

LIFE OF CHRIST

Lectures by Everett F. Harrison, Th.D.
Student examination questions
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Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670

THE BIRTH OF JESUS**HOMEWORK:**

READ: Matthew 1:1 - 2:12 John 1:1-13
 Luke 1:1 - 2:38 Hebrews 1:1-14
 Philippians 2:1-11

REVIEW: Lecture #1 by Dr. Everett F. Harrison, Th.D.

ANSWER; Examination Questions

INTRODUCTION: The importance of undertaking a study of the Life of Jesus Christ.

He is the one who makes the difference between death and life. It is He whom the believer is most anxious to meet in eternity. Far too many sincere believers have only a fragmentary idea of the earthly life and ministry of Jesus and such a study as this is long overdue.

"By common consent, Jesus Christ is the most outstanding person in all the world's history. We have only to ask ourselves how much less life would hold for us and how different the course of human events would have been without Him in order to realize that He indeed is the central figure of all time."

Everett F. Harrison, Ph.D.

WHAT THIS COURSE WILL COVER:

- * The birth of Jesus Christ and His background
- * The early life of Jesus and the opening of His public ministry
- * His baptism, the temptation and the events which followed
- * Jesus' early ministry in Judea and Galilee
- * The teaching and miracles of Jesus
- * The training of the twelve disciples
- * Holy week; the triumphal entry of Jerusalem
- * The upper room discourse and Gethsemane
- * The trial and death of Jesus
- * The resurrection and ascension of Jesus

OUTLINE:

This first study in the life of our Lord commences with His birth at Bethlehem. Here we find God, “*becoming flesh and dwelling among us.*” Jesus takes the seed of the woman upon Himself, and joins Himself to humanity as the second Adam so that the work of redemption may be accomplished on the cross of Calvary. Additional background material is sketched which helps to fill in the picture more fully and to orient the listener. The Virgin Birth of Christ is discussed.

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Jesus the central figure of all time
- B. Jesus' life on earth only a fragment of His life
 - 1. The pre-existing One
 - 2. The ever-living One

II. THE AGE AND CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING HIS BIRTH

- A. The story laid in Palestine
- B. Palestine under Roman rule
 - 1. The taxation by Caesar Augustus
 - 2. The enrollment
- C. Mary's engagement to Joseph
 - 1. Gabriel appears to Mary
 - 2. Joseph's action to protect Mary
 - 3. Luke's explanation of Jesus' birth
 - a. Gabriel appears to Mary
 - b. Gabriel's message
 - c. The part played by the Holy Spirit
 - d. Mary's acceptance of God's will
 - e. The visit to Elizabeth
 - f. No room in the Inn

III. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF JESUS' BIRTH

- A. The word of the shepherds
- B. Herod's distress upon hearing the news
- C. The joy of the Wise Men when hearing of His birth

IV. IMPORTANT FACTORS CONNECTED WITH THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST

- A. It was accomplished quietly and simply
- B. The prominence of divine revelation in the birth
 - 1. The oracle of Micah
 - 2. The confidence of Simeon
- C. The birth of the Savior and the King
- D. Emmanuel means “God is with us.”
- E. The cradle and the Cross are joined

- F. Jesus is born the divider of men
- G. The fullness of time
 - 1. A universal language
 - 2. A world at peace
 - 3. The birth of the Lord Jesus

AGENDA:

Note to Instructor: You may wish to bring out points of the above outline that covers the lecture and may not be included in the agenda below.

DISCUSSION OF READING ASSIGNMENT

NOTE: Matthew records the genealogy of Jesus through his legal, natural father, Joseph.

The Davidic line of Christ was racially mixed, as David's grandmother, Ruth, was a Moabite.

Matthew 1:1 to 2:12	The genealogy - Joseph's role - the wise men - Herod
Luke 1:1 to 2:38	The conception of John the Baptist - the annunciation to Mary - the birth of Jesus - the shepherds - the prophecy of Simeon and of Anna
John 1:1-13	The pre-existing Christ
Hebrews 2:14	God the Son - the Redeemer

NOTE: The gospel writers divide the 14 generations from Abraham to Jesus into 3 groups:

Abraham to David
 David to the Babylonian captivity
 From captivity to Christ

Philippians 2:1-11 Equal with God - the humble servant - obedient to death
 - the majestic Lord to whom every knee shall bow

Discuss the statement about Jesus as the world's greatest figure (quoted at beginning of lesson from Dr. Harrison's statement). Have students quote this statement in class.

Point out the following facts:

1. The circumstances surrounding Jesus' birth.
2. How historic events unfold in the lives of seemingly ordinary people.
3. The manner in which God prepared several participants in this great unfolding drama.
4. Important factors which show this truly to be the fullness of time.

Discuss the pre-existence of Christ:

John 1:1-13
 Hebrews 1:1-4
 Philippians 2:1-11

Discuss the meaning of the term "The Word," "True Light," "radiance of His glory." For example, Christ as "The Word of God" implies that Christ was himself a messenger from God, as well as the wisdom of God. In what way is Christ the "True Light" and what is glorious about Christ's mission" (See Romans 5:6-11).

