

### Study 1. Birth and Boyhood

This study sheet belongs to:

READ: Matthew 1: 18-25



**KEY VERSE:** Luke 2: 52

**“Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and men.”**

### The Birth of Christ

Jesus was born about 2,000 years ago, in Bethlehem, in Israel. His miraculous birth is remembered each year, in many lands, at Christmas time.

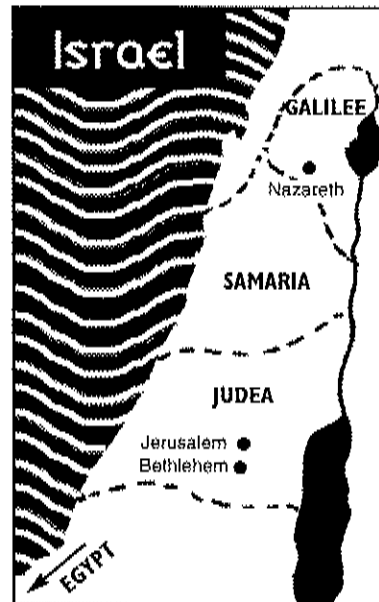
His mother, Mary, accompanied by her husband Joseph, had come to Bethlehem because of the decree of the Roman Emperor who had ordered everyone to go to his or her native city, to be enrolled, with a view to being taxed. The inn at Bethlehem was completely full, so the Saviour's birth took place in a humble setting, where a manger served as His cradle.

The abnormal circumstances surrounding His birth were all in fulfilment of words written by God's prophets, hundreds of years before. (*Isaiah 7: 14 and Micah 5: 2*) The Roman Emperor, we can be sure, had no idea that his decree would achieve the fulfilment of God's plan! God was in perfect control!

Christians believe in 'The Virgin Birth' of the Lord Jesus. This means that His conception was a miracle, in that He had no human father. The Bible clearly teaches that Joseph was not His father, in the natural sense. This is the meaning of **verses 24 & 25** in the Bible Reading; it is one of the most important Christian beliefs.

The Baby's first visitors were shepherds who had been told by angels of His birth.

Later, the Wise Men from the east, came with their gifts, and worshipped Him as King. When the Jews' king, Herod, heard news of the new King born in Bethlehem, he plotted to kill Him. Mary and Joseph took the Child, and fled to Egypt. There they remained



until Herod died. Returning to their own country, they settled in the north, in Nazareth. (*See Matthew 2: 1 & 13-23*) Here Joseph worked as a carpenter, and Jesus grew up.

(The *Key Verse* is a summary of His childhood years.)

### The Boyhood of Christ

We know very little about the boyhood of Jesus. One incident, when Jesus was twelve, is recorded in **Luke 2: 41-51**. It tells us about Mary, Joseph and Jesus going to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of the Passover. Every year, thousands of Jews went to the Temple for this very special Festival, which commemorates Israel's deliverance from slavery in Egypt. (*Exodus 12*)

On the return journey, at the end of a day's walking, Mary and Joseph found that Jesus was missing. None of their friends or relatives knew anything about Him. In great anxiety, Mary and Joseph went back to Jerusalem, and it was three days before they found Him. He was in the Temple discussing questions with the religious leaders, who were amazed at His understanding.

When His parents told Him how worried they had been, He gave them a remarkable reply. **“Did you not know,”** He said, **“that I must be about My Father's business?”** (*Luke 2: 49*)

Mary and Joseph were puzzled! They did not fully understand that He was the Son of God, and that He had a unique relationship with God as His Father. He was willing, nevertheless, to go back with them to Nazareth, and be obedient to them.

**Study 1. Birth and Boyhood**

**1** USE THE INFORMATION IN THE BIBLE READING TO COMPLETE THIS SENTENCE:-

The name 'Jesus', which means 'Saviour', is very suitable because He came

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2

**2** COPY THE TWO VERSES FROM *Matthew 1*, WHICH TELL US THAT OUR LORD'S 'VIRGIN BIRTH' HAD BEEN PREDICTED BY AN OLD TESTAMENT PROPHET.

i) .....

ii) .....

.....

