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Disciplemaking 1 Abiding in His Word

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And ... He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Philippians 2:5-11

The life of Jesus did not begin at His birth in Bethlehem. He existed in eternity past. He had no beginning. There was no time when He did not exist. He was the Creator in Genesis 1 and 2. In Old Testament history, He appeared as the Angel of the Lord. He delivered and defended Israel. He was born in Bethlehem ... lived in Egypt for a short time as a young child ... and then moved to Nazareth in Galilee. He lived there with His family, making annual trips with them to Jerusalem for the Passover.

At about age 30 Jesus began His ministry ... in four geographic segments. John the Baptist baptized Him in the Jordan River. Then the Spirit led Him into the desert to be tempted by Satan for 40 days. In the first months, Jesus ministered in *Judea and Galilee*. There He met His first disciples . . . performed His first miracle . . . and cleansed the temple for the first time. Jesus' popularity increased during His *Galilean* ministry . . . but opposition and hostility also increased. He taught, performed miracles, and healed. He chose and began to minister with His disciples. His ministry expanded into the regions *north and east of Galilee* . . . where He was transfigured on Mt. Hermon. In the last months Jesus' ministry centered in *Judea and Perea*.

The Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem marked the beginning of the week of the cross and declared that He was King of the Jews. Monday and Tuesday were public days. He cleansed the temple, cursed the barren fig tree, denounced the Scribes and Pharisees, and prophesied about His return. Later that week He spent a day alone with His disciples. He washed their feet before the Last Supper, taught them, and prayed for them. Jesus went to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane. He was arrested there. After three Jewish and three Roman trials, He was condemned to be crucified. They nailed Him to a cross. He died and was buried in a borrowed tomb. He rose from the dead on the third day. For forty days after His resurrection, Jesus appeared ten or more times . . . to the women, to His disciples, and to His followers. He ascended into heaven where He ministers for us now as we wait for His return.

FULFILLED PROPHECIES. Jesus said, "All things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Luke 24:44. Compare the following predictions and fulfillments. In addition, compare Psalm 22 and Matthew 27.

22 of 300+ Prophecies	Old Testament	New Testament
1. Born of a Virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18-25
2. Seed of Abraham	Genesis 22:18	Matthew 1:1
3. Son of Isaac	Genesis 21:12	Luke 3:34
4. Son of Jacob	Numbers 24:17	Luke 3:34
5. Tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Luke 3:33
6. Line of Jesse	Isaiah 11:1	Luke 3:32
7. House of David	Jeremiah 23:5	Luke 3:31
8. Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1
9. Called Immanuel	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23
10. Preceded by Messenger	Isaiah 40:3	Matthew 3:1-2
11. Perform Miracles	Isaiah 35:5-6	Matthew 9:35
12. Teach in Parables	Psalms 78:2	Matthew 13:34
13. Triumphal Entry	Zechariah 9:9	Luke 19:35-37
14. Betrayed by Friend	Psalms 41:9	Matthew 10:4
15. 30 Pieces of Silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:15
16. Forsaken by Disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Mark 14:50
17. Silent before Accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12
18. Crucified	Psalms 22:16	Luke 23:33
19. With Thieves	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38
20. Garments	Psalms 22:18	John 19:23-24
21. No Bones Broken	Psalms 34:20	John 19:33
22. In Rich Man's Tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60

FOUR GOSPELS . . . FOUR HISTORICAL RECORDS

The four Gospels give us four accounts of the life of Jesus Christ. Each author, moved by the Spirit of God, gave a partial record of the life of Jesus . . . giving us different insights based on the authors' different backgrounds, personalities, original audience, and emphasis.

The synoptic Gospels (the similar accounts of Matthew, Mark, and Luke) cover many of the same events. John wrote more information that is only in his account ... 90% unique. John stressed Christ's deity more than the others ... and mentioned believing in Jesus a total of 98 times.

The four Gospels account for almost half of the New Testament. Within the Gospels themselves, one-third of the text is devoted to the seven weeks from the Triumphal Entry through the Ascension.

These four men . . . the former tax collector Matthew, the young man Mark, the Gentile physician Luke, and the fisherman John . . . gave us God's record of the life and death of Jesus.

	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
Author	Taxman and Disciple	Young man	Gentile physician	Fisherman and Disciple
Date	60's AD	50's AD	60 AD	85-90 AD
Readers	Jews	Romans	Greeks	All
Emphasis	Predicted Messiah	Action and miracles	Historical record	Believe (98 times)
Jesus as:	King of Jews	Servant of God	Son of Man	Son of God
Miracles	20	17	20	8
Parables	19	6	24	0
Chapters	28	16	24	21
Verses	1,071	678	1,151	879
Uniqueness	40%	60%	5%	90%

FROM ETERNITY PAST TO BETHLEHEM

Jesus always existed. He existed from eternity past.

