



# Bible History

## *The Gospels*

### I. THE CHILDHOOD OF JESUS

#### A. The Birth of Christ

##### 1. The date of His birth

###### a. The year

- (1) The Old Testament canon of scripture concluded ~ year 3,735.
- (2) Fast forward approximately 400 years to arrive at the opening of the New Testament canon and the year would be ~ 4,135.
- (3) A little over a year later, Jesus was born ~ 4,136. Recall that these numbers are approximate and are dependent upon a vast amount of mathematics and at some points assumptions.

###### b. The month

- (1) Believe it or not, the birth-month of Christ can be narrowed down to two months.
- (2) The needed hint is found in Luke 1:5 which states that Zacharias served in the course of Abia.
  - a) A careful look into the Old Testament indicates that there were twenty-four courses instituted for the service of the priesthood (1 Chronicles 24:7-18).
  - b) Each course would serve from Sabbath to Sabbath in a week's time (2 Chronicles 23:8) and they would do so twice in a year. This would leave four weeks unaccounted for over the course of a year.
  - c) On certain special holiday weeks, all the priests would be on duty and the appointed course would pick up on the next week (2 Chronicles 5:11). These weeks certainly included the appointed times for all Jewish males to appear before the Lord (Deuteronomy 16:16).
  - d) All this being said, 1 Chronicles 24:10 identifies Abia or Abijah as having the eighth course.
  - e) As a reminder and to provide additional input, consider the following:
    - i) Abib, week 1 = course of Jehoiarib (1 Chronicles 24:7)
    - ii) Abib, week 2 = course of Jedaiah (1 Chronicles 24:7)
    - iii) Abib, week 3 = Passover, unleavened bread week
    - iv) Abib, week 4 = course of Harim (1 Chronicles 24:8)
    - v) Zif, week 1 = course of Seorim (1 Chronicles 24:8)
    - vi) Zif, week 2 = course of Malchijah (1 Chronicles 24:9)
    - vii) Zif, week 3 = course of Mijamin (1 Chronicles 24:9)
    - viii) Zif, week 4 = course of Hakkoz (1 Chronicles 24:10)
    - ix) Sivan, week 1 = course of Abijah (1 Chronicles 24:10)



- f) This means Zacharias served his course the first week of Sivan and John was likely conceived the second week of Sivan (this would have been the last week of May).
  - g) Six months later, Mary conceived Jesus and a little over nine months thereafter, Jesus was born. Fifteen-and-one-third months after the first week of Sivan would be mid-September or the Bible month of Ethanim.
  - h) The month Ethanim is the month of the Feast of Tabernacles which began on the fifteenth of the month.
2. The pre-birth announcement
- a. The time of the announcement
    - (1) The general time established
      - a) The name of the king provided—Herod, king of Judaea (Luke 1:5)
      - b) The king still reigning at the birth of Jesus (Matthew 2:1)
      - c) The king was alive approximately two years after the birth of Jesus (Matthew 2:16).
      - d) Sometime after that Herod died and his son Archelaus reigned in his stead (Matthew 2:19-22).
    - (2) The announcement to Zacharias (Luke 1:5-25)
    - (3) The announcement to Mary (Luke 1:26-27)
  - b. The content of announcement
    - (1) The announcement to Mary (Luke 1:26-38)
      - a) The birth of a son (Luke 1:31)
      - b) The name of the son (Luke 1:31)
      - c) The identity of the son (Luke 1:32-33)
      - d) The means of conception (Luke 1:34-35)
    - (2) The announcement to Joseph (Matthew 1:18-25)
      - a) The conceived child is of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 1:20)
      - b) The child will be a boy (Matthew 1:21)
      - c) The name of the son (Matthew 1:21)
      - d) The purpose of the son (Matthew 1:21)
3. The preparation for birth
  - a. Mary visited Elisabeth (Luke 1:39-57).
  - b. Joseph learned of the child (Matthew 1:18-23).
  - c. Joseph took Mary to wife (Matthew 1:24-25).
  - d. The decree from Caesar Augustus (Luke 2:1-6)
4. The birth
  - a. The place of the birth
    - (1) Bethlehem (Luke 2:4, 6; Matthew 2:1)
    - (2) He was not born in an inn (Luke 2:7).
    - (3) No other information is provided.
      - a) Jesus was laid in a manger after His birth.
      - b) Some have assumed that this means Christ was born in a stable, but the scripture does not make this plain.
  - b. The provisions for the child
    - (1) Swaddling clothes (Job 38:9; Ezekiel 16:4; Luke 2:7, 12)



- (2) A manger
    - a) The word “manger” only occurs three times in the Bible.
    - b) All three occurrences are in Luke 2.
    - c) The word came into the English language from a word meaning to eat.
  5. The proclamations of birth
    - a. Announced to shepherds (Luke 2:8-20)
    - b. The journey to Jerusalem (Luke 2:21-38)
    - c. The arrival of the wise men (Matthew 2:1-11)
- B. The Young Child Jesus
  1. In Bethlehem (Matthew 2:9-12)
    - a. There somewhere under two years of age for the visit from the wise men (Matthew 2:9-11).
    - b. Became a place of danger when Herod learned of His presence
  2. In Egypt (Matthew 2:13-15)
    - a. The angel of the Lord told Joseph to take the young child to Egypt (Matthew 2:13).
    - b. Joseph, Mary, and Jesus fled to Egypt by night (Matthew 2:14).
    - c. They stayed in Egypt until the death of Herod (Matthew 2:15).
  3. In Nazareth (Matthew 2:19-23)
    - a. The family returned upon the death of Herod (Matthew 2:19-20).
    - b. They originally sought to return into Judaea (Matthew 2:21-22).
    - c. They instead turned into Nazareth of Galilee (Matthew 2:22-23).
  4. His growth (Luke 2:40)
- C. The Child Jesus
  1. His appearance (Luke 2:41-51)
    - a. The time of His appearance (Luke 2:41-42)
    - b. The time of the family’s departure (Luke 2:43).
    - c. The events surrounding the Lord’s stay (Luke 2:44-50)
      - (1) Joseph and Mary realized Jesus was missing (Luke 2:44-45).
      - (2) They found Him in the temple (Luke 2:46-47).
      - (3) They questioned His actions (Luke 2:48-50).
    - d. The Lord’s return (Luke 2:51)
  2. His continued growth (Luke 2:52)
  3. His miracles
    - a. According to the *Infancy Gospel of Thomas*: Jesus made clay birds, which he brought to life.
    - b. According to the Bible: “This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him” (John 2:11).
    - c. Perversions of the Bible leave the door open for earlier miracles, by translating miracles as signs. A sign emphasizes a message, whereas a miracle is a supernaturally caused event.



## II. THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST

### A. The Beginnings (Matthew 3:1-12)

1. His forerunner (Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 1:1-18; Luke 3:1-20; John 1:6-8)
2. His baptism (Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-23)
3. His temptation (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13)
4. His introduction (John 1:29-36)
5. His preaching (Matthew 4:12-17; Mark 1:14-15)

### B. The Miracles of Christ

1. His power over nature
  - a. The turning of water to wine (John 2:1-11)
  - b. The calming of the storm (Matthew 8:23-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-26)
2. His power over life and death
  - a. His ability to raise others from the dead
    - (1) Jairus' daughter (Mark 5:22-24, 35-43; Luke 8:40-42, 49-56)
    - (2) The widow's only son (Luke 7:11-18)
    - (3) Lazarus (John 11:1-48)
  - b. His ability to raise Himself from the dead
    - (1) He had life within Himself (John 5:26)
    - (2) He was the first to "rise" from the dead
      - a) Christ was "the first that should rise from the dead" (Acts 26:23).
      - b) There seems to be a distinction between being "raised" from the dead and rising from the dead (Matthew 20:19; Matthew 27:63; Mark 8:31; Mark 9:31; Mark 10:34; Luke 18:33; Luke 24:7; Luke 24:46; John 20:9).
    - (3) He raised Himself (John 2:19; John 5:21; John 10:17-18)
3. His power over devils (Acts 10:38)
  - a. An unclean man in the synagogue (Mark 1:23-27; Luke 4:31-36)
  - b. The two men possessed with devils (Matthew 8:28-32; Mark 5:1-13; Luke 8:26-33)
  - c. A dumb man possessed with a devil (Matthew 9:32-34)
  - d. A blind and dumb man (Matthew 12:22; Luke 11:14-15)
  - e. The Greek woman's daughter (Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30)
  - f. The lunatic (Matthew 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43)
  - g. Mary (Mark 16:9; Luke 8:2)

### C. The Teachings of Christ

1. The sermon on the mount
  - a. The nature of a disciple (Matthew 5:3-16)
    - (1) Ye are blessed (Matthew 5:3-12)
    - (2) Ye are salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16)



- b. The use of the law (Matthew 5:17-48)
  - (1) The importance of the law (Matthew 5:17-20)
  - (2) Going beyond the law (Matthew 5:21-48)
- c. The service of a disciple (Matthew 6:1-34)
  - (1) Their alms (Matthew 6:1-4)
  - (2) Their prayers (Matthew 6:5-15)
  - (3) Their fasting (Matthew 6:16-18)
  - (4) Their treasures (Matthew 6:19-21)
  - (5) Their loyalty (Matthew 6:22-24)
  - (6) Their provisions (Matthew 6:25-34)
- d. Proper behaviour (Matthew 7:1-29)
  - (1) Proper judgment (Matthew 7:1-5)
  - (2) Proper care for the truth (Matthew 7:6)
  - (3) Proper prayer (Matthew 7:7-12)
  - (4) The proper way (Matthew 7:13-14; Luke 13:23-30; Jeremiah 21:8)
  - (5) Proper discernment (Matthew 7:15-27)
  - (6) Proper authority (Matthew 7:28-29)
- 2. The kingdom parables (Matthew 13:3-50)
  - a. The seed and the sower (Matthew 13:3-23)
  - b. The tares and the wheat (Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)
  - c. The mustard seed (Matthew 13:31-32)
  - d. The leaven (Matthew 13:33)
  - e. The treasure in a field (Matthew 13:44)
  - f. The pearl of great price (Matthew 13:45-46)
  - g. The net (Matthew 13:47-50)
- 3. The Olivet discourse
  - a. The signs of the second coming (Matthew 24:4-30)
    - (1) The appearance of false christs (Matthew 24:4-5)
    - (2) The increase of hate and catastrophe (Matthew 24:6-13)
    - (3) The spread of the gospel (Matthew 24:14)
    - (4) The abomination of desolation (Matthew 24:15-20)
    - (5) The greatness of the tribulation (Matthew 24:21-30)
  - b. The second coming (Matthew 24:30-51)
    - (1) His appearance (Matthew 24:30-31)
    - (2) His certainty (Matthew 24:32-35)
    - (3) Man's inability to know the time (Matthew 24:36-51)
  - c. The kingdom judgments (Matthew 25:1-46)
    - (1) The parables of judgment (Matthew 25:1-30)
      - a) The ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-13)
      - b) The servants and the talents (Matthew 25:14-30)
    - (2) The explanation of judgment (Matthew 25:31-46)
      - a) The gathering of nations (Matthew 25:31-33; see Psalm 9:1-20)
      - b) The judgment of the sheep (Matthew 25:34-40)
      - c) The judgment of the goats (Matthew 25:41-45)
      - d) The outcome of the judgment (Matthew 25:46)



D. The Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-13)

1. The disciples fell asleep (Luke 9:32)
2. The Lord was transfigured
3. The Old Testament guests

E. The Triumphal Entry (Matthew 21:1-22)

1. The retrieval of the colt (Matthew 21:1-7; Mark 11:1-7; Luke 19:28-35)
2. The ride into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:8-11; Mark 11:8-10; Luke 19:36-44)
3. The visits to the temple and the fig tree (Matthew 21:12-22; Mark 11:11-26; Luke 19:45-48)

III. THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST

A. The Road to Calvary (Matthew 26:1—Matthew 27:32)

1. Laying the foundation (Matthew 26:1-2)
2. The gathering against Christ (Matthew 26:3-5)
3. The feast at the house of Simon (Matthew 26:6-13)
4. The plan of betrayal (Matthew 26:14-16)
5. The Passover (Matthew 26:17-20; Mark 14:12-17; Luke 22:7-18)
6. After supper (John 13:2-32; Matthew 26:21-30; Mark 14:18-26; Luke 22:21-23)
7. Lessons on the way to Gethsemane (Matthew 26:31-35; Mark 14:27-31; Luke 22:31-38; John 13:33-38; see also John 14:1—John 17:26)
8. Prayer in the garden (John 18:1; Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:39-46)
9. The arrest (Matthew 26:47-57; Mark 14:43-50; Luke 22:47-54; John 18:2-12)
10. The trials, denials, and regrets
11. The journey to Calvary (Matthew 27:32; Mark 15:21; Luke 23:26-32; John 19:17)

B. The Crucifixion and Burial (Matthew 27:33-66; Mark 15:22-47; Luke 23:33-56; John 19:17-42)

1. The third hour to the sixth hour (9 A.M. to 12 P.M.)
  - a. The sign (Matthew 27:37; Mark 15:26; Luke 23:38; John 19:19-22)
  - b. The lifting up of the Saviour at 9 A.M. (Mark 15:25; John 20:25)
  - c. Christ's words of forgiveness (Luke 23:34)
  - d. The parting of Christ's garments (Matthew 27:35-36; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:23-24)
  - e. Railing on Christ (Matthew 27:38-44; Mark 15:29-32; Luke 23:35-43)
2. The sixth hour to the ninth hour (12 P.M. to 3 P.M.)
  - a. The conditions (Matthew 27:45; Mark 15:33; Luke 23:44-45)
  - b. The events (John 19:25-27)