4

**3** A) WHY DID MARY AND JOSEPH TRAVEL TO BETHLEHEM?

.....

B) WHY DID MARY AND JOSEPH TRAVEL TO EGYPT?

.....

4

**4** A) NAME FOUR PLACES MARKED ON THE MAP AND GIVE A BIBLE REFERENCE FOR EACH.

i) ..... ii) .....

iii) ..... iv) .....

4

B) PUT THE CORRECT PLACE-NAME AFTER EACH OF THESE:-

i) Here Jesus grew up. ....

ii) Here Jesus was born. ....

iii) Here Jesus found refuge. ....

iv) Here Jesus went on a visit when He was 12 years old. ....

4

**5** WRITE A SENTENCE ABOUT ONE WAY IN WHICH JESUS WAS DIFFERENT FROM US.

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**6** FROM *LUKE 2: 51* WE CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT JESUS, AS A TEENAGER, WAS SUBJECT TO HIS PARENTS. WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS FOR A YOUNG CHRISTIAN TODAY?

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25

### Study 4. Tragedy and Triumph

READ: Luke 24: 13-27 & 50-53



**KEY VERSE:** Isaiah 53: 5

**“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.”**

Within a few days of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on the donkey, events reached a climax. He and His disciples met together in a large room to eat the Passover meal. While they were doing so, our Lord introduced what is known as **“The Lord’s Supper”** in which bread and wine are used. They represent His body and His blood respectively. He asked His disciples to keep Him alive in their memories by partaking of this special supper regularly. (*1 Corinthians 11: 23-26*)

Later that evening, they went to the Garden of Gethsemane. Here, surrounded by olive trees, Jesus prayed earnestly, but His disciples fell asleep! Before long, the peace was broken by shouts, as a mob, led by Judas, one of His disciples, came to arrest Him. As the disciples fled, Jesus was tied up, and taken away to stand trial.

There were two main parts to His trial. First, He was tried by His own people, the Jews. Their Council, sometimes called the Sanhedrin, was made up of about 70 members, mostly priests, scribes and elders. When questioned, Jesus claimed to be the Son of God. (*Luke 22: 70*) In their view, this claim was totally false, and because He made such a claim, He deserved to die.

As the Jews at this time were living under Roman authority, they were not allowed to carry out a death sentence. There must be a second trial - the ‘Roman Trial’, as it is often called. So Jesus was hustled off to Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, in order to get his agreement to the death penalty.

Pilate questioned Jesus and concluded that He did not deserve to die. He tried to reason with the Jewish leaders, but they became very angry and stirred up the whole crowd to shout for Jesus’ death. Before long, Pilate, afraid of what might happen, gave in to their pressure, and handed Jesus over to be crucified.

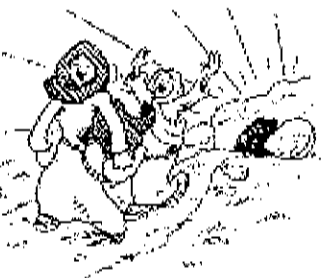
After being very badly treated, He was taken outside



the city to Calvary, where Roman soldiers nailed Him to a cross. A thief was crucified on either side of Him. (*Luke 23: 32-43*) After six hours of intense suffering, Jesus cried, **“It is finished”**, bowed His head, and dismissed His spirit.

That evening two men carefully removed His body from the cross, and placed it in a newly prepared cave, cut out of the rock. They placed a large stone across the entrance, which was then sealed and guarded by the authorities.

The next day was a ‘sabbath’ or ‘rest day’. Following that - on **“the first day of the week”** - some women, who came to anoint Jesus’ body with spices, were greatly surprised to find the cave open and the body gone! Angels appeared to them, telling them that He had risen from the dead, just as He had predicted! (*Luke 24: 1-8*)



Later that day, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene (*Mark 16: 9*), and then to His disciples, showing them His hands and His side, to prove to them that He really was Jesus. Imagine their amazement and joy! (*John 20: 19 & 20*)

For forty days they continued to see Him, from time to time. On the last occasion He led them to Bethany. As they stood on the Mount of Olives, He told them to go into all the world and preach the gospel. Lifting up His hands and blessing them, He ascended into Heaven.

These events - His death, burial, resurrection and ascension - are the very foundation of God’s saving plan for us. How thankful we should be that He endured it all that we might have eternal life by faith in Him!

**1** USE 1 CORINTHIANS 11: 23-26 TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE LORD'S SUPPER:-

a. When did the Lord "take bread"?

b. What did He say when He had given thanks and broken the bread?

c. What did He say the cup represented?

3

**2** READ MATTHEW 26: 48 & 49, AND WRITE A SENTENCE TO TELL HOW JUDAS BETRAYED THE LORD JESUS.

3

**3** FIND IN JOHN 19: 38-42, THE NAMES OF THE TWO MEN WHO BURIED JESUS.

2

**4** WRITE EITHER TRUE OR FALSE AFTER THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES:-

1. Jesus said the bread would represent His blood. ....

2. When Jesus was arrested, His disciples ran off. ....

3. The Jews were living under the rule of the Greeks. ....

4. The Lord Jesus suffered on the cross for six hours. ....

5. The first person to see Him after His resurrection was Mary Magdalene. ....

5

**5** EXPLAIN, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, WHAT THE KEY VERSE MEANS.

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**6** WRITE THE NAME OF THE PLACE ASSOCIATED WITH EACH OF THESE EVENTS:-

1. Our Lord's Ascension. ....

2. The Saviour's death. ....

3. The arrest of Jesus. ....

4. The introduction of the Lord's Supper. ....

4

**7** WHY ARE CHRIST'S DEATH, RESURRECTION AND ASCENSION SO IMPORTANT TO US TODAY?

4

100

Total marks for this Unit

Return your study sheets to:  
PBS Centre or to:

25

Total marks for this study

### Study 2. Jesus in Galilee

This study sheet belongs to:

READ: Mark 1: 4-28



**KEY VERSE:** Acts 10: 38

**“God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”**

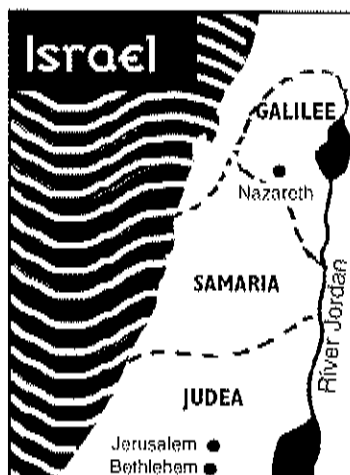
At the age of about 30, Jesus began His public ministry. This means that He began to go from place to place teaching, preaching and healing. Mostly He remained in the northern region, Galilee, where He had grown up. Occasionally, however, He went south to Judea. (Find these on the map.)

Two important events happened before His public life began. First, He was baptized in the River Jordan. For some time, John the Baptist had been preaching that the Christ was soon to come; he called on people to repent of their sins and be baptized in order to show their willingness to receive the ‘Coming One’. At first John did not want to baptize Jesus, for he knew that Jesus had no sins to confess, and that Jesus was greater than he was. Jesus, however, insisted and John did baptize Him. In this way, our Lord was identifying Himself with those whom He had come to save from their sins.

Then He was tempted by the devil. For 40 days Satan attempted to turn Jesus aside from the work which His Father had given Him to do. (You will find more details about Christ’s temptations in **Matthew 4: 1-11** and **Luke 4: 1-13**.) Our Lord defeated him on three occasions by skillfully using the Word of God. Because Jesus is the Son of God, He did not yield to the devil’s suggestions. It was impossible for the Lord Jesus to sin against God. (**Hebrews 4: 15**)

At the outset of His public life, Jesus chose twelve disciples to be with Him and to help Him in His work. You will find their names in **Mark 3: 14-19**.

One of the first places where Jesus preached was Nazareth, His home town. In the synagogue, He read from the book of Isaiah, and claimed that He was the Person about whom Isaiah had prophesied. At first the



people were very impressed with what He was saying, but then they rejected His claim and turned against Him. They even tried to kill Him.

The Lord Jesus also visited many other towns in Galilee.

Everywhere He went, crowds came to hear Him; He quickly became famous, and people marvelled at the power and authority with which He spoke. (**Mark 1: 28, 38 & 39**)

His teaching appealed to ordinary people because they could understand. He often used parables to make His meaning clear. A parable is ‘an earthly story with a heavenly meaning’, and by illustrating His teaching from events in the everyday life of the people, the Lord made it easy for them to grasp His meaning. See, for example, the parable of ‘The Sower’. (**Mark 4: 2-8**) People began to realize that whenever He spoke it was the Word of God.

He also performed wonderful deeds which only God’s power could do. We refer to these as ‘miracles’. Some were in the healing of the sick, or demon possessed; others were in the realm of nature, such as the calming of the storm. (**Mark 4: 39**) His miracles were proofs that He was indeed the Son of God.

On one occasion, He gave His disciples another kind of proof. On a mountain, His whole appearance was changed into another form, and a voice was heard saying, **“This is My beloved Son”**. We call this event ‘The Transfiguration’. God was allowing the disciples to see how very special their Master was.

Although He lived a very humble life, He truly was the Lord from Heaven - the Son of God, in human form.

**Study 2. Jesus in Galilee**

**1** WHY DID CROWDS OF PEOPLE COME TO JOHN TO BE BAPTIZED?

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2

**2** WHY DID JESUS WANT TO BE BAPTIZED BY JOHN?

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3

**3** READ *MATTHEW 4: 1-11* FOR A FULL ACCOUNT OF OUR LORD'S TEMPTATION. WRITE ABOUT ANY TWO OF THE SUGGESTIONS WHICH THE DEVIL PUT TO JESUS.

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4

**4** ANSWER TRUE OR FALSE TO EACH OF THESE:-

- 1. Jesus never preached in Nazareth. ....
- 2. John did not want to baptize Jesus. ....
- 3. Jesus never yielded to Satan's temptations. ....
- 4. Very few people ever listened to Jesus preaching. ....
- 5. Parables are earthly stories with heavenly meanings. ....

5

**5** FIND, IN *MARK 9: 2-8*, THE NAMES OF THE THREE DISCIPLES WHO SAW JESUS BEING TRANSFIGURED ON THE MOUNTAIN.

1 ..... 2 ..... 3 .....

3

**6** SUGGEST TWO REASONS FOR JESUS BEING VERY WELL LIKED BY MANY PEOPLE IN GALILEE AND SUPPORT YOUR ANSWERS BY GIVING VERSE REFERENCES FROM THE BIBLE READING.

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**7** READ THE STORY OF JESUS CALMING THE STORM (*MARK 4: 35-41*) AND EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT IT SHOWS ABOUT THE GREATNESS OF THE LORD JESUS.

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25

Total marks for this study

#### Study 3. Jesus in Judea

This study sheet belongs to:

READ: John 5: 1-16 and Mark 11: 1-11 & 15-19



**KEY VERSE:** Mark 11: 11

**“And Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the Temple. So when He had looked around at all things, as the hour was already late, He went out to Bethany.”**

Every year, the Jews had quite a number of religious festivals, or feasts. On these occasions, a holiday atmosphere prevailed, and many Jews would go on pilgrimage to Jerusalem in order to attend the Temple services.

The Bible Readings tell us about two times when Jesus came to the capital. On both occasions, what He said and did brought Him into conflict with the religious leaders.

In **John 5** the paralyzed man was healed in an instant by the Lord Jesus! But because it was the Sabbath day, the Jewish rulers were upset, to such an extent that they plotted to kill Him.

In **Mark 11** He drove the traders out of the Temple. These men sold animals and birds to people who wished to offer sacrifices; they charged very unfair prices. When Jesus ‘cleansed the Temple’, (as His action is usually called) the priests and scribes opposed Him strongly.

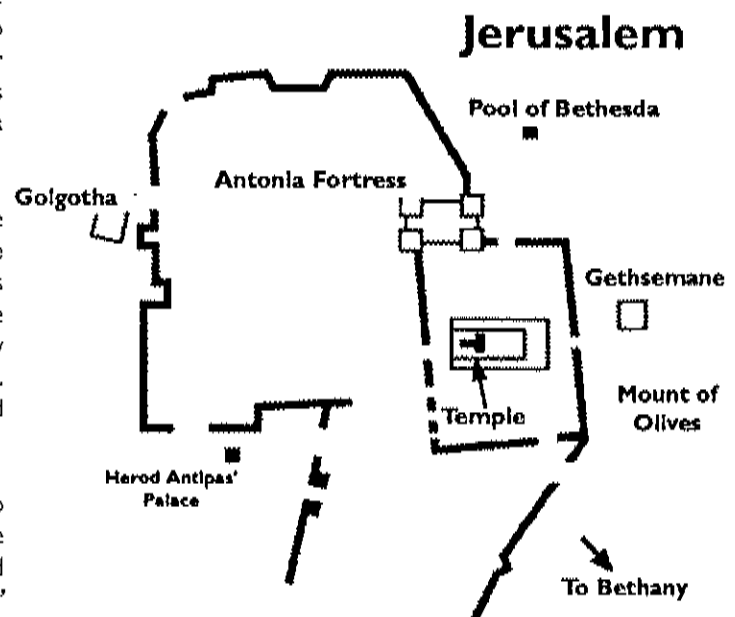
Opposition from the religious leaders was more fierce in Jerusalem than in Galilee. Sometimes it came from the very strict Jews, called Pharisees; sometimes from the more liberal-minded Sadducees. The Temple priests and the teachers of the Law (‘scribes’, as they were called) often played a big part in opposing Him. Most of the leaders of the Jewish religion rejected Jesus’ claim to be the Son of God.

Even in Jerusalem, however, there were those who made Him welcome, as we can see in **Mark 11**. The crowds surrounded Him as He rode into the city, and clearly they were delighted to see Him. “*Hosanna!*” they shouted. “*Blessed is He that comes in the*

*name of the Lord!*” (‘Hosanna’ means ‘Save, we pray!’) Even little children joined in the warm welcome. (**Matthew 21: 15**)

His evenings, during those last days, were spent at Bethany, a village just two miles from Jerusalem. Here lived two sisters and their brother - Martha, Mary and Lazarus. They were very special friends of Jesus, and always counted it a joy to have Him in their home. (**John 12: 1 & 2**) They were convinced that He was, in truth, “*the Christ, the Son of God*”. (**John 11: 27**) In raising Lazarus from the dead, He had proved both His love and His power. Even this great miracle angered the Jews to the extent that they plotted to murder Lazarus also. (**John 12: 10**)

It is clear, then, that in Judea some people loved the Lord Jesus, while others hated Him. Some made Him welcome, while others rejected Him! Today, it is still the same! It is a good question for each of us to ask, “What is MY attitude to the Lord Jesus?” Our eternal destiny depends on that!



**Study 3. Jesus in Judea**

**1** LOOK UP JOHN 7: 2 AND JOHN 13: 1, AND WRITE OUT THE NAMES OF TWO JEWISH FESTIVALS.

1 ..... 2 .....

2

**2** WRITE A SENTENCE TO EXPLAIN WHY JESUS' HEALING OF THE MAN AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA ANGERED THE JEWISH LEADERS.

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.....

3

**3** IN WHAT WAY DID JESUS 'CLEANSE THE TEMPLE'?

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.....

3

**4** WHAT ANSWER WERE THE TWO DISCIPLES TO GIVE TO ANYONE WHO MIGHT ASK THEM WHY THEY WERE UNTYING THE COLT?

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.....

3

**5** UNSCRAMBLE FOUR WORDS IN THIS SENTENCE:-

YARM (.....) AND MTARHA (.....) AND  
SAZLRUA (.....) LIVED IN AHTEYBN (.....).

4

**6** DESCRIBE, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, THE TWO DIFFERENT REACTIONS TO THE LORD JESUS WHEN HE CAME TO JERUSALEM.

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.....  
.....

6

**7** WHAT TWO CLASSES OF PEOPLE ARE MENTIONED IN JOHN 3: 36?

1 .....  
2 .....

4

25