Micah 5:2
Isaiah 9:6

He existed before all created things.

John 1:1,2
Colossians 1:17
John 8:56-58
John 17:5

He was the Creator in Genesis 1 and 2.

John 1:3
Colossians 1:16

Pre-incarnate Jesus appeared as *the* Angel of the Lord.

To Hagar - Genesis 16:7-13, 21:17-20
To Moses - Exodus 3
To Gideon - Judges 6:11-14
To Samson's Parents - Judges 13:1-22

There were other Old Testament appearances.

To Abraham - Genesis 18:1, 22:11-18
To Jacob - Genesis 31:11-13, 32:24-32
No One Has Seen the Father - John 1:18, 6:46, 14:9

Jesus was the warrior, defender, and deliverer of Israel.

Joshua 5:13 - 6:3
2 Kings 19:35
1 Chronicles 21:14-27
Psalm 34:7

The Trinity is clearly presented in the Old Testament.

Isaiah 48:12-17 (written about 700BC)

Jesus came down from Heaven to earth.

John 3:13,31
John 6:33,38,41,50,51,58,62

He became the image of the invisible God

Colossians 1:15
John 14:9

He became flesh in Bethlehem and lived among us.

Micah 5:2
John 1:14

THE BIRTH AND CHILDHOOD OF JESUS

His Birth

Jesus was born in the small town of Bethlehem about five miles (8 km) south of Jerusalem between 6 BC and 4 BC. Note: the Gregorian calendar (with BC indicating *before Christ*, i.e. before the birth of Christ, and AD indicating *anno Domini*, i.e. in the year of our Lord) was begun with an inaccurate date for Christ's birth.

His Parents

Mary's genealogy is traced in Luke 3:23-38 to Nathan and his father King David ... then back to Judah, Shem, Noah, Seth, Adam, and God. Mary conceived of the Holy Spirit (not of Joseph) and remained a virgin until after the birth of Jesus.

Joseph, the carpenter, although not the physical father of Jesus, was his legal earthly father. Joseph's genealogy is traced in Matthew 1:1-17 to Solomon and Solomon's father King David, to Judah, and to Abraham.

Born in Bethlehem

Joseph and Mary traveled south about 70 miles (110 km) to Bethlehem from Nazareth in Galilee ... to be counted in a census. While there, Jesus was born. His first bed was a feeding trough (manger). His birth was announced by angels to the shepherds. At His dedication at the temple in Jerusalem (at least 40 days after His birth), Simeon and Anna recognized the infant as God's Messiah.

The Magi and Herod

After Jesus was born, an undisclosed number of magi from the East followed a star to Jerusalem to find the one born King of the Jews. They found Him and Mary in a house in Bethlehem and worshipped Him. Herod attempted to destroy Jesus by killing all male children up to two years old in and around Bethlehem.

To Egypt

An angel had warned Joseph to take his family and flee to Egypt, and they stayed there until an angel told them it was safe to return.

In Galilee

The family returned to live in Nazareth. Jesus grew up there making annual trips at the Passover to Jerusalem (about 65 miles or 100 km south). At 12 years of age, Jesus astonished the temple teachers with His understanding and answers. At that time Jesus referred to the temple as "*My Father's house*." Jesus lived with His brothers (James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas) and his sisters in Nazareth, Matthew 13:55-56.

Public Ministry

At about 30 years of age Jesus began His public ministry . . . announced by His relative, John the Baptist.

HIS PUBLIC MINISTRY

1. In Galilee and Judea - the beginnings. John the Baptist baptized Jesus in the Jordan River near Bethany. Then the Spirit of God led Jesus into the desert of Judea to be tempted by Satan for 40 days. Jesus met His first disciples ... Andrew, Simon, Philip, and Nathanael. He performed His first miracle at a wedding in Cana ... turning water into wine. Jesus cleansed the Temple for the first time ... driving the merchants out of His Father's house. He proclaimed, *"Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."* John 2:19. A ruler of the Jews, the Pharisee Nicodemus, came to Jesus at night in Jerusalem. Jesus told him, *"You must be born again."* John 3:7. On His way back to Galilee, Jesus traveled through Samaria where He met the woman at Jacob's well near Sychar. She believed and brought many to Him.

2. In Galilee - popularity and hostility rose. Jesus traveled to Galilee where He was rejected in His hometown of Nazareth. He moved on to Capernaum. After a miraculous catch of fish on the Sea of Galilee, He called the fishermen (Andrew, Simon, James, and John) to be fishers of men. He also called Levi, the tax collector, to follow Him. Jesus returned to Jerusalem where He healed on the Sabbath ... offending the Jewish leaders. After a night of prayer, Jesus selected the 12 disciples. He amazed the multitudes with the authority of His teaching in the Sermon on the Mount. He continued teaching in parables and healing. He sent out the 12 disciples by two's to minister to the lost sheep of Israel . . . to preach and to heal. Jesus miraculously fed the 5,000. Then He taught that He was the bread of life ... driving many followers away.

3. To the north and east of Galilee. Jesus traveled north toward Tyre and Sidon in Phoenicia where He continued to teach and to heal. He traveled east through Decapolis and Bashan. Jesus took Peter, James, and John up on Mt. Hermon (the probable location) where He shone like light at the Transfiguration. Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Him. In addition, God declared, *"This Is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; hear Him!"* Matthew 17:5.

4. In Judea and Perea - the final months. His teaching, healing, and miracles continued. He claimed to be the Light of the world and equal to God ... therefore the Jews tried to stone Him. After explaining the cost of discipleship, Jesus sent out 70 followers in pairs to minister. Jesus delayed His visit to Bethany so that He could raise Lazarus from the dead. The chief priests and the Pharisees became determined to kill Him. Jesus traveled to Jerusalem by way of Samaria and Galilee. He continued to teach and to heal. He told His disciples of His death and resurrection. Finally, He went to the home of Lazarus in Bethany to begin His last week before His crucifixion and resurrection.



THE WEEK OF THE CROSS

Sunday - the Triumphal Entry

Jesus traveled from the home of Lazarus in Bethany to Jerusalem. On the way, Jesus stopped at the Mount of Olives on the east side of Jerusalem. He sent His disciples to bring a donkey and a colt to Him. Jesus rode the colt into Jerusalem, thereby proclaiming to be the King of Israel, Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19, John 12 ... fulfilling the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9. The people spread their garments and branches on the road before Him and worshipped God. In Jerusalem Jesus saw the condition of the temple ... again filled with merchants. He returned to Bethany.

Monday - another Temple cleansing

On the way back into Jerusalem Jesus cursed a barren fig tree, which withered by the following day, Matthew 21, Mark 11. He proceeded to cleanse the temple by driving out the buyers, sellers, and moneychangers, Matthew 21, Mark 11, Luke 19. This cleansing of the Temple was near the end of His public ministry. His first cleansing of the Temple was near the beginning of His public ministry, John 2:13-22.

Tuesday - a public day

The Jewish leaders questioned Jesus about His authority and tried to discredit Him with trick questions on taxes, marriage, and the commandments. He taught the parable of the wicked husbandmen who killed the son of the owner of the vineyard. Jesus strongly denounced the Scribes and the Pharisees. He prophesied about the destruction of Jerusalem and about His return, Matthew 24-25, Mark 13, Luke 21. It was also on this day that Judas made his deal to betray Jesus.

The day before the cross - a private day

Jesus spent this day with His disciples ... away from the crowds. They gathered in an upper room for the Passover meal. He washed the disciples' feet. During the meal, Judas left to betray Jesus. In the Upper Room Discourse (John 13-16), He taught the disciples about His leaving and about the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jesus and His Disciples walked to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus prayed until His sweat was like blood. His disciples, understanding that He would die soon, slept because of grief.

THE WEEK OF THE CROSS (continued)

The night before the cross - His six trials. After midnight, Judas brought the Jewish leaders and soldiers to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. They came with swords and clubs to arrest the Prince of Peace. They bound Jesus and took Him to the Jewish leaders for trial. His trial before Annas (Trial 1) was illegal ... being without witnesses. An officer struck Him. He was taken to the high priest Caiaphas for another trial (Trial 2) ... this one with false witnesses. They asked, "*Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?*" ... and He answered, "*I am.*" Mark 14:61-62. The High Priest tore his robe as a sign condemning blasphemy. The priests condemned Him to be deserving of death. Guards spit in His face, beat Him with fists, and slapped Him. Peter denied Jesus three times ... then he went out and wept bitterly. They brought Him to the Sanhedrin when they convened at sunup (Trial 3). They asked, "*Are you the Son of God?*" ... and He answered, "*Yes, I am.*" Luke 22:70. They convicted Him and transferred Him to the Romans for execution. He was tried before Pilate (Trial 4) ... taken to Herod (Trial 5) ... and then brought back to Pilate (Trial 6). The crowd rejected His release. Pilate sentenced Him to death. Jesus was beaten, mocked, spit on, severely whipped, and crowned with thorns. Jesus was too weak to carry His cross to Golgotha to be crucified. Simon of Cyrene helped carry it for Him. Golgotha, the place of the skull, was not a scenic mountain location ... it was the execution site along the road to the dump.

The day of the cross - His supreme sacrifice. Near 9 AM, they nailed Jesus to the cross between two thieves. Above His head a sign proclaimed, "*King of the Jews*". Jesus prayed, "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.*" Many mocked Him ... including the Jewish leaders, passers-by, soldiers, and even one of the two thieves. The other thief believed. Jesus said to him, "*Today you shall be with Me in Paradise.*" Guards divided His clothing and cast lots for His tunic. At noon, the sky became dark. At about 3PM Jesus said, "*My God, My God why hast Thou forsaken Me?*" ... "*Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit*" ... "*It is finished.*" He bowed His head and died. An earthquake rumbled through Jerusalem. The veil of the Temple was torn in two. The Centurion guard at the foot of the cross began praising God ... and proclaimed, "*This man was innocent ... this man was the Son of God.*" After Jesus died, a guard speared His side to be sure that He was dead. He was dead. There was no reason to break His legs. The perfect, sinless God-man had paid for the sins of the world. Jesus was taken down from the cross to be buried in a borrowed tomb. The tomb was sealed and guarded by Roman soldiers ... because He had prophesied that He would rise from the dead in three days. The story of the crucifixion and the quotations in this paragraph are from Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19.

FROM HIS RESURRECTION TO HIS RETURN

The Resurrection

A severe earthquake occurred in Jerusalem and an angel rolled the stone away from the tomb of Jesus, Matthew 28:2. Jesus had conquered death. He was resurrected ... spiritually and physically made alive again, Matthew 28:9, Luke 24:39, and Luke 24:41-43.

The discovery

The women (Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, Salome, Joanna, and others) came to the tomb with spices to anoint His body. They found the tomb open and empty. Two angels appeared to them and told them, "*He is not here, but He has risen.*" Luke 24:5. Mary Magdalene and the others returned to tell Peter and John . . . who came to the tomb.

The appearances - forty days of proof

(Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, John 20-21, Acts 1, 1 Corinthians 15)

1. To Mary Magdalene ... at the tomb.
2. To Mary (mother of James), Salome, and Joanna ... at the tomb.
3. To Peter ... at the tomb.
4. To 2 Men on the road to Emmaus ... outside of Jerusalem.
5. To 10 Apostles in Upper Room on Resurrection evening.
6. To 11 Apostles 8 days later ... probably in Galilee.
7. To 7 Apostles ... by the Sea of Galilee.
8. To 500 for the Great Commission ... at a mountain in Galilee.
9. To His half-brother James ... at an undisclosed location.
10. To the 11 Apostles ... in Jerusalem.
11. At the Ascension from the Mount of Olives ... east of Jerusalem.

FROM HIS RESURRECTION TO HIS RETURN (continued)

His Two Final Instructions.

1. Go make disciples. On a mountain in Galilee, several days before the Ascension, Jesus gave the Great Commission, "*Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations.*" Matthew 28:18-20. They and we were commanded to teach others to be followers of Jesus ... to make disciples. Nonbelievers need to become believers. New believers should be baptized. We should teach them to obey all that Jesus has commanded ... including the Great Commission.

2. Be My witnesses. Several days later, Jesus appeared on the Mount of Olives where He told His disciples, "*You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.*" Acts 1:8. After that statement, He was lifted up into the sky. A cloud received Him out of their sight. He ascended to the Father.

His present ministry includes ...

1. Jesus is the head of the Body, Ephesians 1:22-23, 4:14-16.
2. He is our High Priest, Hebrews 8:1-2.
3. He is our advocate praying for us, Hebrews 7:25, 9:24-25.
4. He is preparing a place for us, John 14:1-3.
5. He is with us, Matthew 18:20.

His promised return. The New Testament mentions Christ's return over 300 times in its 260 chapters . . . averaging about once every 25 verses. "*And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*" John 14:3. "*This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.*" Acts 1:11. Other references include: Matthew 24, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, 1 Corinthians 15:51-58, and Revelation.

THE PARABLES OF JESUS

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
1. House on rock or sand	7:24-27		6:47-49	
2. Bridegroom, cloth, wine	9:14-17	2:18-22	5:33-39	
3. Children in marketplace	11:16-19		7:31-35	
4. Seed and four soils	13:3-8	4:3-8	8:5-8	
5. Seed to the Harvest		4:26-29		
6. Wheat and Tares	13:24-30			
7. The mustard seed	13:33-32	4:30-32	13:18-19	
8. The leaven	13:33		13:20-21	
9. The hidden treasure	13:44			
10. The pearl of great price	13:45-46			
11. The fishnet	13:47-50			
12. Two debtors			7:41-43	
13. The unmerciful slave	18:23-35			
14. The good Samaritan			10:30-37	
15. The persistent friend			11:5-8	
16. The rich fool			12:16-21	
17. The barren fig tree			13:6-9	
18. The lowest seat			14:7-11	
19. Rejected invitations			14:16-24	
20. The tower and the battle			14:25-35	
21. The lost sheep	18:12-14		15:3-7	
22. The lost coin			15:8-10	
23. The prodigal sons			15:11-32	
24. The shrewd steward			16:1-9	
25. The unworthy slaves			17:7-10	
26. The persistent widow			18:1-8	
27. Two men praying			18:9-14	
28. Vineyard rewards	20:1-20			
29. The ten slaves			19:11-27	
30. Two sons in vineyard	21:28-32			
31. Wicked husbandmen	21:33-44	12:1-12	20:9-18	
32. The wedding feast	22:1-14			
33. Two servants	24:45-51		12:42-48	
34. The watchful doorkeeper		13:34-37		
35. Ten virgins with lamps	25:3-13			
36. The three slaves	25:14-30			

Parables are word pictures illustrating spiritual truth in terms of everyday life. The Old Testament predicted that Jesus would teach in parables, Psalm 78:2. Jesus taught in parables to give understanding to believers ... and to keep understanding from non-believers, Matthew 13:10-17, Mark 4:10-12. Parables illustrate truth ... but do not generate truth. They usually illustrate one truth ... not many. Keep interpretation simple and focused on the primary intent and context of the teaching.

THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

	Location	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
1. Water into wine	Cana				2:1-11
2. The official's son	Cana				4:46-54
3. Synagogue demon	Capernaum		1:21-28	4:33-37	
4. Peter's mother in law	Capernaum	8:14-15	1:29-31	4:38-39	
5. First catch of fish	Galilee			5:1-11	
6. Gennesaret leper	Galilee	8:1-4	1:40-45	5:12-15	
7. Capernaum cripple	Capernaum	9:1-8	2:1-12	5:17-26	
8. Pool healing	Jerusalem				5:1-16
9. Withered hand	Galilee	12:9-13	3:1-5	6:6-11	
10. Centurion servant	Capernaum	8:5-13		7:1-10	
11. Widow's son	Nain			7:11-17	
12. Blind demoniac	Galilee	12:22			
13. Calmed the sea	Galilee	8:23-27	4:35-41	8:22-25	
14. Demons into pigs	Gadara	8:28-34	5:1-20	8:26-39	
15. Jairus' daughter	Capernaum	9:18-26	5:22-43	8:41-56	
16. Woman's blood	Capernaum	9:20-22	5:25-34	8:43-48	
17. Two blind men	Capernaum	9:27-31			
18. Dumb demoniac	Capernaum	9:32-33			
19. Fed 5,000	Bashan	14:15-21	6:32-44	9:10-17	6:5-14
20. Walked on water	Galilee	14:22-33	6:45-52		6:15-21
21. Canaanite girl	Phoenicia	15:21-28	7:24-30		
22. Deaf mute healed	Decapolis		7:31-37		
23. Fed 4,000	Decapolis	15:32-38	8:1-9		
24. Blind Bethsaida	Bethsaida		8:22-26		
25. Possessed child	Mt. Hermon	17:14-21	9:14-29	9:37-42	
26. Fish mouth coin	Capernaum	17:24-27			
27. Man born blind	Jerusalem				9:1-8
28. Dumb demoniac	Judea (?)			11:14	
29. Woman bent	Perea			13:10-17	
30. Man with dropsy	Perea			14:1-6	
31. Lazarus raised	Bethany				11:1-45
32. Ten lepers	Samaria			17:11-19	
33. Blind Bartimaeus	Jericho	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
34. Cursed fig tree	Jerusalem	21:17-22	11:12-24		
35. Malchus' ear	Jerusalem			22:49-51	
36. Second fish catch	Galilee				21:1-14

Miracles are supernatural acts . . . ones that are naturally unexplainable. They demonstrate the person, power, and purpose of God. Jesus' miracles bore witness of who He was, John 10:25. His miracles caused people to believe in Him, John 14:11, 20:30-31. To understand miracles, it is necessary to look at several issues . . . who was there, what happened, why was it done, what prerequisites were there, what effects were there, and what of God was demonstrated.

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