3. The ninth hour to the twelfth hour (3 P.M. to 6 P.M.)
  - a. The cried from the cross (Matthew 27:46-50; Mark 15:34-37; Luke 23:46; John 19:28-30)
  - b. The giving up of the ghost
  - c. The effect of Christ's death
    - (1) On the veil (Matthew 27:51; Mark 15:38; Luke 23:45)
    - (2) On the earth (Matthew 27:51)
    - (3) On the graves (Matthew 27:52-53)
    - (4) On the centurion (Matthew 27:54; Mark 15:39; Luke 23:47)
    - (5) On the multitudes (Matthew 27:55-56; Mark 15:40-41; Luke 23:48-49) – See the comment found in Matthew 27:54 – “they that were with him”
  - d. The rush to remove the body (John 19:31-37)
  - e. The request of Joseph of Arimathaea (Matthew 27:57-58; Mark 15:42-45; Luke 23:50-52; John 19:38)
  - f. The preparation and burial of the body of Jesus (Matthew 27:59-61; Mark 15:46-47; Luke 23:53-55; John 19:39-42)
- C. The Resurrection (Matthew 27:62—Matthew 28:21; Mark 16:1-20; Luke 23:56—Luke 24:53; John 20:1—John 21:25)
  1. The events leading to the resurrection (Luke 23:56; Matthew 27:62-66)
    - a. The preparation of the ladies (Luke 23:56)
    - b. The concern for the sepulchre (Matthew 27:62-66)
  2. The findings of the women (Matthew 28:1-4; Mark 16:1-4; Luke 24:1-2; John 20:1)
    - a. Their arrival at the sepulchre (Matthew 28:1; Mark 16:1-4; Luke 24:1-2; John 20:1)
    - b. The preceding events (Matthew 28:2-4)
  3. The chronology of information (Matthew 28:5-20; Mark 16:5-20; Luke 24:3-53; John 20:1—John 21:25)
    - a. The departure of Mary (John 20:2)
    - b. The other ladies viewed the tomb (Matthew 28:5-8; Mark 16:5-8; Luke 24:3-9).
    - c. Peter and John ran to the tomb (John 20:3-10).
    - d. Mary learned of the resurrection (John 20:11-13).
    - e. Mary saw the Lord (John 20:14-18; see Mark 16:9).
    - f. The other ladies saw the Lord (Matthew 28:9-10).
    - g. Mary and the other ladies told what they saw (Mark 16:9-11; Luke 24:10-11).
    - h. Peter ran back to the tomb (Luke 24:12).
    - i. Two departing disciples saw Christ (Luke 24:13-35; Mark 16:12-13).
    - j. Christ appeared to Peter (Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:5).
    - k. Christ appeared to the disciples (Minus Thomas) (Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-23).
    - l. Christ appeared to the disciples (With Thomas) (John 20:24-29).
    - m. Christ appeared to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias (John 21:1-23).



IV. THE ASCENSION OF CHRIST (Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11)

A. The Time of His Departure (Acts 1:1-3)

1. In relation to the resurrection
  - a. The Lord Jesus rose on Sunday, 18 of Abib, on the Feast of Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:9-11, compared with Leviticus 23:5).
  - b. The Lord was seen of the apostles forty days (Acts 1:3).
    - (1) Based upon the statement “shewed himself alive” one would think the forty days were from the resurrection.
    - (2) This would place the Lord’s ascension on Thursday, the 27<sup>th</sup> of Zif, which is the second month (1 Kings 6:1).
2. In relation to Pentecost
  - a. The day of Pentecost is fifty days from the Feast of Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:15-16).
  - b. Pentecost occurred on Sunday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of Sivan (Esther 8:9).
  - c. The ascension was likely ten days before Pentecost.

B. The Leading Up to His Departure (Acts 1:1-8)

1. He spoke of the kingdom of God (Acts 1:1-3)
2. He spoke of the coming promise (Acts 1:4-5, 8)
  - a. The identity of that promise (Acts 1:4)
  - b. The imminence of the promise (Acts 1:5)
  - c. The power of the promise (Acts 1:8)
    - (1) The source of the power—the Holy Ghost coming upon them
    - (2) The purpose of the power—ye shall be witnesses unto me
3. He spoke of the kingdom (Acts 1:6-7)
  - a. The question of the apostles (Acts 1:6)
  - b. The response of the Lord (Acts 1:7)
    - (1) It is not for you to know.
    - (2) The Lord hath put those things in His own power.

C. The Manner of His Departure (Acts 1:9-11; Mark 16:10; Luke 24:51)

1. After He had spoken (Acts 1:9; Mark 16:19; Luke 24:51)
  - a. The last thing they heard was His word.
  - b. The next thing the Jews will see is the Word (Revelation 19:11-13).
2. He was taken up (Acts 1:9; see Psalm 104:3)
3. Two men appeared (Acts 1:10-11)
  - a. While the men are watching the Saviour depart (Acts 1:10)
  - b. With a word for the apostles (Acts 1:11)
    - (1) The question—“why stand ye gazing up into heaven?”
    - (2) The follow up
      - a) This same Jesus
      - b) Shall so come