:5-25*)
2. The annunciation to Mary. (*Luke 1:26-38*)
3. Mary's visit to Elisabeth. (*Luke 1:39-56*)
4. The annunciation to Joseph. (*Matt. 1:18-25*)

C. Birth Of John The Baptist And Of Jesus.

1. Birth of John the Baptist. (*Luke 1:57-80*)
2. Birth of Jesus the Christ. (*Luke 2:1-7; Matt. 1:18-25*)
3. The angels and the shepherds. (*Luke 2:8-20*)

D. The Infancy Of Jesus.

1. The circumcision. (*Luke 2:21*)
2. The presentation in the temple. (*Luke 2:22-39*)
3. The wise men from the East. (*Matt. 2:1-12*)
4. The flight into Egypt and return to Nazareth. (*Matt. 2:13-23*)

E. Jesus' Life In Nazareth.

1. Childhood at Nazareth. (*Matt. 2:23; Luke 2:39-40*)

2. Visit to Jerusalem when twelve years old. (*Luke 2:41-50*)
3. Eighteen years at Nazareth. (*Luke 2:51-52*)

II. THE OPENING EVENTS OF CHRIST'S MINISTRY.

A. The Beginnings Of The Gospel.

1. The ministry of John the Baptist. (*Matt. 3:1-12; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-20*)
2. The baptism of Jesus. (*Matt. 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21, 22, 23a*)
3. The temptation in the wilderness. (*Matt. 4:1-11; Mark 1:12, 13; Luke 4:1-13*)

B. The Beginnings Of Faith.

1. John's defense for his ministry. (*John 1:19-28*)
2. John's testimony of Christ. (*John 1:29-34*)
3. The first disciples. (*John 1:35-42; John 1:43-51*)
4. The first miracle; water made wine. (*John 2:1-11*)
5. Sojourn in Capernaum. (*John 2:12*)

III. THE EARLY JUDEAN MINISTRY.

A. The Beginnings Of Christ's Work In Jerusalem.

1. First cleansing of the temple. (*John 2:13-22*)
2. Discourse with Nicodemus. (*John 2:23 - 3:21*)

B. Period Of Preaching And Baptizing In Judea.

1. Christ baptizing in Judea. (*John 3:22-24*)
2. John's testimony to Christ at Aenon. (*John 3:25-36*)

C. The Two Days' Ministry In Samaria.

1. The departure from Judea. (*Matt. 4:12; Mark 1:14; John 4:1-3*)
2. Discourse with the woman of Samaria. (*John 4:4-26*)
3. The gospel in Sychar. (*John 4:27-42*)

IV. FIRST PERIOD OF THE GALILEAN MINISTRY.

A. The Beginnings Of Christ's Public Work In Galilee.

1. The beginning of Christ's Galilean ministry. (Matt. 4:12, 13-16, 17; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:14, 15; John 4:43-45)
2. The nobleman's son. (John 4:46-54)
3. First rejection at Nazareth. (Luke 4:16-30)
4. Removal to Capernaum. (Matt. 4:13-16; Luke 4:31a)

B. Call Of The Four, And The First Preaching Tour.

1. The call of the four. (Matt. 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11)
2. The day of miracles in Capernaum. (Matt. 8:14-17; Mark 1:21-34; Luke 4:31-41)
3. First preaching tour in Galilee. (Matt. 4:23; Mark 1:35-45; Luke 4:42-44; 5:12-16; Matt. 8:1, 2-4)

C. Growing Hostility Of The Scribes And Pharisees.

1. The paralytic borne by four. (Matt. 9:1, 2-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26)
2. The call of Matthew. (Matt. 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32)
3. The question about fasting. (Matt. 9:14-17; Mark 2:18-22; Luke 5:33-39)
4. The infirm man at the pool of Bethesda. (John 5:1-16)
5. The disciples plucking grain. (Matt. 12:1-8; Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:1-5)
6. The man with the withered hand. (Matt. 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11)

V. SECOND PERIOD OF THE GALILEAN MINISTRY.

A. Organization Of The Kingdom.

1. The widespread fame of Christ. (Matt. 4:23-25; 12:15-21; Mark 3:7-12; Luke 6:17-19)

2. The choosing of the Twelve. (*Matt. 10:2-4; Mark 3:13-19a; Luke 6:12-19*)
 3. The Sermon on the Mount. (*Matt. 5, 6, 7, & 8:1; Luke 6:20-49*)
- B. The Second Preaching Tour.**
1. The centurion's servant. (*Matt. 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10*)
 2. The raising of the widow's son at Nain. (*Luke 7:11-17*)
 3. John the Baptist's last message. (*Matt. 11:2-30; Luke 7:18-35*)
 4. Anointing of Jesus in the house of Simon the Pharisee. (*Luke 7:36-50*)
 5. Christ's companions on His second preaching tour. (*Luke 8:1-3*)
- C. A Day Of Teaching By The Sea Of Galilee.**
1. Warnings to the scribes and Pharisees: "An eternal sin." (*Matt. 12:22-45; Mark 3:19b-30*)
 2. The true kindred of Christ. (*Matt. 12:46-50; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21*)
 3. The parables by the sea. (*Matt. 13:1-53; Mark 4:1-34; Luke 8:4-18*)
- D. A Day Of Miracles By The Sea Of Galilee.**
1. The stilling of the tempest. (*Matt. 8:18; 23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25*)
 2. The Gadarene demoniac. (*Matt. 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39*)
 3. The raising of Jairus' daughter. (*Matt. 9:1, 18-26; Mark 5:21-43; Luke 8:40-56*)
 4. The two blind men, and the dumb demoniac. (*Matt. 9:27-34*)
- E. The Third Preaching Tour.**
1. Second rejection at Nazareth. (*Matt. 13:54-58; Mark 6:1-6a*)

2. Third preaching tour continued. (*Matt. 9:35; Mark 6:6b*)
3. The mission of the Twelve. (*Matt. 9:36 - 11:1; Mark 6:7-13; Luke 9:1-6*)
4. Death of John the Baptist. (*Matt. 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29; Luke 9:7-9*)

F. The Crisis At Capernaum.

1. The feeding of the five thousand. (*Matt. 14:13-23; Mark 6:30-46; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15*)
2. Jesus walking on the water. (*Matt. 14:24-36; Mark 6:47-56; John 6:16-21*)
3. Discourse on the bread of life. (*John 6:22-71*)
4. Discourse on eating with unwashed hands. (*Matt. 15:1-20; Mark 7:1-23*)

VI. THIRD PERIOD OF THE GALILEAN MINISTRY.

A. The First Northern Journey For Retirement.

1. Journey toward Tyre and Sidon; the Syrophoenician woman's daughter. (*Matt. 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30*)
2. Return through Decapolis; many miracles of healing. (*Matt. 15:29-31; Mark 7:31-37*)

B. A Brief Return To The Sea Of Galilee.

1. The feeding of the four thousand. (*Matt. 15:32-38; Mark 8:1-9*)
2. The Pharisees and Sadducees demanding a sign from heaven. (*Matt. 15:39 - 16:12; Mark 8:10-21*)
3. The blind man near Bethsaida. (*Mark 8:22-26*)

C. The Second Northern Journey For Retirement.

1. Peter's confession. (*Matt. 16:13-20; Mark 8:27-30; Luke 9:18-21*)
2. Christ foretells His death and resurrection. (*Matt. 16:21-28; Mark 8:31 - 9:1; Luke 9:22-27*)
3. The Transfiguration. (*Matt. 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36*)

4. The demoniac boy. (*Matt. 17:14-20; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43a*)
5. Christ again foretells His death and resurrection. (*Matt. 17:22, 23; Mark 9:30-32; Luke 9:43b-45*)

D. In Capernaum Again.

1. The shekel in the fish's mouth. (*Matt. 17:24-27; Mark 9:33a*)
2. Discourse on humility and forgiveness. (*Matt 18; Mark 9:33-50; Luke 9:46-50*)

E. An Autumn Visit To Jerusalem.

1. Christ at the feast of tabernacles. (*John 7:1-52*)
2. The woman taken in adultery. (*John 7:53 - 8:11*)
3. Discourse on the light of the world. (*John 8:12-30*)
4. Discourse on spiritual freedom. (*John 8:31-59*)

VII. THE PEREAN MINISTRY.

A. From The Departure From Galilee Until After The Feast Of Dedication.

1. The final departure from Galilee. (*Matt. 19:1, 2; Mark 10:1; Matt. 8:18-22; Luke 9:51-62*)
2. The mission of the Seventy. (*Luke 10:1-24*)
3. The good Samaritan. (*Luke 10:25-37*)
4. The visit to Martha and Mary. (*Luke 10:38-42*)
5. Healing of the man born blind. (*John 9*)
6. The good shepherd. (*John 10:1-21*)
7. Christ at the feast of dedication. (*John 10:22-42*)

B. From The Feast Of Dedication Until After The Withdrawal To Ephraim.

1. Discourse on prayer. (*Luke 11:1-13*)
2. Discourses against the Pharisees. (*Luke 11:14-54*)

3. Teachings concerning trust in God and coming judgment. (*Luke 12:1-59*)
 4. The Galileans slain by Pilate. (*Luke 13:1-9*)
 5. The woman healed on a sabbath. (*Luke 13:10-21*)
 6. The question whether few are saved. (*Luke 13:22-30*)
 7. Reply to the warning against Herod. (*Luke 13:31-35*)
 8. Discourse at a chief Pharisee's table. (*Luke 14:1-24*)
 9. Discourse on counting the cost. (*Luke 14:25-35*)
 10. Three parables of grace. (*Luke 15*)
 11. Two parables of warning. (*Luke 16*)
 12. Concerning forgiveness and faith. (*Luke 17:1-10*)
 13. The raising of Lazarus. (*John 11:1-46*)
 14. The withdrawal to Ephraim. (*John 11:47-54*)
- C. From The Withdrawal To Ephraim Until The Final Arrival In Jerusalem.
1. The ten lepers. (*Luke 17:11-19*)
 2. The coming of the kingdom. (*Luke 17:20 - 18:8*)
 3. The Pharisee and the publican. (*Luke 18:9-14*)
 4. Concerning divorce. (*Matt. 19:3-12; Mark 10:2-12*)
 5. Christ blessing little children. (*Matt. 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17*)
 6. The rich young ruler. (*Matt. 19:16 - 20:16; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30*)
 7. Christ foretells his crucifixion. (*Matt. 20:17-19; Mark 10:32-34; Luke 18:31-34*)
 8. Ambition of James and John. (*Matt. 20:20-28; Mark 10:35-45*)

9. The blind men near Jericho. (*Matt. 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43*)
10. Visit to Zacchaeus. (*Luke 19:1-10*)
11. Parable of the minae. (*Luke 19:11-28*)
12. Anointing of Jesus by Mary of Bethany. (*Matt. 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; John 11:55 - 12:11*)

VIII. THE PASSION WEEK.

- A. Sunday: A Day Of Triumph. The Triumphal Entry. (*Matt. 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:29-44; John 12:12-19*)
- B. Monday: A Day Of Authority.
 1. The cursing of the fig tree. (*Matt. 21:18-22; Mark 11:12-14*)
 2. Second cleansing of the temple. (*Matt. 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-19; Luke 19:45-48*)
- C. Tuesday: A Day Of Conflict.
 1. The fig tree withered away. (*Matt. 21:20-22; Mark 11:20-25*)
 2. Christ's authority challenged. (*Matt. 21:23-27; Mark 11:27-33; Luke 20:1-8*)
 3. Three parables of warning. (*Matt. 21:28 - 22:14; Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19*)
 4. Three questions by the Jewish rulers. (*Matt. 22:15-40; Mark 12:13-34; Luke 20:20-40*)
 5. Christ's unanswerable question. (*Matt. 22:41-46; Mark 12:35-37; Luke 20:41-44*)
 6. Woes against the scribes and Pharisees. (*Matt. 23; Mark 12:38-40; Luke 20:45-47*)
 7. The widow's two mites. (*Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4*)
 8. Gentiles seeking Jesus. (*John 12:20-36*)
 9. The Jews' rejection of Christ. (*John 12:37-50*)
 10. Discourse concerning the destruction of Jerusalem. (*Matt. 24, 25; 26:1, 2; Mark 13; Luke 21:5-38*)

11. Conspiracy between the chief priests and Judas.
(Matt. 26:1-5, 14-16; Mark 14:1, 2, 10, 11;
Luke 22:1-6)

D. Wednesday: Without Record.

E. Thursday: The Last Day With The Disciples.

1. The last supper. (Matt. 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26;
Luke 22:7-30; John 13:1-30)
2. Christ's farewell discourses. (Matt. 26:31-35;
Mark 14:27-31; Luke 22:31-38; John 13:31 -
16:33)
3. The intercessory prayer. (John 17)

F. Friday: The Day Of Suffering.

1. The agony in Gethsemane. (Matt. 26:30, 36-46;
Mark 14:26, 32-42; Luke 22:39-46; John 18:1)
2. The betrayal and arrest. (Matt. 26:47-56; Mark
14:43-52; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:1-12)
3. The trial before the Jewish authorities. (Matt.
26:57 - 27:10; Mark 14:53-72; 15:1a; Luke 22:54-
71; John 18:12-27)
4. The trial before Pilate. (Matt. 27:2, 11-31;
Mark 15:1-20; Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28 - 19:16a)
5. The crucifixion. (Matt. 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-41;
Luke 23:26-49; John 19:16b-37)
6. The burial. (Matt. 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47;
Luke 23:50-56a; John 19:38-42)

G. Saturday: The Day In The Tomb. The Watch At The
Sepulchre. (Matt. 27:62-66)

IX. THE FORTY DAYS:

A. The Day Of Resurrection. Christ's First Appearances.

1. The resurrection morning. (Matt. 28:1-10; Mark
16:1-11; Luke 23:56b - 24:12; John 20:1-18)
2. The report of the watch. (Matt. 28:11-15)
3. The walk to Emmaus. (Mark 16:12, 13; Luke 24:
13-35)

4. The appearance to the disciples in Jerusalem, Thomas being absent. (*Mark 16:14; Luke 24:36-43; John 20:19-25*)

B. Subsequent Appearances And The Ascension.

1. The appearance to Thomas with the other disciples. (*John 20:26-29*)
2. The appearance to seven disciples by the Sea of Galilee. (*John 21:1-24*)
3. The appearance to the Eleven on a mountain in Galilee. (*Matt. 28:16-20; Mark 16:15-18*)
4. Christ's final appearance and His ascension. (*Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:44-53*)
5. The conclusion of John's gospel. (*John 20:30, 31; 21:25*)