Is there any way a human being can distinguish between Christ and God? What should be one's attitude as he investigates the Life of Christ? (John 1:18).

Examine the attitude of Christ as God's servant (Philippians 2:1-11). It should be observed that Christ did not regard equality with God a thing to be held on to. He was unlike political leaders of the present day who strive for power and glory and jealously hang onto it even when it becomes clear that it should be given up. Christ willingly relinquished his position because he could better serve men as a servant.

Christ also served as a bondservant. Since a bondservant serves out of love for and confidence in his master, it is noted that Jesus wasn't merely following orders in assuming the form of a man, but did it willingly out of respect for the Father and the need of his mission.

Discuss Mary's role in the birth of Christ. (In considering the miracle of the virgin birth, it is easy to only reflect on the wonder of God's power. However, as one reads Luke 1:26-56, he finds Mary to be a very human person).

What particular human qualities did Mary exhibit?

How did God deal with Mary's situation to accept the news of Gabriel?

What response was required of Mary before God could proceed with the incarnation? (Luke 1:38 & 45).

Discuss the foretelling of the advent of Christ and His ministry:

THE PROPHECY

Isaiah 7:14
 Micah 5:2
 Hosea 11:1
 Jeremiah 31:15
 Isaiah 11:1

THE FULFILLMENT

Matthew 1:22,23
 Matthew 2:6
 Matthew 2:14,15
 Matthew 2:17,18
 Matthew 2:23

One knows God is trustworthy and true; For He completes all of his prophecies. On the basis of God's record, the Christian can have complete assurance of salvation and an ultimate home in heaven – being present with the Lord.

THE PROPHECY

Isaiah 7:14
 Isaiah 9:6-7
 Jeremiah 23:5
 Isaiah 52:10
 Isaiah 42:6 & 49:6

THE FULFILLMENT

Luke 1:31
 Luke 1:32
 Luke 1:32
 Luke 2:30
 Luke 2:31-34

When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word where the Lord has not spoken, the prophet has spoken presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him." (Deut. 18:22)

REVIEW AND GRADE EXAMINATION QUESTIONS:**EXAMINATION QUESTIONS:**

1. Give 2 references in New Testament books that specifically refer to the life of Christ other than the four Gospels.

NOTE: Answers will vary. (See references in Hebrews and Philippians)

2. Jesus appeared in the Old Testament to men and women as _____.

ANSWER: The Angel of the Covenant

3. Where is Jesus Christ now?

ANSWER: He sits at the right hand of the Father as the glorified Savior and our intercessor.

4. What was Palestine often called?

ANSWER: The crossroads of the world

5. At the time of Jesus' birth the Jews were under the rule of what nation and power?

ANSWER: Under the rule of Rome (the Roman Empire)

6. Joseph, the supposed father of Jesus, was a member of what tribe?

ANSWER: He was of the tribe of Judah.

7. To what city did he and Mary go upon the command of the emperor?

ANSWER: He went to Bethlehem.

8. Who was the angel that appeared to Mary to announce that she would be the Mother of Jesus?

ANSWER: The angel Gabriel

9. Who was the real father of the Lord Jesus Christ?

ANSWER: God was his father. (Holy Spirit acceptable.)

10. Is it possible to reject the virgin birth and still believe the Bible to be the Word of God?

ANSWER: No

11. When Elizabeth, Mary's cousin, heard Mary's news, what title did she give to Mary?

ANSWER: The mother of her Lord

12. Give another title to Jesus, born of Mary.

ANSWER: The Son of God

13. Who were the first to bear the proclamation "unto you is born this day in the City of David as Savior?"

ANSWER: It was spoken by the angels to the shepherds.

14. Give 3 factors in Jesus' birth which identify him with the poor and less fortunate people in this world.

ANSWER:

1. Born in a stable
2. The shepherds were the first to learn of His birth
3. Born obscurely in a small town

15. Although Jesus identified with the poor, what event showed he would one day be recognized as King?

ANSWER: He was visited by the Wise Men.

16. We know the Wise Men were from the East. How many were there?

ANSWER: Three is the number which is generally accepted but we do not actually know.

17. What minor prophet specifically prophesied that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem? Give the reference.

ANSWER: The prophet Micah in 5:2.

18. What was it the Wise Men saw that guided them to the Christ child?

ANSWER; A star

19. The birth of Jesus was made known to many people by the revelation of God. Mention **three** people and the events which show this to be true.

ANSWER:

1. Simeon - the revelation of the Spirit
2. Joseph - a dream
3. Mary - angelic announcement

20. Why do you think God revealed the event of Christ's coming to Simeon (Luke 2:26) and to Anna (Luke 2:36,37)?

ANSWER: Because they were devout and righteous.

21. What does the name "Emmanuel" mean?

ANSWER: God with us

22. In preparing the way for the coming of the Messiah God did **two** things, one through the Greeks and the other through the Romans. What were they?

ANSWER:

1. The Greeks provided a language for writing and preaching the Gospel
2. The Romans provided law and order - also communications.

ASSIGN POINTS FOR SCORING:

_____points for each correct answer
_____points for completion of reading assignment
_____points for each special question or special assignment you may have given.

PREVIEW NEXT LESSON:

GIVE HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENT: