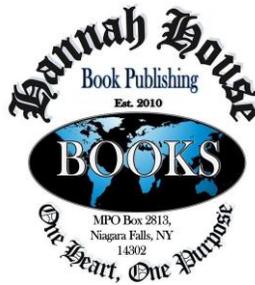


GETTING TO KNOW GOD

GETTING TO KNOW GOD

John 20:31

But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.



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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to those who want to have a deeper walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

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INTRODUCTION

This book will introduce you to the person Jesus was. This book will talk of His family, His disciples and His purpose. As you read stop at times and put yourself into His situation, maybe be one of His disciples back then and see how you would feel in the different situations that they had to encounter. If you are a woman put yourself in Mary's shoes.. If you are a man put yourself in Joseph's shoes being his father. Try to visualize how they handled different situations. At the Miracles done by Jesus think of yourself being there as you read the scriptures, maybe you will be the one getting healed or just standing by watching. This will help you to understand better that these were real people and real events. This Journey that you are on will become more alive to you. You will start to see Jesus in a different light. He will become your best friend, you will get to know His personality so much better. Our one desire is to be more like Jesus after we have accepted Him into our life. Studying each scripture will help

you to live like Jesus lived.

May you learn and be blessed by these words.

JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD

Here are some scriptures that refer to Jesus as the Son of God, He was born of a virgin and He had a Journey that would lead Him to the Cross. Please study the scriptures that I have set out for you, if you would like to read the chapter from beginning to end that will also help you.

Matthew 8:29 And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?

Matthew 26:63 But Jesus held his peace, And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.

Matthew 27:54 Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw

the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.

Mark 1:1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;

Mark 5:7 And cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not.

Luke 8:28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not.

John 9:35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

John 11:4 When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

John 13:31 Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man

glorified, and God is glorified in him.

John 20:31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

Acts 3:13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

Acts 3:26 Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

Acts 8:37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

1 Corinthians 1:9 God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Corinthians 1:19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was

not yea and nay, but in him was yea.

Hebrews 4:14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

1 John 4:15 Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

1 John 5:5 Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

1 John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

John 1:3 Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

John 8:42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither

came I of myself, but he sent me.

John 8:54 Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:

John 13:3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;

John 20:17 Jesus said to her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

Acts 3:13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

Romans 15:6 That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15.2 Corinthians 1:3 Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all

comfort;

16.2 Corinthians 11:31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.

Philippians 2:11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Colossians 1:3 We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

1 Peter 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead

John 1:3 Grace be with you, mercy, and peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

John 8:42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

Acts 3:13 The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go.

JESUS, His Mother Mary & His Step Father Joseph

Have you ever thought what it would like to be Mary or Joseph? What must have she felt when the angel told her of her being chosen to carry the Messiah? If you are a woman and engaged if that happened to you and you never had close relations with your fiancé, what would the questions going through your mind.. Maybe it would be something like this..

Why have I been chosen? What will Joseph think? How will I be able to carry on and be a good mother to God's son? I know I would have thought many things and at her age it must have been an exciting moment.

Being Joseph you may have wondered what you were going to do. You loved Mary and yet she was with child. Maybe you would have said or thought.

How can I protect Mary from others? Will I make a good step father? I know that many

prayers would be going up to God for wisdom and guidance.

Much of the Bible is about Jesus Christ and only a small portion of the New Testament discusses His parents - Joseph and Mary Yet the details about their lives help enhance our understanding of these two wonderful parents.

God directed the archangel Gabriel to deliver two messages to two married couples: Zacharias and Elizabeth and Mary and Joseph. Elizabeth and Mary were cousins.

To Zacharias Gabriel said: "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John ... [He will] make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:13, 17).

To Mary Gabriel relayed this message directly from God: "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women! ... Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord

God will give Him the throne of His father David" (verses 28, 31-32).

Much of the Bible is about Jesus Christ. Only a small portion of the New Testament discusses His parents—Joseph, His stepfather, and Mary, His mother. Yet the New Testament's details about their lives help enhance our understanding of these two honored parents.

Joseph - Stepfather

James Hastings' Dictionary of the Bible clarifies Joseph's lineage: "Every Jew kept a record of his lineage, and was proud if he could claim royal or priestly descent; Joseph was 'a son of David' (Matthew 1:20; Luke 2:4). His family belonged to Bethlehem, David's city, but he had moved to Nazareth

Some Bible readers wonder why the Gospels give two genealogies for Jesus. The simple

answer is that Matthew records Joseph's ancestors, and Luke records Mary's. Both could trace their ancestry back to David and from him back to Abraham, fulfilling the prophecies that the Messiah would be a descendant of Abraham (Genesis 12:3; Galatians 3:16) and David (2 Samuel 7:12-13)

“Joseph was clearly the son of Jacob (Matthew 1:16, so this verse [Luke 3:23 - says “son of Heli”] should be understood to mean “son-in-law of Heli.” Thus, the genealogy of Christ in Luke is actually the genealogy of Mary, while Matthew gives that of Joseph. Actually, the word “son” is not in the original, so it would be legitimate to supply either “son” or “son-in-law” in this context. Since Matthew and Luke clearly record much common material, it is certain that neither one could unknowingly incorporate such a flagrant apparent mistake as the wrong genealogy in his record. As it is, however, the two genealogies show that both parents were descendants of David—Joseph through Solomon (Matthew 1:7-15), thus

inheriting the legal right to the throne of David, and Mary through Nathan (Luke 3:23-31), her line thus carrying the seed of David, since Solomon's line had been refused the throne because of Jechoniah's sin"

Joseph was a carpenter. The Greek word is tekton, which was used of a versatile and skilled builder or craftsman who worked with various materials including wood and stone. Jesus, having learned the trade from Joseph, later used analogies based on His experiences at Joseph's side to explain man's relationship to God and His coming kingdom.

Some months after Joseph's betrothal to Mary, he discovered she was pregnant. Joseph assumed Mary had been unfaithful to him, but Joseph's actions tell us much about his character .

"... When Jesus' mother Mary was going to be married to Joseph, before they came together the discovery was made that she

was with child by the Holy Spirit. And Joseph, her husband, being an upright man, and not desiring to make her a public example, had a mind to put her away [break their engagement] privately" Matthew 1:18-19

As an honorable and humble man, as well as faithful in his observance of the Israel's ordinances and feasts (Luke 2:21-24, 41), Joseph thought it best to quietly spare Mary and her family disgrace by giving her a bill of divorce, breaking their betrothal. Joseph loved Mary very much and didn't want to bring any shame to her.

However, after he had been informed of the truth by an angel (Matthew 1:18-25), he treated Mary kindly. "On being summoned to Bethlehem by the requirements of the census, he would not leave her at home to suffer the slanders of misjudging neighbors, but took her with him and treated her very gently in her time of need" (Hastings, p. 529; compare Luke 2:1-7).

Joseph is mentioned only a few times in the

four Gospels. Only one incident of Jesus' childhood is preserved in Scripture. Luke 2:41-50 records that, when Jesus was 12, His family attended the Passover feast in Jerusalem, as was customary (Leviticus 23:1-2, 4-8). However, at the end of the Feast, as Joseph and Mary journeyed back to Nazareth, they realized Jesus wasn't among their group.

Jesus had lingered in Jerusalem, although they had assumed He was traveling safely with relatives and acquaintances. After a full day of travel they began to look in earnest for their son, not finding Him anywhere.

Reflect for a moment on the trust that both Joseph and Mary placed in their 12-year-old boy. How many of us would feel comfortable leaving a son or daughter of that age alone on a long trip home, assuming he would travel safely among faithful family and friends? Yet Joseph and Mary showed great confidence in their firstborn. This incident shows how times have changed as well as

the confidence of two faithful parents in their teaching and training.

The worried parents returned to Jerusalem, where eventually "they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions" (Luke 2:46).

The men who listened as young Jesus discussed God's law with the teachers "were astonished at His understanding and answers" (verse 47), as were Joseph and Mary when they came upon the sight of some of the nation's most respected religious authorities listening intently to their 12-year-old son.

Mary's reaction was likely a mixture of worry and relief: "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously" verse 47. From this we see Joseph was obviously a concerned father.

What Happened to Joseph?

There is no mention of Joseph is made after that Passover feast in Jerusalem: "Joseph never appears in the Gospel story after the visit to Jerusalem when Jesus had attained the age of twelve years and became a son of the Law' (Luke 2:41-51); and since Mary always appears alone in the narratives of the public ministry, it is a reasonable inference that he had died during the interval." but we do not know for sure.

This seems the most likely scenario. Although the Gospels do not give Joseph's age, Joseph was probably older than Mary. Perhaps he died before Jesus began His ministry.

Although the Scriptures give us only a few glimpses of Joseph, they tell us he was a kind man and a loving father. Perhaps no greater compliment can be paid to him than that of Jesus Himself: When He tried to give mankind a better conception of the love and

character of God, He used the term Father to express our Creator's loving relationship toward us.

Mary, Mother of Jesus Christ

Although more is said of Mary than of Joseph, not many scriptures are dedicated to the mother of Jesus.

Mary was of the tribe of Judah and a descendant of David, hence of the royal line. Somewhere around circa 4 B.C. Mary was living in Nazareth. She was unmarried, betrothed to Joseph.

At the appropriate time in God's plan (Galatians 4:4), He began fulfilling His promise of the ages: "At this time the angel Gabriel came to her with a message from God, and announced to her that she was to be the mother of the long-expected Messiah—that by the power of the Holy Spirit

the everlasting Son of the Father should be born of her Luke 1:26-35

The angel also informed Mary her cousin Elizabeth was within three months of delivering a son (Luke 1:36), whom the Bible identifies as John the Baptist.

Mary decided to visit her cousin. As Mary entered her house, Elizabeth confirmed God's revelation that Mary was to give birth to the Messiah: "Then she [Elizabeth] spoke out with a loud voice and said, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! But why is this granted to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For indeed, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. Blessed is she who believed, for there will be a fulfillment of those things which were told her from the Lord'..." (Luke 1:42-45).

Mary stayed with Elizabeth three months, then returned home (verse 56). After this, Joseph discovered Mary was with child and, having been assured that her conception was

of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18-25), he took her as his wife. The time for tax enrollment came shortly thereafter.

Mary & Joseph travelling to Bethlehem

Luke 2

2 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) It was during this time that Jesus was born and lay in a manger (Luke 2:1, 7). As instructed by Scripture, Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day (Luke 2:21; Genesis 17:12).

Mary and Joseph were faithful to God and His Word. On the 40th day after the birth of Jesus, Mary presented herself with Jesus for their purification in the temple (Luke 2:22-24). "The poverty of Joseph and Mary is

alluded to in the mention of their offering, 'a pair of turtle-doves, or two young pigeons' "

During Joseph's and Mary's visit to the temple in Jerusalem, Mary met Simeon and the prophetess Anna. Simeon thanked God for His promise that "he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (Luke 2:26). Simeon took the infant in his arms, thanked God and declared the prophecy that through Christ salvation would come also to the gentiles and glory to God's people Israel (verse 32).

The aged prophetess Anna (probably more than 100 years old) also "gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem" (verse 38).

Herod's Murderous Plot

Joseph and Mary returned to Bethlehem, where an angel warned them Herod planned to kill Jesus. "Wise men" from the East had seen the star marking Jesus' birth and came to worship Him. When Herod heard these things, he and the people of Jerusalem were troubled.

Herod gathered the chief priests and scribes to determine the place of Jesus' birth. They told him Jesus was to be born in Bethlehem. Privately, Herod asked the wise men when the star had appeared. He then deceptively instructed the wise men to find the newborn Messiah "that I may come and worship Him also" (Matthew 2:8). But the wise men were divinely warned in a dream that they shouldn't return to Herod. Instead, they should return to their native land by a different route (verse 12).

At that time an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the

young Child to destroy Him" (verse 13). Joseph obeyed God and took Mary and Jesus to Egypt until the death of Herod so the Scripture would be fulfilled that stated: "Out of Egypt I called My Son"

When Herod realized the wise men would not return to him, he responded brutally to the threat to his power. Herod put to death the male children in and around Bethlehem, from 2 years old and younger (verse 16). The prophet Jeremiah, writing hundreds of years earlier, had predicted this calamity: "A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, refusing to be comforted, because they are no more" (Matthew 2:18; Jeremiah 31:15).

After Herod's death an angel appeared in a dream to Joseph while he was still in Egypt: "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead" (Matthew 2:20).

When Joseph and Mary returned with Jesus, God again warned Joseph in a dream not to go to Bethlehem and the surrounding area, but to move to the region of Galilee (verse

22). "And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, 'He shall be called a Nazarene' " (verse 23).

Luke summarizes the childhood of Jesus: "And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him" (Luke 2:40). Joseph and Mary continued to exhibit their humble, faithful approach to God.

After the mention at the time of the Passover feast in Jerusalem when Jesus was 12, Joseph isn't mentioned again in the Gospels. Mary is mentioned four subsequent times.

A Believing Mother

In the first subsequent mention of Mary, she was in the nearby Galilean town of Cana, where Jesus and His disciples were invited to a wedding feast. When the wedding celebrants ran out of wine, Mary mentioned the embarrassing predicament to Jesus (John 2:3).

Jesus replied that this wasn't a matter He

should be concerned with. Nevertheless He responded to her unspoken request. Mary told the servants to do whatever Jesus told them to do. He replied by turning 150 gallons of water into fine wine. Mary learned faith and patience from this miracle.

The second mention of Mary was when she and Jesus' brothers were with Him in Capernaum at a public gathering (verse 12). While He was talking to a large group of people, someone informed Him His mother and brothers wanted to speak with Him.

Jesus responded with a great spiritual truth: " 'Who is My mother and who are My brothers?' And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, 'Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother' " (Matthew 12:48-50). Doing the will of God makes us part of God's family, a brother or sister to Jesus Christ.

Incidentally, this passage demonstrates that Mary went on to have additional children after Jesus was born. Mark 6:3 names four half-brothers—James, Joses, Judas and

Simon—plus an unspecified number of "sisters." Jesus obviously grew up in a family with at least six siblings, the natural children of Joseph and Mary. Two, James and Jude (Judas), later came to accept that their elder half-brother was indeed the Messiah and went on to write the biblical books that bear their names.

The third later mention of Mary was when she and John were standing near the feet of Jesus as He was crucified. In spite of the pain and anguish Jesus was enduring, He thought of his mother's welfare: "When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple [John] whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold your son!' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold your mother!' And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home" (John 19:26-27). Mary's firstborn son never slighted His responsibilities, as this touching example illustrates.

Finally, after Christ's death, resurrection and ascension to heaven, we find Mary, with other faithful followers of the Lord, praying together. His disciples "all continued with one

accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers" (Acts 1:14).

We are introduced to Mary when an angel tells her she would miraculously conceive and give birth to the promised Messiah. At the Bible's last mention of her, Mary is left to our memories in faithful prayer to God, awaiting her son's return.

Mary in Hebrew: Miriam.

Mary was the wife of Joseph and the mother of Jesus Christ, who was conceived within her by the Holy Spirit when she was a virgin. She is often called the "Virgin Mary," though never in Scripture are those two words put together as a proper name (Matt. 2:11; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:27; Acts 1:14).

Little is known of her personal history. Her genealogy is given in Luke 3 (see below). She was of the tribe of Judah and the lineage of David (Psalm 132:11; Luke 1:32). She

was connected by marriage with Elisabeth, who was of the lineage of Aaron (Luke 1:36).

While she resided at Nazareth with her parents, before she became the wife of Joseph, the angel Gabriel announced to her that she was to be the mother of the promised Messiah (Luke 1:35). After this she went to visit her cousin Elisabeth, who was living with her husband Zacharias (probably at Juttah, Josh. 15:55; 21:16, in the neighborhood of Maon), at a considerable distance, about 100 miles, from Nazareth. Immediately on entering the house she was saluted by Elisabeth as the mother of her Lord, and then immediately gave her hymn of thanksgiving (Luke 1:46-56; compare 1 Sam. 2:1-10). After three months Mary returned to Nazareth to her own home.

After the commencement of our Lord's public ministry little notice is taken of Mary. She was present at the marriage in Cana. A year and a half after this we find her at Capernaum (Matt. 12:46,48,49), where Christ uttered the memorable words, "Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his

disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren!" The next time we find her is at the cross along with her sister Mary, and Mary Magdalene, and Salome, and other women (John 19:26). From that hour John took her to his own abode. She was with the little company in the upper room after the Ascension (Acts 1:14). From this time she wholly disappears from public notice. The time and manner of her death are unknown.

MARY'S OTHER CHILDREN

Mary's other sons included Joses (Joseph), James, Judas, and Simon. There were evidently sisters as well, but they are unnamed (Matthew 13:55-56; Mark 6:3).

Genealogy

Mary was a direct descendant of King David which gave Jesus the right to ascend the Jewish throne, both through Mary and through adoption by his foster father, Joseph. Mary's genealogy is supplied in Luke 3:23-38

AUNT & UNCLE

This following is from the Bible in Luke 1:5, we read of Elisabeth and Zacharias and how the Angel Gabriel came and spoke of a son.

In verse 36 we read of Mary being told of Elisabeth her cousin.

Mary Jesus' Mother and Elisabeth were cousins.

Elisabeth and Zacharias then would be Jesus' Aunt and Uncle.

Luke 1: 5 - 80

There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, of the course of Abia: and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

And they were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

And it came to pass, that while he executed

the priest's office before God in the order of his course,

According to the custom of the priest's office, his lot was to burn incense when he went into the temple of the Lord.

And the whole multitude of the people were praying without at the time of incense.

And there appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense.

And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elizabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John.

And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth.

For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

And many of the children of Israel shall he

turn to the Lord their God.

And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

And the people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple.

And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned

unto them, and remained speechless.

And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his ministration were accomplished, he departed to his own house.

And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying,

Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary:

for thou hast found favor with God.

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

And, behold, thy cousin Elizabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren.

For with God nothing shall be impossible.

And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

And Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda;

And entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.

And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He hath helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;

As he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

And Mary abode with her about three months, and returned to her own house.

Now Elizabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son.

And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her.

And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name of his father.

And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John.

And they said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name.

And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called.

And he asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all.

And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised

God.

And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea.

And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.

And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying,

Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people,

And hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David;

As he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began:

That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us;

To perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant;

The oath which he sware to our father

Abraham,

That he would grant unto us, that we being
delivered out of the hand of our enemies
might serve him without fear,

In holiness and righteousness before him, all
the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of
the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face
of the Lord to prepare his ways;

To give knowledge of salvation unto his
people by the remission of their sins,

Through the tender mercy of our God;
whereby the dayspring from on high hath
visited us,

To give light to them that sit in darkness and
in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into
the way of peace.

And the child grew, and waxed strong in
spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of
his shewing unto Israel.

The Twelve Disciples – His Friends

Andrew - Originally a disciple of John the Baptist. He led his brother Simon to Christ)

Peter (Andrew's brother) - Rock of the church. A fisherman, Denied Jesus after the crucifixion.)

James (son of Zebedee) - Also a fisherman. A strong person who insisted that Christ's followers "walk the talk."

John (son of Zebedee) - Also a fisherman. A strong person who cared for Jesus' mother and stressed grace.

Phillip - Andrew's close friend, also a fisherman. He led Barttholomew to Christ.

Bartholomew (Nathanael) - Questioning at first, but accepted Jesus of Nazareth. Loyal.

Matthew (Levi)- Once a despised tax collector, he changed his profession and followed Jesus. Wrote the Gospel of Matthew.

Thomas - Doubted the resurrection. Was willing to risk his own life for Jesus.

James (Alpheus' son) - Mentioned in Gospel accounts.

Thaddeus (James' son) - A real follower and preacher of Christ.

Simon - Known as a zealot or patriot. He saw the vision.

Judas Iscariot - Ultimate betrayer of Jesus, who kept the money for the group.

Can you imagine living back in the days when Jesus was walking on this earth. I have often thought how nice it would have been to sit in the grass and listen to his teachings. Maybe follow Him from City to City and see the miracles that He did. He must have been so happy and smiled a lot as He knew that His journey would be to lead others to the Father was what He had to do. I was raised where I never thought that Jesus ever smiled. I always saw pictures of Him just staring and often thought how sad He was but, as I grew older and read more of the Bible I realized that His Joy was His Strength just as He promised us that "The Joy of the Lord is our Strength". It must have been a great time back then. Here I list the TWELVE DISCIPLES and some of the information I found on them.

The word "disciple" refers to a learner or follower. The word "apostle" means "one who is sent out." While Jesus was on earth, His twelve followers were called disciples. The twelve disciples followed Jesus Christ, learned from Him, and were trained by Him.

After His resurrection and ascension, Jesus sent the disciples out to be His witnesses (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8). They were then referred to as the twelve apostles. However, even when Jesus was still on earth, the terms "disciples" and "apostles" were used somewhat interchangeably.

The original twelve disciples/apostles are listed in Matthew 10:2-4, "These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him." The Bible also lists the twelve disciples/apostles in Mark 3:16-19 and Luke 6:13-16. A comparison of the three passages shows a couple of minor differences in the names. It seems that Thaddaeus was also known as "Judas, son of James" (Luke 6:16) and Lebbaeus (Matthew 10:3). Simon the Zealot was also known as Simon the Canaanite (Mark 3:18). Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus, was replaced in the twelve apostles by Matthias (see Acts 1:20-26). Some Bible

teachers view Matthias as an “invalid” apostle and believe that Paul was God's choice to replace Judas Iscariot as the twelfth apostle.

The twelve disciples/apostles were ordinary men whom God used in an extraordinary manner. Among the twelve were fishermen, a tax collector, and a revolutionary. The Gospels record the constant failings, struggles, and doubts of these twelve men who followed Jesus Christ. After witnessing Jesus' resurrection and ascension into heaven, the Holy Spirit transformed the disciples/apostles into powerful men of God who turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6). What was the change? The twelve apostles/disciples had “been with Jesus” (Acts 4:13). May the same be said of us!

Why Did Jesus Chose 12 Disciples?

Twelve is one of the smallest numbers that has a large number of factors , for example 1,2,3,4 and 6 all divide into 12 without remainder. In the Jewish culture of that time, numbers were very significant. 7 was regarded as holy, and of course the number 40 (as in 40 days and nights) indicated a particular time, very much as we would use

the term 'month of Sundays' these days, not to literally mean 31 Sundays, but 'a long time'. The number 12 in the Jewish culture was something very special - signifying perfection. As an example, in revelation, the number in heaven is given as 144,000. the number 144,000 signified a 'large' number of people (the ,000) and 12×12 - the height of perfection - a very apt number for multitude of people ("whom none can number...") in heaven.

Similarly, the Jews had 12 tribes of Israel again a perfect number.

Thus, in order that Jesus should have the correct or perfect number of disciples, he chose 12. In addition, he chose 72 (half of 12×12) as followers in an 'outer circle' of people who would go out to proclaim the Kingdom.

In addition to the 12 and the 72 of course, Jesus chose 3 specially close disciples (3 is a quarter of 12) Peter, James and John.

Therefore he chose 12 for a particularly cultural reason. What is more significant, of course, is the diverse characters he chose - 2

belligerent teenage boys (James and John), a couple of fishermen (Peter and Andrew), One who many times would open his mouth without thinking and just speak what he felt (Peter), a political activist (Simon the Zealot), a hated tax collector and collaborator with the occupying Romans (Matthew), one of two twins who was a skeptical cynic (Thomas) amongst them. Yet all these went on to become wonderful evangelists and ambassadors of the Christian faith thanks to the Holy Spirit working in them.

The only disciple that one could normally regard as someone with anything about him was the one entrusted to keeping the common fund held by the disciples - Judas Iscariot, and just look how he ended up.

In His early months of ministry in Israel, Jesus attracted great multitudes to hear His messages, receive His miraculous healings, and eat the bread He offered. Many of the Jewish leaders had rejected Him and claimed His power came from Satan (Matthew 12), but the people—for the most part—flocked after Him.

Then comes John 6.

Just as the Jewish leaders had done, the people sought a sign to prove Jesus was who He claims to be: The Promised Messiah. What Jesus gave them instead was a teaching that many found far too difficult. He asked them to trust in Him completely and to submit to His authority as the "bread from heaven." Many who claimed to be His disciples rejected Him and left.

Since the multitudes had turned away from their promised Messiah, Jesus began a six-month period of private instruction with the Twelve, those He would prepare for the time of this death, resurrection, and departure. Previously, Jesus had not mentioned these events and certainly not in explicit terms, which explains Peter's shock and consternation (Matthew 16:22). But with Israel's rejection, the shadow of the cross grew ever larger.

Seeking seclusion to instruct the Twelve, Jesus retreated to what would then be known as "heathen lands." The leaders in Israel harassed him because of their animosity to His teaching, and no place within the region

would allow Him a time of true private instruction. The Twelve Apostles would serve as the core of the future church, and this time would prepare them for—from their vantage point—the catastrophe of His death. His instruction during this time culminated in the Transfiguration, witnessed by the three members of the "inner circle," Peter, James, and John, an event that fortified their faith and left an indelible impression on their later ministry (see 2 Peter 1:16-21).

Jesus Calls the Twelve Apostles

Mark 3:7-35

First, Jesus appoints the twelve apostles(7-19)

Let's read vs 13-15. Jesus called to him those he wanted and decided to raise them up as shepherds. Luke 6:12-13 says that he went up on a mountainside and spent all night praying, and in the morning he called those he wanted. So many people followed Jesus, but Jesus called to him those he wanted. He chose and hand-picked twelve, and gave them privilege to be with him and learn from him. John 15:16a says that 'you did not

choose me, but I chose you."

Let's read vs 16-19. Simon was ambitious and talkative; James and John were explosive - one time they asked Jesus to bring down fire on a Samaritan village because they did not welcome them. Philip was intelligent; Bartholomew was thoughtful; Matthew messed up his life as a tax collector; Thomas known as doubting Thomas; James and Thaddaeus must be quiet; Simon was a nationalistic zealot; Judas betrayer. Jesus appointed diverse group of people as his disciples. They were not perfect. Each one had his own share of problems and weaknesses. But Jesus had a vision that they would grow as future spiritual leaders and shepherds and Bible teachers. Simon means sand. He was shaky and emotional. He could talk, but could not back it up. But Jesus gave him nickname Peter. That means rock. Jesus had a vision that Simon would grow as rock-solid servant of God. By training these twelve, Jesus wanted to raise a new spiritual Israel. Jesus saw a potential in each of them to grow as a shepherd in the future. Then what was Jesus' method of raising disciples? What privilege did Jesus give them? Let's

look at vs 14a. "They might be with him." So many people wanted to follow Jesus, but Jesus appointed twelve and gave them privilege to be with him. They could live together, eat together, and travel together with Jesus. Jesus shared a common life with these twelve. What a privilege they enjoyed being disciples of Jesus. They could watch and learn from Jesus closely - how he taught, listened to people and ministered to them. They could ask him and get answer from him. Jesus could know each of them personally and taught them according to their needs. Jesus could also train them practically. One time Jesus took some of them to a high mountain and they saw the glorious Jesus. Another time, Jesus took some of them to Gethsamane and they watched Jesus praying in agony. By living together, they witnessed the practical life of Jesus and learned of Jesus personally. Those who were outside knew about Jesus superficially. But these disciples witnessed Jesus with their own eyes and learned of Jesus, and experienced the power of God and grace of Jesus deeply. Therefore, they could become powerful witnesses of Jesus. They

preached with spiritual authority and God worked powerfully through them.

Then what was the purpose of Jesus' discipleship ministry? Look at vs 14-15. "He appointed twelve -designating them Apostles - That he might be with him and that he might send them out to preach and to have authority to drive out demons." Jesus appointed twelve and designated them apostles. Disciples and apostles. What is the difference between disciples and apostles? Disciples are students. The word 'disciple' came from the word 'discipline', or training. Disciples are those who receive training. An apostle means 'one sent' Look at vs 14b-15. Jesus wanted to train his disciples and send them out to preach with authority.

Jesus had a vision to teach and train these twelve to grow as Bible teachers, disciple-makers and spiritual leaders. At the end of Mark's gospel, Jesus commissioned them to go out into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Jesus had a vision that he would carry out world mission through these twelve disciples. There was a multitude of people following Jesus. There might be

many good believers among them. But unless they were trained and able to teach, God's work could not continue. Jesus had a vision that through this discipleship training, world mission could be carried on to all the world, and throughout the generations.

Andrew

Andrew was one of the original 12 apostles. He was the son of a man named Jonah (sometimes the name is rendered as John), and brother of Simon Peter. He lived in Bethsaida on the north side of the sea of Galilee. The two brothers had a fishing business in partnership with James and John. It has been said that the apostle Andrew's father's name was Jona and his mother's name, Joanna.

Like their father, Andrew and Peter were also fishermen on the Sea of Galilee. In fact, the apostles Andrew, Peter, James and John were all partners in a fishing business prior to being called by Jesus to follow Him.

Before Andrew had met Jesus, he had been a disciple of John the Baptist. He became convinced that Jesus was the Messiah and brought his brother Peter to see Jesus. The two brothers returned to their fishing, but later, after John the Baptist had been arrested, Jesus saw Peter and Andrew by the Sea of Galilee and said to them, "Come after Me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:18). Peter and Andrew, at that point in time, lived in Capernaum (Mark 1:21, 29).

Jesus always named Andrew among the first four apostles. Andrew was one of the four apostles who were with Jesus on the Mount of Olives. It was Andrew who inquired about the signs that would mark the end times (Mark 13:3-4). Andrew also was the one who called attention to the boy who had loaves and fishes, when Jesus fed the 5000 men, besides women and children, in John 6:5-9.

Andrew was the first of the Apostles to follow Jesus and just as John the Baptist introduced Jesus to the nation of Israel, so Andrew is noted for having introduced Jesus to

individuals. The apostle Peter became the fisher of men in masse where Andrew was a fisher for individuals.

In his latter ministry, it is believed that Andrew went to the foothills of the Caucasus mountains (present day Georgia in Russia.) While there, he preached to the Scythians as far as the Caspian Sea.

He also went to Byzantium which is present day Istanbul in Turkey and from there, to Greece. In fact, he traveled to Thrace and Macedonia, down through the Corinthian Gulf to Patros; it was in Patros that Andrew was martyred.

In the church of St. Andrew in Patros, Greece, there is a book written in Greek which sheds light on his martyrdom. The following is written: "Aigeatis who was the governor of Patros became enraged at Andrew for his preaching and ordered him to stand before the tribunal in his attempt to do away with the Christian Faith. When Andrew resisted the tribunal, the governor ordered him crucified. Andrew remained tied to the cross with thick tight ropes for three days and his last words were: "Accept me, O

Christ Jesus, whom I saw, whom I love, and in whom I am; accept my spirit in peace in your eternal realm."

An ancient writer also speaks of the apostle's martyrdom as such: "Andrew hung upon the cross three whole days, suffering dreadful pain but continuing constantly to tell the people around him of the love of Jesus Christ. The people, as they listened to him, began to believe his words and asked the governor to let him be taken down from the cross. Not liking to refuse them, he at last ordered the ropes to be cut but when the last rope was severed, the body of the apostle fell to the ground quite dead."

It is believed that Andrew died on the last day of November, 69 AD.

Peter the Apostle

Peter (also known as Simon) was one of the original 12 apostles. He became the leader of the apostles, after Jesus' ascension. Peter was originally from Bethsaida on the northern shore of the sea of Galilee. Peter was married. He was a fisherman with his brother

Andrew. His home was in Capernaum. When Jesus called him to be an apostle, he was given the added name Cephas (Aramaic: "stone," Greek: "Petros," which in English is rendered as Peter).

Peter was one of the three main apostles, along with James and John, who were chosen by Jesus to be present during certain important moments of His ministry.

One trait of Peter's character that stands out in the New Testament account, is his impetuosity.

Peter was famous for many things: For being at Jesus' transfiguration, for walking on water at Jesus' bidding, for rebuking Jesus for what seemed to him negative thinking (prompting Jesus' sharp reply "Get behind Me Satan"), for his statement to Jesus during the washing of feet during the Last Supper, for his denials of knowing Jesus when Peter was in the courtyard of the high priest, for drawing a

sword when Jesus was being arrested, and for being granted the singular privilege of an individual post-resurrection appearance by Jesus (Luke 24:34, 1Cor 15:5).

When Jesus asked him "Who do you say I am?" Peter made that famous statement, "You are the Christ (Messiah) the Son of the Living God." (Matthew 16:15-16).

Under the power of the Holy Spirit, Peter healed the sick and raised the dead. He made a trip to Antioch (Galatians 2:1), and possibly Corinth (1 Corinthians 1:12). It is believed that Peter later traveled to Rome, and was martyred there by crucifixion in 64 AD. He is said to have requested that he be crucified upside down, because he said he wasn't worthy of dying in the same way as Jesus.

Peter wrote two Epistles, called Peter 1 and Peter 2, in the New Testament. Papias, a disciple of the Apostle John, wrote that Mark's Gospel was influenced by Peter's writings.

The name Peter, in the Greek language, which was spoken by people in the land of Israel during the 1st Century, as was Aramaic and Hebrew, means "rock." So, too, does the name Cephas, which is an Aramaic word for "rock," as used by Jesus in John 1:42.

James

Of the three apostles who comprised the inner circle of Jesus' disciples (Peter, James and John), we know the least about the apostle James. We do know, however, that the apostle James was the eldest brother of the apostle John and that their father's name was Zebedee (their mother's name was Salome.)

James, his brother John, Peter and Andrew were all partners in a fishing business prior to being called by Christ Jesus to follow Him.

Why did Jesus refer to James and John as the sons of thunder?"

In Mark 3, Jesus calls twelve men to be His apostles. Among them are “James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder)” (Mark 3:17). This is the only place in Scripture that mentions the designation of the sons of Zebedee as the Sons of Thunder, and there is no stated explanation as to why Jesus named them this.

However, Jesus has a purpose for everything He does, so He must have had a good reason for dubbing James and John as “Sons of Thunder.” “Jesus . . . knew all men. He did not need man’s testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man” (John 2:24-25). In other words, Jesus knew the brothers’ nature when He first met them, and He chose “Boanerges” as a fitting nickname.

In one vivid incident, we see that James and John possessed some truly thunder-like qualities. Jesus and His disciples were traveling through Samaria on their way to Jerusalem when they ran into trouble. Jesus attempted to find accommodations for the night in one place but was met with

opposition from the villagers, simply because His destination was Jerusalem—a result of Jew-Samaritan prejudice. “When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, ‘Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?’” (Luke 9:54). Jesus rebuked the brothers, and they all went to another village. James and John’s response to the Samaritans reveals a fervency, impetuosity, and anger that could properly be called “thunderous”—and we can be sure that there were other times when James and John lived up to their nickname.

James and John were two of Jesus’ closest friends, being two of the “inner three” disciples (see Matthew 17:1). As the church age began, James was the first apostle to be killed (Acts 12:2), while John was the last to die, although of old age. John’s epistles, written late in his life, hint that he still possessed a fervency of spirit, especially in his denunciations of apostates and deceivers (1 John 2:22; 2 John 7; 3 John 10). However, it is a fervency tempered by love. In fact, in 1 John the word “love” and its relatives occur over 40 times. When he first met Jesus, John was one of the “Boanerges.”

But after walking with Jesus for a lifetime, the "Son of Thunder" earned a new nickname: the "Apostle of Love."

There is some evidence that James was the first cousin of Jesus the Messiah and had been acquainted with Him from infancy. It is believed that his mother Salome was the sister of Jesus' mother Mary.

Not much is known of his ministry after Jesus' resurrection. It is believed, however, that he lived another 14 years before his martyrdom. In fact, the apostle James was the first apostle to suffer martyrdom. By order of Herod Agrippa I, James was beheaded in Jerusalem about the feast of Easter, 44 AD.

It is believed that within this 14 year period, James visited the Jewish colonist and slaves in Spain to preach the Gospel.

It has been said that when the apostle James was led out to die, a man who had brought false accusations against him walked with him to the place of execution. He had doubtless expected to see James looking pale and frightened but he saw him, instead,

bright and joyous, like a conqueror who had won a great battle. The false witness greatly wondered at this and became convinced that the Savior in whom the prisoner by his side believed must be the true God or He could not impart such cheerfulness and courage to a man about to die. The man himself, therefore, became a convert to Christianity and was condemned to die with James the apostle (both were consequently beheaded on the same day and with the same sword.)

About the same period, Timon and Parmenas (two of the seven original deacons) suffered martyrdom (the former at Corinth and the latter at Philippi in Macedonia.)

who is also called "Less" or "Younger," was a brother of the apostle

James was a native of Capernaum (located on the northwestern shores of the Sea of Galilee in Israel.) It is believed that he was from the Jewish tribe of Levi, however, this is not certain.

Not much is known about the latter ministry of of this apostle, however, Aziz S. Atiya, in his "History of Eastern Christianity" says,"

The seeds of Syrian Christianity had been sown in Jerusalem during the Apostolic age and the contention has been made that the first bishop of the Syrian church was none other than St. James of the Twelve Apostles, identified as 'St. James the Less'."

It has also been said that James (son of Alphaeus) was stoned in Jerusalem for preaching Christ and buried by the Sanctuary.

Bartholomew the Apostle

The latter ministry of the apostle Bartholomew belongs more to the eastern churches than it does to the western churches.

Bartholomew is said to have had black curly hair, white skin, large eyes, a straight nose, hair that covered his ears and a long grizzled middle height beard. He is said to have worn a white robe with a purple stripe and a white cloak with four purple gems at the corners. For twenty-six years he wore these and it is

said that they never grew old. In fact, It was also reported, that his shoes lasted the same as his clothing.

Of Bartholomew, it is said that he prayed a hundred times a day and a hundred times a night. It is also said that his voice was like a trumpet, angels waited upon him, and that he was always cheerful and knew all languages.

In the company of the apostle Philip, the apostle Bartholomew went to Asia Minor and labored in Hierapolis, near Laodicea and Colosse, in what is modern day Turkey.

While in Hierapolis, it is said that the wife of the Roman proconsul was healed by the apostles Philip and Bartholomew, that she became a Christian and that her husband ordered Philip and Bartholomew to be put to death by crucifixion. Philip was crucified, however, Bartholomew escaped martyrdom, when for some special reason, the magistrates caused him to be taken down from the cross and dismissed. From there, Bartholomew went eastward to India and then to greater Armenia. He labored in the area around the south end of the Caspian

Sea.

A popular tradition among the Armenians is that the apostle Jude (Thaddaeus) was the first to evangelize their region throughout the years of 43 to 66 AD and that the apostle Bartholomew joined him in 60 AD.

It is also said that Bartholomew carried with him a copy of the apostle Matthew's Gospel. This copy was reported to have been found at a later time and a converted stoic philosopher by the name of Pantaenus is said to have brought it to Alexandria.

The modern name of the district where Bartholomew died is Azerbaijan and the place of his death, called in New Testament times Albanopolis, is now Derbend which is on the west coast of the Caspian Sea.

The apostle Bartholomew is said to have been martyred in the year 68 AD.

Bartholomew (perhaps also known as Nathanael) was one of Christ's twelve original apostles. He appears in the lists of the twelve apostles given in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and Acts. Usually, his name is paired off with Philip. Bartholomew is a

patronymic and thus not a person's familiar name. He does not appear in John's Gospel, and the association of Philip with the otherwise unknown Nathanael (John 1:45-51, 21:2) leads to the possibility that Nathanael was Bartholomew's personal name.

In John, Chapter 1, Philip tells Nathanael "We have found the Messiah! The very person Moses and the prophets told about! His name is Jesus, the Son of Joseph from Nazareth." "Nazareth!" exclaimed Nathanael, "can anything good come from there?" The two went to see Jesus, and as they approached Him, Jesus said, "Here comes an honest man, a true son of Israel". Nathanael then asked, "How do you know what I am like?" Jesus replied, "I could see you under the fig tree before Philip found you". Nathanael then replied, "Sir, You are the Son of God - the King of Israel".

It is believed that Bartholomew/Nathanael was a missionary with Philip and Thomas. He is said to have preached the gospel in

Armenia, India, Lycaonia, Mesopotania,
Persia and Phrygia.

The Apostle James (the son of Alphaeus)

Of the three apostles who comprised the inner circle of Jesus' disciples (Peter, James and John), we know the least about the apostle James. We do know, however, that the apostle James was the eldest brother of the apostle John and that their father's name was Zebedee (their mother's name was Salome.)

James, his brother John, Peter and Andrew were all partners in a fishing business prior to being called by Christ Jesus to follow Him. Zebedee was, also, a partner in the business.

There is some evidence that James was the first cousin of Jesus the Messiah and had been acquainted with Him from infancy. It is believed that his mother Salome was the sister of Jesus' mother Mary.

Not much is known of his ministry after Jesus' resurrection. It is believed, however, that he lived another 14 years before his martyrdom. In fact, the apostle James was the first apostle to suffer martyrdom. By order of Herod Agrippa I, James was beheaded in Jerusalem about the feast of Easter, 44 AD.

It is believed that within this 14 year period, James visited the Jewish colonist and slaves in Spain to preach the Gospel.

It has been said that when the apostle James was led out to die, a man who had brought false accusations against him walked with him to the place of execution. He had doubtless expected to see James looking pale and frightened but he saw him, instead, bright and joyous, like a conqueror who had won a great battle. The false witness greatly wondered at this and became convinced that the Savior in whom the prisoner by his side believed must be the true God or He could not impart such cheerfulness and courage to a man about to die. The man himself, therefore, became a convert to Christianity and was condemned to die with James the

apostle (both were consequently beheaded on the same day and with the same sword.)

Judas Iscariot

"Man of Kerioth," the son of Simon, was one of the twelve original apostles of Jesus. He was the treasurer of the twelve. He considered it a waste of money when Mary anointed Jesus with expensive oil. And, John states that Judas had often dipped into the funds for his own personal use (John 12:3-6), and that Judas cared little about using the money to help the poor.

After Jesus and His disciples went to Jerusalem, Satan entered into Judas (Luke 22:3) and Judas approached local community leaders, offering to deliver Jesus into their hands for 30 pieces of silver (Matthew 26:14-15). During the Last Supper, Jesus foretold of Judas' betrayal (Matthew 26:25). Judas betrayed Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. After Jesus' arrest, Judas was seized with remorse.

He returned the betrayal money and hanged himself (Matthew 27:3-5). The money was later used to buy a piece of land, which became known as the "Field of Blood."

Matthew the Apostle

The apostle Matthew, also called Levi, was the son of Alphaeus and the brother of the apostle James the Less, or, James, son of Alphaeus.

By profession, Matthew was a tax collector before being called by Jesus to follow Him.

Matthew probably remained in the Holy Land, as tradition says, for 15 years and after this, encouraged by the reports of the success of other Christian leaders among the Jews (the Diaspora) and also among the Gentiles, he went forth on several missionary journeys. It is certain that he went to Persia and the mysterious area in Persia known as "Ethiopia." It is also possible that he traveled to the Ethiopia in Africa as the Roman Catholic tradition indicates and there is also a

belief that Matthew was martyred in Egypt upon his return from Ethiopia in Africa but this is not certain. There is a tradition which says that Matthew was martyred in Parthia.

Matthew was a gifted writer, an ardent disciple, and was perhaps the best educated of any of the Twelve Apostles. He was the writer of The Gospel of Matthew.

Matthew was one of the original 12 apostles. He was a tax collector before he was called by Jesus to be an apostle (Matthew 9:9). Known formally as Levi, son of Alphaeus (Mark 2:14), Matthew wrote the first book of the New Testament. It is sometimes called the Gospel of Matthew or the book of Matthew.

Matthew gives a detailed account of the ancestors of Jesus, and about His birth through the Virgin Mary, and about the beginning of His public ministry in Chapters 1-4. Matthew's gospel includes a series of Jesus' speeches, including the Sermon on the Mount (see Chapters 5-7), the mission discourse (see Chapter 10), the parables of the Kingdom (see Chapter 13), the discourse on Christian living (see Chapter 18, and the

final end time warnings in Chapters 23-25.

Ten miracles by Jesus are recorded in Chapters 8 and 9.

Matthew's work has been described as a textbook for Christian leaders. It is Gospel "to announce the good news", a presentation of the birth, ministry of teaching and healing, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Matthias (Apostle)

Matthias was chosen to become the 12th Apostle after the death of Judas. In Acts, chapter 1, Peter explains to about 120 followers the need to replace Judas, as he recites a Psalm of David that states "Let his work be given to someone else to do," in reference to Judas.

Two men are nominated by the assembly, Joseph Justus, who was also called Barsabbas, and Matthias. The assembly prayed to God to make the right choice, and Matthias was chosen. Nothing more is written of him in the Bible.

Tradition states he was one of the 70 sent

out by Jesus in Luke 10:1, that he preached in Judea, and that he died a martyr. Matthias means "Gift of God."

Philip

Philip the Apostle was one of the original twelve apostles. He came from Bethsaida in Galilee. Jesus invited Philip to become His disciple (John 1:43). Philip became the sixth disciple of Jesus, and introduced his friend Nathanael (Bartholomew) to Jesus, who also became an apostle.

When Jesus was about to perform a miracle and feed a multitude of people with a small amount of food, Jesus asked Philip where they should buy the bread to feed the people. But, Jesus was testing Philip, for Jesus already knew that He would perform a miracle (John 6:5-6).

A group of Greek Jews who were in Jerusalem for Passover asked Philip to have him introduce them to Jesus (John 12:20-22). During the Last Supper, Philip asked Jesus to show them the Father (John 14:8-11). Phillip was present during the prayer

meeting in the upper room with the 120 (Acts 1:13-15), after the ascension of Jesus.

Philip the Evangelist

Philip the Evangelist was one of the seven appointed by the apostles to take care of the growing Christian community and to look after their widows and the needy (Acts 6:1-6). He went to Samaria where he preached and performed miracles (Acts 8:4-6). He converted Simon the magician (Acts 8:9-13). Philip received the message from an angel to meet a man from Ethiopia in Gaza, a eunuch of great authority under Queen Candace, and inspired the Ethiopian to be baptized (Acts 8:26-39). Later, Philip lived in Caesarea (Acts 21:8). According to Acts 21:9, Philip's four unmarried daughters had the gift of prophecy.

Simon the Apostle

Simon the Apostle was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus. He received the authority to cast out unclean spirits and to heal every kind of ailment and disease (Matthew 10:1-4). The name Simon means "God has heard."

Simon was also known as Simon the Zealot.

Thaddaeus

(Judas, son of James) the Apostle

Thaddaeus was one of the 12 Apostles. It is believed that he was also known as Judas, son of James (not to be confused with Judas Iscariot, the man who betrayed Jesus). In some New Testament passages, the name Thaddaeus appears among the list of 12 Apostles. But in other New Testament passages, the name Judas, son of James, appears instead. In ancient times, a person could have two or three different names, such as a Greek-language name and a Hebrew name. And, sometimes people were known primarily by their occupational title.

The name Thaddaeus appears in the list of Apostles given in Matthew 10:3, between James, son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot. In Mark 3:18, the name Thaddaeus appears, again, in the same placement. In Acts 1:13, however, a man named Judas, son

of James, is listed below Simon. And in Luke 6:16, Judas (son of James), is listed again among the 12 Apostles, between Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot. In John 14:22, there is a reference to Judas (not Iscariot) who spoke to Jesus. The two names, however, never appear in the same book, lending credence to the belief that they both refer to the same person.

John

John was the brother of the apostle James; he was also the son of Zebedee (a fisherman of Galilee.) His mother's name was Salome who is believed to be a sister of Jesus' mother Mary.

John, his brother James and the apostles Peter and Andrew were all partners in a fishing business prior to their calls by Jesus to follow Him (Zebedee was also a partner.)

John is distinguished above the other apostles as "the disciple whom Jesus loved." John 21:20. He seems to have enjoyed to a

pre-eminent degree the friendship of Christ, and he received many tokens of the Saviour's confidence and love. He was one of the three permitted to witness Christ's glory upon the mount of transfiguration and His agony in Gethsemane, and it was to his care that our Lord confided His mother in those last hours of anguish upon the cross.

The Saviour's affection for the beloved disciple was returned with all the strength of ardent devotion. John clung to Christ as the vine clings to the stately pillar. For his Master's sake he braved the dangers of the judgment hall and lingered about the cross, and at the tidings that Christ had risen, he hastened to the sepulcher, in his zeal outstripping even the impetuous Peter.

The confiding love and unselfish devotion manifested in the life and character of John present lessons of untold value

It is said that John owned a home in Jerusalem and that it is possible that the interview Nicodemus had with Jesus was held there.

The apostle John rose to a position of

influence within world-wide Christianity and shortly before the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 AD, he moved to Ephesus (in modern day, Turkey.) He became the pastor of the church in Ephesus and had a special relationship with other churches in the area (as we know from the letters to the Seven Churches in Asia, in the book of Revelation.)

John's brother, James, was the first of the apostles to die; on the other hand, John was the last. All of the apostles met a violent death, however, John died peacefully in Ephesus (at an advanced age, around the year 100 AD.)

There is a church tradition, which says, that while John was living in Ephesus, John had with him Mary, the mother of Jesus, for a few years.

While in Ephesus, by order of the Roman emperor Domitian, John was exiled to an island called Patmos. In what is known as the cave of the Apocalypse (located on this island), the sacred text of the book of Revelation was given to the apostle John by Jesus (it is here that John recorded what is

written in the New Testament book of Revelation.)

The Apostle John is the author of the Book of Revelation. He wrote it when he was about 92 years old, while a prisoner of Rome on the remote desert penal colony of Patmos, an island in the Aegean Sea.

Patmos was a quarry mine for the Roman Empire, and was home to many political and religious prisoners or slaves. John, the beloved apostle of Jesus, was being held as a prisoner of Rome on this island for his incessant preaching about Jesus. Rome believed that banishing the old man John to the remote and forsaken island of Patmos, that his voice would be quieted. John was aged in years, and close to the end of his life, probably sent to Patmos in the year 95 by the Roman emperor Domitian, who was reportedly angry at the fact that John was not killed when he was dipped in boiling oil. Since John was a contemporary of Jesus, John would have been by that time, well over 90 years old - making him very likely the only apostle to survive to such an old age. The rest of Jesus apostles and disciples were

martyred decades earlier. It was as if God supernaturally preserved John to bare record of The Revelation!

Where the Book of "Revelation" was received by John

Patmos, Greece - where the Apostle John was exiled

John's love for Jesus was so strong, that he continued to defy the Roman magistrate's order to no longer proclaim Jesus as Messiah, Savior and Lord; even while a prisoner. On Patmos, John was thrown in with violent criminals, but simply won many of the criminals to faith in Jesus.

It was on Patmos that John wrote down in a scroll all that "he saw and heard". John's sworn testimony about how he received the messages is given in the first chapter.

According to Greek Orthodox Tradition John's vision came to him on a Sunday after saying Mass and preaching the Gospel. Saint John, to escape the heat of the day, remained in the cave where he said Mass. It was here that one day the Lord came to Saint John in a vision. When Saint John awoke, he dictated

his revelation to his scribe. It begins with this assurance:

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. Revelation 1:1-3 (KJV)

Other New Testament books accredited to John are the Gospel of John, along with 1st, 2nd and 3rd John.

When he was released from exile, he returned to Ephesus and lived till the time of the Roman emperor Trajan.

It is said that John, "Founded and built churches throughout all Asia, and worn out by old age, died in the sixty-eight year after our Lord's passion and was buried near the same city (Ephesus)."

There is a church tradition, which says, that

when John was evidently an old man in Ephesus, he had to be carried to the church in the arms of his disciples. At these meetings, he was accustomed to say no more than, "Little children, love one another!" After a time, the disciples wearied at always hearing the same words, asked, "Master, why do you always say this?" "It is the Lord's command," was his reply. "And if this alone be done, it is enough!"

There is, also, a Church tradition which says that John was in Rome for a time.

Thomas

THOMAS: THE DISCIPLE OF DOUBT

JOHN 14:1-7; 20:19-31

The apostle Thomas was also known as Didymas (the twin.) As to who his twin was, it's not known. By trade, he was a fisherman and a native of Galilee in Israel.

After the resurrection of the Lord Christ Jesus, Thomas went to Babylon; it is believed

that he established the first Christian church there.

Thomas is also known to have gone to Persia and from there he went to India and preached the Gospel making many converts. It is believed that Thomas arrived in India no later than 49 AD.

It is also believed that the apostle Thomas evangelized as far as China, and while in India, he suffered martyrdom (he was killed with a lance and buried in Mylapore, India, which is now a suburb of Madras.) It is believed that he died on the 21st of December.

The apostle Thomas is said to have been a fearless evangelist and a great builder of churches.

It must have been exciting to be a disciple of Jesus, to live with him for three years and listen each day to His teachings. To see the many miracles that He performed and to laugh with Him. Try to put yourself there with them as they travelled around together helping so many and also think of what you would have done that night in the Garden

when Jesus told you to pray but you too fell asleep. How would you have felt when the soldiers came to take Jesus away. He was your friend and a good close friend and now He was being taken away to be judged. Would you have taken a sword as Peter did and try to fight for His safety? Would you maybe have run and hid in the garden in fear for your own life. When reading this I try to put myself in the disciples shoes and wonder just how I would act or what I may say.

JESUS FRIENDS

Martha & Mary & Lazarus

We know that Jesus had many friends and we read in Luke about Martha and Mary..

Luke 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her"

We also read about Mary and Martha's brother Lazarus in John 11:38-44

38 Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.

39 Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days.

40 Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God?

41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.

42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.

43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.

44 And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.

MARY MAGDELENE

Mary Magdalene as a disciple and friend of Jesus (Luke 8:1-3)

Mary is described as a woman whom Jesus cured of an unspecified illness. She led a group of women who provided for Jesus and his followers from their own financial resources.

Mary at the crucifixion (Mark 15:40-41, Luke 23:49, Matthew 27:55-56, John 19:25)

In each of the four accounts of the crucifixion Mary was present, either standing at a distance with other women, or standing near the cross.

Mary prepared Jesus' body for burial (Luke 23:55-56, Matthew 27:61)

Mary watched as Jesus' body was sealed inside the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea. She could confirm that he was really dead. She and the other women prepared the spices needed for proper burial of a body.

Mary witnesses the resurrection (Mark 16:1-

11, Luke 24:1-11, Matthew 28:1-10, John 20:1-18).

Mary found that Jesus' body was no longer in the tomb. She received a message from an angel and was the first person to see the risen Jesus. She was thus the first witness of the resurrection.

Stop and think what it would have been like to be Mary Magdalene, she loved Jesus, a love that surpasses anything that we could think. Jesus had helped her and she was grateful.

I am sure Jesus had many friends that I have not mentioned, He was loved by many for His kindness and the love that He showed to people.

FOOD THAT JESUS WOULD EAT

Growing up I never thought of Jesus as a man who would laugh, eat or do what we do. But He did. Here is a few of the items that he probably would have ate. Maybe if we followed Him in His eating habits we would be real healthy today.. What do you think?

In some instances we can discover the foods Jesus ate by reading the Bible. For example, Luke 24:41-43 states "And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate it in their presence." However, this is one of the rare passages in the Bible actually showing us the types of food and drink Jesus consumed. However, historians and archeologists have made educated guesses based on the foods known to grow in the geographical area and on customs and beliefs during the life of Jesus. The list of foods and beverages below are some of the ones many believe Jesus likely ate in his lifetime.

Pomegranates

An early mosaic of Christ from the 4th century features pomegranates flanking Him. The remarkable number of juicy seeds in a pomegranate symbolizes the many believers who make up the church in religious history. The pomegranate is considered a “super fruit” because it is tremendously rich in antioxidants. The pomegranate’s antioxidants are thought to be responsible for the potential health benefits. Research studies suggest that regular consumption of pomegranates or pomegranate juice can support heart health, breast health, prostate health, and skin health. Nutritionally, a single pomegranate provides nearly 50% of our daily fiber and Vitamin C needs.

Fish

Christ was cooking fish when first seen by some of His disciples after His Resurrection. Fish is an excellent source of lean protein, an

essential part of our regular diet.

Additionally, fatty fish like salmon, mackerel, sardines, lake trout, and herring are excellent sources of omega-3 fatty acids. The omega-3 fatty acids have been reported to have anti-inflammatory actions and consumption of adequate amounts of omega-3 fatty acids have been suggested to support healthy blood lipid levels, reduce blood pressure, and reduce heart disease risk. Fishing was a common occupation during Jesus' day. Christ asked Simon (also called Peter) and his brother Andrew to follow Him to become "Fishers of Men" at the Sea of Galilee.

Honey

Christ's first cousin, John the Baptist, consumed honey, so Christ and others also likely enjoyed with oven-baked bread. Honey has a long history of use as both a food and for its natural health benefits. Many of the phytonutrients in raw honey have been reported to have cancer-fighting properties. It has also been suggested that adding honey to one's diet can support normal blood sugar and cholesterol health. The carbohydrates in

honey have been shown to enhance digestive tract health by promoting beneficial bacteria, and would have been a good energy source for the long walking journeys during the time.

Olive Oil

The “sop” used to dip bread in during the Last Supper may have been or contained olive oil. Olive oil and olives have long been a staple of the Mediterranean diet, a dietary pattern thought to be much healthier than typical Western diets. Olive oil is rich in anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant compounds as well as dietary fat. However, the dietary fat in olive oil is mostly monounsaturated fat, which has been reported to support normal heart health by reducing total and bad cholesterol levels. Additionally, the anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties of olive oil have been reported to support normal blood sugar health, ease joint discomfort, and decrease breast cancer risk. Olive oil also nourishes skin health for a glow.

Grapes

Jesus called Himself “The True Vine” in John 15:1-6. Many vineyards are still in the Jerusalem area and surrounding hillsides. Grapes are a rich source of many phytonutrients including resveratrol and saponins and many other antioxidant compounds. Research reports have suggested that red grapes or grape juice can support normal heart health by decreasing bad cholesterol and triglycerides, preventing the oxidation of bad cholesterol, and supporting an overall improved antioxidant status. New research shows that grape extracts also support healthy skin!

Vinegar

According to the Gospels, a sponge soaked in wine vinegar was offered to Jesus twice while on the cross. Jesus refused the first offering containing a mixture of a pain-killing narcotic herb and vinegar. He accepted the second

offering which was likely the common drink of soldiers called "posca." It would have contained vinegar, water, and eggs. Vinegar, including wine vinegar and apple cider vinegar, has been reported to slow the breakdown of carbohydrates in the digestive system, helping to support normal blood sugar health. Vinegar has also been shown to increase the absorption of calcium from vegetables, making vinegar a good ingredient for your salad dressing.

Figs

Jesus attempted to eat figs from a fruitless fig tree on the road to Jerusalem, so we can assume He enjoyed figs. Figs have long been grown and eaten in the Mediterranean area. Figs are excellent sources of potassium and dietary fiber. Potassium is important for the support of normal blood pressure and dietary fiber has numerous health benefits including weight management, digestive tract health and reduced risk of breast cancer. Figs are also good source of antioxidant phytonutrients like anthocyanins and carotenoids.

Lamb

Lamb is an important part of the Passover feast. It is an excellent source of dietary protein, an essential nutrient for human health. Additionally, lamb provides high amounts of vitamins B3 and B12 as well as high amounts of selenium, zinc, phosphorous, and iron. Zinc has been reported to be important for healthy immune function and blood sugar health, while vitamin B12 plays an essential role in the normal metabolism of carbohydrates, fats, and proteins. While lamb is high in saturated fat, it contains less than most other meat products. Of the total fat in lamb, only about 36% is saturated; the rest is mono- and polyunsaturated fat, the healthier varieties of fat.

Bread

Jesus called himself “The Bread of Life” in John 6:35. Bread was passed out at the feeding of the 5,000 men (plus families) and 4,000, and consumed at the Last Supper.

Many whole grain breads are a rich source of vitamins and minerals as well as dietary fiber. Soluble dietary fiber has been reported to help with weight management, digestive tract health, blood sugar health, purging of bad hormones from the body, and heart health. Eating a diet low in fat and high in grain products, fruits, and vegetables that contain dietary fiber may reduce your risk of some cancers including breast cancer.

Additionally, soluble fiber from foods such as oat bran and whole grain barley, as part of a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol, may reduce the risk of heart disease.

JESUS LOVED CHILDREN

Jesus cared very deeply for children. We read in Matthew 19:13-15 that he spoke to his disciples to let them come to Him.

Matthew 19: 13-15

13 Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them.

14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

15 And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence.

HOW DID JESUS DRESS?

He probably didn't wear a kippah, as kippot were later inventions of rabbinic tradition, far after Jesus' time. Tefillin were something the Sadducees invented (some say 1500 years after the Torah was given to Moses, other say much longer), and not all Jewish sects had adopted them until well after the fall of the temple in 70 (to this day, many sects still do not interpret Exodus 13:9 that way). Jesus commented against how the Chief Priests made theirs honkin' huge in Matthew, yet never talked of them anywhere else (which makes me tend to believe that he didn't think highly of them). He most definitely wore tzitziyot, as the woman with the blood flow reached out and touched them and was healed, and what he wore them on was probably a Tallit, as they were still in style (John the Baptist had one made of Camels' hair, a material that keeps you cool during the day, warm at night, and breathes). He wore sandals, probably Greco-Roman in style, as they were cheap and

produced throughout the Roman Empire.

His "garments" were probably his Tallit and sandals, but the Tunic would probably have been akin to a fisherman's tunic, a long single-knit garment that goes down to the knees, tied with a belt. When one was doing work in the hot sun, they'd pull the bottom of the tunic up through their legs and tuck it into their belt, so not to let it get in the way.

John 19:23

Then when they crucified Jesus, the soldiers took His garments and made four parts, a part to each soldier, also the tunic. And the tunic was seamless, woven from the top throughout.

JESUS LIFE

One of the mysteries of the Bible has always been where Jesus was during his twenties. There is a huge gap in the biography from puberty until about three years before the crucifixion. The simplest inference is that he was working as a carpenter with his father and that nothing remarkable happened to him during this period. This prosaic scenario, Jesus as a salt-of-the-earth working man, is in character with the rest of what we know about him, and there is no good reason to invalidate it.

Timeline

6-4 BC • Birth of Jesus Christ

5-4 BC • Escape to Egypt. Slaughter of children.

4 BC • Herod the Great dies (spring).

7-8 AD • Jesus visits Jerusalem as a child.

12 AD • Augustus makes Tiberius co-regent.

- 14 AD • Tiberius becomes Caesar (August 19th).
- 25 AD • Pilate & Caiaphas appointed to office.
- 29 AD • Ministry of John the Baptist begins.
- 29 AD • Christ's ministry begins.
- 31 AD • Tiberius executes Sejanus (Oct 18th).
- 33 AD • Jesus dies (Friday, April 3rd, 3:00pm).
- 36 AD • Pilate dethroned. Caiaphas deposed.
- 37 AD • Tiberius Caesar dies.

Most of Jesus' life is told through the four Gospels of the New Testament Bible, known as the Canonical gospels, written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These are not biographies in the modern sense but accounts with allegorical intent. They are written to increase faith in Jesus as the Messiah and the incarnation of God, who came to teach, suffer and die for our sins.

Jesus was born between 2 and 6 BCE, in Bethlehem, Judea. His mother, Mary, was a virgin who was betrothed to Joseph, a carpenter. Christians believe Jesus was born through Immaculate Conception. His lineage can be traced back to the house of David. According to the Gospel of Matthew (2:1), Jesus was born during the reign of Herod the Great, who upon hearing of his birth felt threatened and tried to kill Jesus by ordering all of Bethlehem's male children under age two to be killed. But Joseph was warned by an angel and took Mary and the child to Egypt until Herod's death, where upon he brought the family back and settled in the town of Nazareth, in Galilee.

There is very little written about Jesus' early life. The Gospel of Luke (2:41-52) recounts that a 12-year-old Jesus had accompanied his parents on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and became separated. He was found several days later in a temple, discussing affairs with some of Jerusalem's elders. Throughout the New Testament, there are trace references of

Jesus working as a carpenter while a young adult. It is believed that he began his ministry at age 30 when he was baptized by John the Baptist, who upon seeing Jesus, declared him the Son of God.

After baptism, Jesus went into the Judean desert to fast and meditate for 40 days and nights. The Temptation of Christ is chronicled in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke (known as the Synoptic Gospels). The Devil appeared and tempted Jesus three times, once to turn stone to bread, once to cast himself off a mountain where angels would save him, and once to offer him all the kingdoms of the world. All three times, Jesus rejected the Devil's temptation and sent him off.

Jesus returned to Galilee and made trips to neighboring villages. During this time several people became his disciples. One of these was Mary Magdalene, who is first mentioned in the Gospel of Luke (16:9) and later in all four gospels at the crucifixion. Though not

mentioned in the context of the “12 disciples,” she is considered to have been involved in Jesus’ ministry from the beginning to his death and after. According to the gospels of Mark and John, Jesus appeared to Magdalene first after his resurrection.

According to the Gospel of John (2:1-11), as Jesus was beginning his ministry, he and his disciples traveled with his mother, Mary, to a wedding at Cana in Galilee. The wedding host had run out of wine and Jesus’ mother came to him for help. At first, Jesus refused to intervene, but then he relented and asked a servant to bring him large jars filled with water. He turned the water into a wine of higher quality than any served during the wedding. John’s gospel depicts the event as the first sign of Jesus’ glory and his disciples’ belief in him.

After the wedding, Jesus, his mother Mary and his disciples traveled to Jerusalem for Passover. At the temple, they saw

moneychangers and merchants selling wares. In a rare display of anger, Jesus overturned the tables and, with a whip made of cords, drove them out, declaring that his Father's house is not a house for merchants.

The Synoptic Gospels chronicle Jesus as he traveled through Judea and Galilee, using parables and miracles to explain how the prophecies were being fulfilled and that the kingdom of God was near. As word spread of Jesus' teaching and healing the sick and diseased, more people began to follow him. At one point, Jesus came to a level area and was joined by a great number of people. There, at the Sermon on the Mount, he presented several discourses, known as the Beatitudes, which encapsulate many of the spiritual teachings of love, humility and compassion.

As Jesus continued preaching about the kingdom of God, the crowds grew larger and began to proclaim him as the son of David and as the Messiah. The Pharisees heard of

this and publicly challenged Jesus, accusing him of having the power of Satan. He defended his actions with a parable, then questioned their logic and told them such thinking denied the power of God, which only further hardened their resolve to work against him.

Near the city of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus talked with his disciples. According to the gospels of Matthew (16:13), Mark (8:27) and Luke (9:18), he asked, "Who do you say that I am?" The question confused them, and only Peter responded, saying, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus blessed Peter, accepting the titles of "Christ" and the "Son of God," and declared the proclamation was a divine revelation from God. Jesus then proclaimed Peter to be the leader of the church. Jesus then warned his disciples of the Pharisees' conspiracy against him and of his fate to suffer and be killed, only to rise from the dead on the third day.

Less than a week later, Jesus took three of

his disciples to a high mountain where they could pray alone. According to the Synoptic Gospels, Jesus' face began shining like the sun and his entire body glowed with a white light. Then, the prophets Elijah and Moses appeared, and Jesus talked to them. A bright cloud emerged around them, and a voice said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." This event, known as the Transfiguration, is a pivotal moment in Christian theology.

It supports the identity of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, the week before the holiday of Passover, riding on a donkey. Great numbers of people took palm branches and greeted him at the city's entry. They praised him as the Son of David and as the Son of God. The priests and Pharisees, fearful of the growing public adulation, felt he must be stopped.

All four Gospels describe Jesus' final week in Jerusalem. During this time,

Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, confronted moneychangers and merchants in the temple, and debated with the high priests who questioned Jesus' authority. He told his disciples about the coming days and that Jerusalem's temple would be destroyed. Meanwhile, the chief priests and elders met with high priest Caiaphas, and set plans in motion to arrest Jesus. One of the disciples, Judas, met with the chief priests and told them how he would deliver Jesus to them. They agreed to pay him 30 pieces of silver.

Jesus and his 12 disciples met for the Passover meal, and he gave them his final words of faith. He also foretold of his betrayal by one of the disciples and privately let Judas know it was he. Jesus told Peter that before a rooster crowed the next morning, three times he will have denied he knows Jesus. At the end of the meal, Jesus instituted the Eucharist, which in the Christian religion, signifies the covenant between God and humans.

After the Last Supper, Jesus and his disciples went to the Garden of Gethsemane to pray. Jesus asked God if this cup (his suffering and death) might pass by him. He implored a group of his disciples to pray with him, but they kept falling asleep. Then the time had come. Soldiers and officials appeared, and Judas was with them. He gave Jesus a kiss on the cheek to identify him and the soldiers arrested Jesus. One disciple tried to resist the arrest, brandished his sword and cut the ear off one of the soldiers. But Jesus admonished him and healed the soldier's wound.

After his arrest, many of the disciples went into hiding. Jesus was taken to the high priest and interrogated. He was hit and spat upon for not responding. Meanwhile, Peter had followed Jesus to the high priests' court. As he hid in the shadows, three house servants asked if he was one of Jesus' disciples and each time he denied it. After each denial, a rooster crowed. Then Jesus was led out of the house and looked directly at Peter. Peter remembered how Jesus had

told him he would deny him and he wept bitterly. Judas, who was watching from a distance, became distraught by his betrayal of Jesus and attempted to return the 30 pieces of silver. The priests told him his guilt was his own. He threw the coins into the temple and later hanged himself.

The next day, Jesus was taken to the high court where he was mocked, beaten and condemned for claiming to be the Son of God. He was brought before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor of Judea. The priests accused Jesus of claiming to be the King of the Jews and asked that he be condemned to death.

At first Pilate tried to pass Jesus off to King Herod, but he was brought back, and Pilate told the Jewish priests he could find no fault with Jesus. The priests reminded him that anyone who claimed to be a king speaks against Caesar. Pilate publicly washed his hands of responsibility, yet ordered the crucifixion in response to the demands of the

crowd. The Roman soldiers whipped and beat Jesus, placed a crown of thorns on his head and then led him off to Mount Calvary.

Jesus was crucified with two thieves, one at his left and the other at his right. Above his head was the charge against him, "King of the Jews." At his feet were his mother, Mary, and Mary Magdalene. The Gospels describe various events that occurred during the last three hours of his life, including the taunting by the soldiers and the crowd, Jesus' agony and outbursts, and his final words. While he was on the cross, the sky darkened, and immediately upon his death an earthquake erupted, tearing the temple's curtain from top to bottom. A soldier confirmed his death by sticking a spear into his side, which produced only water. He was taken down from the cross and buried in a nearby tomb.

Three days after his death, Jesus' tomb was found empty. He had risen from the dead and appeared first to Mary Magdalene and then to his mother Mary. They both informed the

disciples, who were in hiding, and later, Jesus appeared to them and told them not to be afraid. During this brief time, he beseeched his disciples to go into the world and preach the gospel to all humanity. After 40 days, Jesus led his disciples to Mount Olivet, east of Jerusalem. Jesus spoke his final words to them, saying they would receive the power of the Holy Spirit. Then Jesus was taken upward on a cloud and ascended into heaven.

JESUS FAMILY TREE

The book of the generation of Jesus Christ,
the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat
Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his
brethren;

And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Thamar;
and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat
Aram;

And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab
begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon;

And Salmon begat Booz of Rachab; and Booz
begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;

And Jesse begat David the king; and David
the king begat Solomon of her that had been
the wife of Urias

And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam
begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa;

And Asa begat Josaphat; and Josaphat begat
Joram; and Joram begat Ozias;

And Ozias begat Joatham; and Joatham

begat Achaz; and Achaz begat Ezekias;

And Ezekias begat Manasses; and Manasses begat Amon; and Amon begat Josias;

And Josias begat Jechonias and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon:

And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechonias begat Salathiel; and Salathiel begat Zorobabel;

And Zorobabel begat Abiud; and Abiud begat Eliakim; and Eliakim begat Azor;

And Azor begat Sadoc; and Sadoc begat Achim; and Achim begat Eliud;

And Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob;

And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are

fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.

But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is,

God with us.

Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife:

And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus.

JESUS PRAYED

Jesus woke up early before day break by himself to pray.

Mark 1:35

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Luke 5:16

And he withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed.

Jesus prayed for others.

John 17:11

And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

John 17: 20-21

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

Luke 10:21

In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

Jesus prayed over food that it be blessed.

Mark 14:22

And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed, and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body.

Jesus prayed falling on his face.

Matthew 26:39

And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Jesus prayed when in agony begin earnest and sweating as He knew what lay ahead at Calvary.

Luke 22:44

And being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

Jesus prayed to His Father God from the cross. He asked God why He had forsaken Him.. This was because the sin of the world was laid on Jesus. Jesus paid the ultimate price just for you.

Matthew 27:46

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

JESUS TEACHES US HOW TO PRAY ..

Matthew 6: 5-15

And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.

Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy

name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth,
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our
debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver
us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and
the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your
heavenly Father will also forgive you:

But if ye forgive not men their trespasses,
neither will your Father forgive your
trespasses.

Jesus loved His Father and communicated
with Him often. He prayed for wisdom and
guidance in His earthly ministry. He prayed
for others to come to know Him as Savior
and Lord. He prayed for the twelve disciples,
that God would protect them from "the evil
one." Jesus prayed for God to strengthen
their ministry once He departed from them.
He prayed with honesty and reverence. He
prayed with joy and praise. But most of all,

Jesus prayed with expectation. He knew the Father heard His prayers and would respond. This should be our goal as believers: Pray as Jesus prayed.

NAMES OF JESUS

Names of Jesus in the Bible

The name Jesus comes from Greek for 'Joshua' which means 'God is salvation'. The name 'Jesus' was well explained in Matthew's Gospel: "And she (Mary) will bear a son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21

There are other titles for Jesus Christ in the New as well as in the Old Testament. (See Below).

Names of Jesus found in the New Testament

Mark 1:1 - Son of God The special relationship of Jesus to God

Matthew 8:20 - Son of Man The human identity of Jesus

Matthew 15:22 - Son of David - Jesus is descendant of King David

John 1:1 Word - Jesus revealed God

John 1:29 - Lamb of God - Jesus is the sacrifice for world's sin

Matthew 16:16 – Christ - The Greek for 'Anointed One'

John 4:14 - Savior - The one who saves

John 1:38, Mark 5:35 Rabbi/Teacher - Jesus taught people about God

Acts 3:15 - Author of life - One who gives life

Revelation 1:8 - Alpha and Omega - The first and last letters of the Greek alphabets, meaning that Jesus is the beginning and the end

Revelation 5:5 - Lion of Judah - A title of the Messiah

Revelation 19:16 - King of Kings/Lord of Lords - The ruler of all people

Revelation 22:16 - Bright Morning Star - The one who gives light

Word of God - Jesus is the voice of God
Revelation 19:13

Acts 3:14 - Holy and Righteous - Attributes

of Jesus

Ephesians 5:23 - Head of the Church - The leader of all Christians

Names found in the Old Testament

Isaiah 7:14 - Immanuel - God with us

Isaiah 9:6 - Prince of Peace - Jesus will bring everlasting peace

Isaiah 9:6 - Wonderful Advisor - Jesus will always rule with honesty and justice

Isaiah 9:6 - Mighty God - Jesus is supreme

Isaiah 9:6 - Eternal Father - Jesus is eternal

MIRACLES PERFORMED BY JESUS

Jesus performed many miracles.

This is a list of Jesus' miracles with bible references.

John 2: 1-11 - The water changed into wine
(His first Miracle)

John 4: 46-54 - Healing of a nobleman's son

John 5: 1-9 - Healing of a sick man

John 9: 1-41 Healing of a man who was born blind

John 11: 1-44 - Raising Lazarus

John 21: 1-11 - The hundred and fifty three fish

John 6: 19-21 - Walking on the sea

John 6: 5-13 - Feeding five thousand hungry people

Luke 4: 33-35 - Freeing a man's soul which was possessed by demons

Luke 4: 38-39 - Healing of Simon's mother in law

Luke 5: 1-11 - The enormous catch of fish

Luke 5: 12-13 - Healing of a leper

Luke 5: 18-25 - Healing of a man who was paralyzed

Luke 6:6-10 - The restoration of the withered hand

Luke 7: 1-10 - Healing of a centurion's slave

Luke 7: 11-15 - The raise of a widow's son

Luke 8: 22-25 - The storm

Luke 8: 27-35 - Freeing Legion from the evil spirits

Luke 8:41-56 - Healing of Jairus' daughter

Luke 8:43-48 - Healing of a woman with hemorrhage

Luke 9:38-43 - Freeing a boy's soul which was seized by demons

Luke 11:14 - Healing a dumb demon possessed man

Luke 13:11-13 - Healing a crippled woman

Luke 14:1-4 - Healing a man with dropsy

Luke 17:11-19 - Healing ten lepers

Luke 18:35-43 - Healing of a blind man

Luke 22:50-51 - Healing of a slave's ear

Matthew 9:27-31 - Healing of two blind men

Matthew 9:32-33 - Healing of a dumb demon possessed man

Matthew 15:21-28 - Healing of the Canaanite girl who was seized by demons

Matthew 15:32-38 - Feeding four thousand hungry people

Matthew 17:24-27 - The money in the fish's mouth

Matthew 21:18-22 - The withering of the fig tree

Mark 7:31-37 - Healing a deaf and mute man

Mark 8:2-26 - Healing a blind man

THE UNIQUENESS OF JESUS

The former scriptures say a number of things concerning Jesus. They say that He was:

Unique in His conception.

In history no other human being has had such a marvelous conception. Not even Muhammad. Everyone since the time of Adam and Eve has had two parents. But Jesus of Nazareth stands alone. Only He was born of a virgin.

Yet this birth was unique in other respects. The Bible states that the angel Gabriel foretold His birth (Luke 1:24-37). A special star appeared indicating where He would be born. At His birth angels proclaimed the event (Luke 2:8-14) and before He could talk, wise men from the East came to worship Him (Matthew 2:11). Yahya (John the Baptist), while still in the womb, leapt for joy in the presence of Jesus. (Luke 1:44)

Unique in His Sinlessness.

The devil came to tempt Jesus as he had tempted the first Adam, but failed. (Luke 4) Unlike all the rest of humanity, Jesus never sinned.

Unique in His Power.

Jesus went about doing endless miracles, healing the sick, controlling nature and raising the dead. (Luke 3:22, 4:1,14) He knew the thoughts of all men, whether in the past, present or future. (John 2:25) Jesus was a man who knew far more of the power of God than any other human who has ever lived.

Unique in His Message.

Jesus was not just an ordinary man. He told people to follow Him, and not just to follow His teaching. Even when He taught, the people were not so much amazed at what He said as who He was. His authority rested in Himself and not His message.

THE PURITY OF JESUS

The virgin birth also signified that Jesus was not of the line of Adam. Because He did not have two parents He was exempted from Adam's line. Yet why is this so important? Why should Jesus not be born in the line of Adam just like every other human being?

God created all living creatures with the ability to reproduce themselves. (Genesis 1) From the beginning of creation we see that God established a very important principle, that like produces like.

That which comes from Adam is sinful

We all possess the basic humanity that Adam and Eve have passed down to us through the generations since creation. But there is more to it than that. Adam passed down to us more than those characteristics which separate us from other animals or living things. And here is where the problem lies. Adam disobeyed God by eating the fruit Eve

gave him (Genesis 2) and brought a judgment and curse upon not only all of his descendants, but upon all of creation. (Genesis 2:17) Sin had now entered the world, and had permeated Adam, his wife Eve, and all of creation.

Adam produced offspring, "in his own likeness, after his own image". (Genesis 5:3) Again, we find the old dictum that like produces like. Adam had defiled his own humanity. Adam's children were the same. They too were corrupt and cursed, aslike produces like. Therefore, we have a chain of human life reaching back to Adam, the consequence of whose sin has affected us all. Because of that original sin by Adam we are all imputed with the guilt of sin, the wages of which is death (Romans 6:23). But there is one exception.

That which comes from God is sinless

There is one who never did anything wrong. He was the only man who never sinned. His name was Jesus. His sinlessness showed that He could not be a son of the corrupt and cursed Adam. His virgin birth prevented Him from being imputed with Adam's sin. He was

different because His Father was different.
Remember the dictum like produces like.

This does not mean that He was conceived by God in a physical way. No, that would be blasphemous! Scripture tells us that the power of the Holy Spirit worked to conceive a child in Mary's womb. (Matthew 1:20) How can anything of the Holy Spirit be unholy?

He was a child described by Gabriel the Bible (Hebrews 1) as a holy one, and not part of that chain of curse and corruption reaching back to Adam. Here was a 'new Adam,' a human being who was not under the curse of God, a servant whom God loved and with whom He was well pleased (Luke 3:22). There was no shame, guilt or corruption in this man.

As proof of this we find that His holiness did not go unnoticed, even by those who were not of His group, those who persecuted Him and despised Him. At the end of His life Pilate said he could find nothing wrong with Jesus and washed his hands of his execution. Even a demon identified Him as the "Holy One of God" (Luke 4:34).

We know that like produces like, so why should Jesus not be holy? Yet, what about His mother? It is because of His human mother that we know He had a human nature. Due to His virgin birth Jesus had the nature of a human and the nature of God, yet He remained one person. The significance of His two natures would take pages to explain. Suffice to say that in Jesus, God is revealed in human form as God manifest in the flesh. (1 Timothy 3:16) His virgin birth, however, underlies these two natures: born of a woman, providing Him His humanity, yet born of a virgin, underlining His divinity.

That which comes from Eve is fulfilled.

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers (singular). He will crush your head and you will strike His heel." (Genesis 3:15)

In this verse God foretells the event of the cross which was to happen thousands of years later. An offspring of Eve would crush the head of Satan. We know this happened on the cross and the subsequent resurrection, when Jesus finally destroyed the work of Satan by triumphing over death.

(1 Corinthians 15)

What is interesting is that God said neither the offspring of Adam, nor their offspring, referring to both of them. He purposefully mentions her offspring, pointing to the female side of the created parent. Eve stands for all women, as can clearly be seen in the subsequent prophecy which only women can suffer. (Genesis 3:16) Therefore, the person to fulfill this prophecy had to be a woman.

As we have seen, Jesus was not born of Adam, but only of Eve (a woman). Because Jesus had no human father He is exempt from the imputation of Adam's sin.

THE DIVINITY OF JESUS

The Lord Himself shall give you a sign:
Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son
and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah
7:14)

Finally, through the virgin birth came a child who was Immanuel. This was no ordinary name for this was no ordinary child.

Immanuel means God with us. God Himself was to come through this virgin birth.

This prophecy is fulfilled in the conception and birth of Jesus the Messiah. Before Mary and Joseph had any sexual relations, Mary was pregnant through the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:18-25) Her conception was by the Holy Spirit, not by sexual intercourse, as some Muslims claim the scripture says.

The angel Gabriel came to Mary and told her that her virgin-born child would be called the Son of the Most High, the Lord God, and that He will reign over the house of Jacob (Israel) forever. (Luke 1:26-2:52) When Mary asked how this could be, Gabriel explained that the power of the highest, the Holy Spirit, would overshadow her and therefore, the Holy One in her would be called the Son of God.

It's Significance for us Today

The virgin birth demonstrates that Jesus is both human and divine.

Due to the virgin birth Jesus Christ was

exempted from the curse of Adam with which we have all been imputed. Because He was perfect, He could take upon Himself our sins completely. We now have the assurance of our salvation, something which Muslims can never claim.

It was Jesus who fulfilled the prophecy given to Eve, that one of her offspring would come and destroy the power of Satan, death, and evil. We are free to live in relationship with God both now and forever more.

And finally, it was a sign that God was with us (Immanuel). Jesus, the only person in history born in such a way, truly was God with us. The fulfillment of that prophecy informs us that this child was also the Son of God and the Holy One. We need to be aware of these prophecies and their fulfillment. Since God has already come among us, there is now no need for a further prophet, or a further revelation. All has been fulfilled in this unique person.

JESUS PURPOSE FOR COMING TO EARTH

If it were not for Jesus coming as our Savior there would be no way to enter heaven. In the Old Testament we read of the many sacrifices that were given in atonement for their sins.

Jesus came to be the sacrificial lamb that was slain. The shedding of His blood at Calvary makes it possible now for us to live in Heaven for eternity. We must accept Jesus Christ as our Savior and believe that he died for our sins on the cross. His Mission was definitely to bring us Salvation. He paid the price for us, as we were born in sin. There is no other way but through Christ.

I have heard many preachers speak of being good and paying your tithes and doing everything right.. It makes you think that if you do all of this you will have your ticket paid into heaven, but that is not true. Sure, those things are good to do, but you must accept Jesus Christ into your life first.

Years ago I loved the way some of the services went, the Blood of Jesus was preached, they had evening services, they had alter calls and many preachers explained in detail Salvation. Today things are changing.. it is very hard to find a church open on a Sunday night anymore and the sermons skip over the most important issues of the Bible. Alter calls are very rare if ever. We need to really take a look around and then look at our own life and be sure that we are ready to die. There was a song I wrote years ago called "Heaven or Hell" here are the words..

You can be a Catholic,
You can be a Jew,
You can be a Baptist,
Or Pentecostal too,
But if you don't know Jesus
In a very special way,
Then my friend please listen
To what I have to say.....
Heaven or Hell, Heaven or Hell

For all Eternity

Heaven or Hell, Heaven or Hell

What will your answer be?

It is pretty plain and simple you must have accepted Jesus and live the way He wants you to live that is told in the Bible to enter Heaven. Eternity is forever. If you do not know Jesus today I ask you to repeat this simple prayer.

Dear Father, I come to you and I accept your Son Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I believe He died and shed His blood on the cross of Calvary for me. He paid the price for my sin. I invite you Lord Jesus to come into my life and make me a new creation in you. I have sinned and fall short but by accepting you I am now a new creature and will live my life for you. I ask that the Holy Spirit lead me and guide me into all truth.

In the name of Jesus Christ I pray...

JESUS DEATH & RESURRECTION

Jesus did not only come to teach, to heal and to train disciples. The main purpose of His coming was to open the door of forgiveness for all men by His dying on the cross.

Perhaps you find this hard to understand. So it also was with His disciples.

Read Luke 18:31-34.

Why did Jesus have to die? (Verse 31.)

How would He die? (Verse 32.)

What would happen after that? (Verse 33.)

How did the disciples react to this statement?

On at least three occasions Jesus warned his disciples about what would happen, but they did not understand this until much later. But all this was in full agreement with the prophecies concerning Him. (Read Isaiah 53, written about seven centuries before the birth of Jesus.)

It is no coincidence, therefore, that one third of the record of the gospel is devoted to one week of His life: the week in which Jesus was

killed. This is one of the best evidenced events of old history, an event that influenced the world and its thinking more than any other. In addition, this event has totally changed the lives of millions of believers throughout history up to the present time.

The Plot Against Jesus

Jesus, despite being foretold in detail in the Old Testament, did not fit the Messiah concept of many of the religious leaders. To them He was an impostor, a blasphemer. They saw His miracles, but ascribed them, at least partly, to Satan (Matthew 12:15-24).

They expected a political Messiah who would deliver them from the yoke of the Roman oppression. These leaders were jealous of Him, because large crowds of Jews followed him. They also saw in Him a threat to the "theocracy" (rule of God) because Israel was largely ruled by the priests and religious

leaders. They felt that the future of the nation was at stake. After Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, they finally plotted to kill Him.

Read John 11:45-53.

Why did some of the Jews believe in Jesus?

Why did the leaders see Jesus as a threat?
(Verse 48.)

Why did Jesus have to die? (Verse 51-52.)

The Passover Feast

The Passover is one of the major religious feasts in Israel. It reminds the Jews of their liberation from Egypt under Moses. God had sent different plagues on Egypt to force Pharaoh to allow the Israelites to go free (Exodus 7-11). The final punishment was the death of every firstborn, man and beast. Only

those homes which were protected by a lamb's blood painted on the sides and tops of the door frames, were "passed over" and the occupants spared (Exodus 12:1-6).

So the feast was called: Passover. It had to be celebrated every year (Exodus 12:25-27; Leviticus 23:5-8).

This festival also had a deeper meaning. It was not a coincidence that Jesus Christ was killed during the Passover ceremonies, "for Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed" (1 Corinthians 5:7). As the blood of the lamb on the door post caused the judgement of God to pass over those Israelites, so the blood of Jesus causes the judgement of God to pass over everyone who trusts in Him. As it was done then, by trusting God's word without trying to reason out how and why blood on the door post could save from judgement, so faith works today!

The Last Supper

Just before His capture Jesus celebrated the Passover feast with His disciples. One of them, Judas Iscariot, had already negotiated to betray his Master to His enemies without attracting public attention, but Jesus knew about it and told him so (Matthew 26:25).

By that time the religious feasts of the Jews had become a routine. During the celebrations the same prescribed words were repeated by prescribed people every year. But at this feast Jesus departed from the usual pattern.

Read Luke 22:15-20.

This New Covenant or New Testament means that we no longer have to despair over our sins or fear the judgement after death. When we entrust ourselves to Him and gratefully accept the pardon offered by Him, we may know that His body was broken for us and His blood shed for us. Christians remember this in regular services where this symbolic

action is repeated and the believers repent of their sins, but rejoice in the full forgiveness the New Covenant offers (Hebrews 9:16-28; 8:6-13). The New Covenant replaces the old in which the sacrifices were only pointers to God's great and final sacrifice, Jesus.

Jesus' Trial and Execution

That same night Jesus was arrested in the garden called Gethsemane. During the night, contrary to the Jewish law, He was brought before the high priest and the Jewish council (Sanhedrin).

Read Matthew 26:59-66.

How do we know that the Sanhedrin was not interested in a just trial?

To what accusation did Jesus admit? (Verse 63)

What did He also call himself? (Verse 64.)

How did the high priest react to this term? (Verse 65.)

What was the verdict? (Verse 66.)

The Jews said that Jesus blasphemed when He called himself "Son of Man", because they

refused to accept Him for who He really was. They knew what the term meant from Daniel 7:13-14:

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a Son of Man, coming with the clouds of Heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into His presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshipped Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”

The Jewish authorities were not allowed to pass a death sentence. This could only be done by the Romans, who governed the land. Jesus was therefore brought at first light to Pontius Pilate the Roman governor.

Read John 18:28-19:25.

Why did the Jews bring Jesus before Pilate? (Verse 31.)

What was Pilate's verdict? (Verse 38, 4, 6.)

Why then was Jesus crucified? (Verse 12, 16.)

So Jesus received the death sentence in spite of being declared completely innocent three times in a court of law!

Read about the execution in John 19:17-37.

How do we know that Jesus Himself was crucified?

How do we know that He was really dead?

Jesus Lives Again!

Many people were crucified in those days. If Jesus had only died, He could have been an impostor, in spite of the many prophecies that were fulfilled in detail. But Jesus rose again from death on the third day, in spite of all the precautions of His enemies.

Read Matthew 27:57-65.

How did Joseph seal the grave?

How did the chief priests seal the grave?

If you consider this evidence, as well as the evidence recorded in the other accounts of the gospel, is it very clear that it was impossible for Jesus to have remained alive. It was impossible for His disciples to have stolen the body. If the chief priests and

Pharisees had stolen the body, they would have produced it triumphantly as soon as the disciples started to say that Jesus lived. But the facts show that only one explanation is possible: Jesus rose from the dead and is alive today!

Read Matthew 28:1-15.

Who rolled back the stone?

What were the soldiers paid to say?

If one remembers that any Roman soldier found sleeping while on guard duty was executed, the story that was circulated among the Jews is shown to be nonsense.

It is interesting to note that the disciples themselves were caught completely by surprise (Luke 24:1-11), in spite of the fact that Jesus predicted His resurrection again and again. That same evening Jesus appeared to them and convinced them that He really lived (Luke 24:36-44). Even the proverbial "doubting Thomas", one of the apostles, was convinced in the end (John 20:28-29).

Read John 20:24-29.

What did Thomas say when he realized who Jesus is? (Verse 28.)

In Chapter 14 we will have a good look at this statement when we try to determine who Jesus is.

Jesus Returns to Heaven

After instructing His disciples for forty days after the resurrection, Jesus went back to His heavenly glory. He will return again at the end of time.

WHERE IS JESUS TODAY?

Here are some scriptures that explain where Jesus is today..

Luke 22:69

69 Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.

Mark 16:19

19 So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Eph. 1: 20 – 22

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that

which is to come:

22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

Hebrews 1: 3-5

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high:

4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Hebrews 4: 14- 16

14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Making Intercession

In Hebrews 8, Paul elaborates on Christ's responsibilities as High Priest. "We have such an High Priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; a Minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. For every High Priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices" (vs. 1-3). Jesus Christ is described as a "Minister" in God's sanctuary. He is working in God's Temple, acting as a type of mediator between Christians and the Father. His sacrifice gives Christians access to God.

In Ephesians 2, Paul records, "But now in Christ Jesus you who sometimes were far off are made near by the blood of Christ...for through Him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father" (vs. 13, 18). In order to break this wall of separation, Christ's death was required. Through prayer, Christians are now permitted to enter the throne room of God (Heb. 4:16). It is only through Christ, as the active High Priest over His New Testament Church, that this is possible. It is His responsibility to present their spiritual sacrifices, their prayers, to God the Father.

The apostle Paul wrote, "Wherefore He [Christ] is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever lives to make intercession for them" (Heb. 7:25). Christ lives to intercede on a Christian's behalf. The word intercede means to "intervene between parties with a view to reconciling differences." In I Timothy 2:5, Christ is also called the "Mediator between God and men." When fully understood, it is plain that Christ takes a

crucial and active role in working with true Christians and the Father.

JESUS IS COMING BACK SOON..

Scripture from New International Version

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done.

Matthew 23:39 For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'

Matthew 24:27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew 24:30 "At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.

Matthew 24: 36-39 No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man.

Matthew 24:42 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come."

Mathew 26:64 "Yes it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Mark 8:36-38 What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with holy angels.

Mark 13:26-27 At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens.

Mark 13:35-37 Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back - whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'

Mark 14:61-62 Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Might One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

Luke 9:26-27 If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels. I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

Luke 17:28-30 "It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. "It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.

Luke 18:8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

Luke 21:25-28 "There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. Men will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."

John 14:1-4 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God ; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to

the place where I am going."

Acts 1:11 "Men of Galilee," they said. "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

Acts 3:19-21 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you - even Jesus. He must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

1 Corinthians 1:7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

1 Corinthians 4:5 Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till the Lord

comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that time each will receive his praise from God.

1 Corinthians 11:26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

1 Corinthians 15:23-24 But each in his own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him. Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power.

Philippians 1:10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Colossians 3:4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

1 Thessalonians 1:9 for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead - Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

1 Thessalonians 2:19 For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our

glory and joy.

1 Thessalonians 3:13 May he strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-5:4 According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words. Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the

night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thessalonians 1:7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.

2 Thessalonians 2:1 Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to

have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come.

2 Thessalonians 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destory by the splendor of his coming.

1 Timothy 6:13-16 I charge you to keep this command without spot or blame until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, which God will bring about in his own time - God the blessed and only Ruler, the King of Kings and Lord of lords, who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen

2 Timothy 4:1-2 In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and

encourage- with great patience and careful instruction.

2 Timothy 4:8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day - and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

Titus 2:12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope - the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior, Jesus christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

Hebrews 9:28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are

waiting for him.

Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another - and all the more as you see the day approaching.

Hebrews 3:7 For in just a very little while, "He who is coming will come and will not delay.

James 5:7-9 Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against each other, brothers, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!

1 Peter 1:3-5 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great

mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade - kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

1 Peter 2:12 Live such good lives among the pagans that though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

1 Peter 4:13 But rejoice that you participate in the suffering of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed.

1 Peter 5:4 And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.

2 Peter 1:16 We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

2 Peter 3:3 First of all, you must understand that in the last days scoffers will come, scoffing and following their own evil desires. They will say, "Where is the 'coming' he promised?"

2 Peter 3:8-10 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to peris, but everyone to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will

disappear with a roar; The elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare.

1 John 2:28 And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming.

1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are like children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, We shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Jude 1:14 Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken

against him."

Jude 1:21 Keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

Revelation 1:4 To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from who is, and who was, and who is to come,

Revelation 1:7 Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen. I am the Alpha and the Omega, " says the Lord God, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 3:11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. Him who overcomes I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never

again will he leave it.

Revelation 16:15 "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed."

Revelation 22:12 Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

Revelation 22:20-21 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen, Come, Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.

HOW DO WE GET TO KNOW HIM?

The only way to get to know Jesus is to Read the Bible and Pray.

Communication is one of the most important things that you can do, it is like being in a relationship. In a relationship there must be communication or the relationship will no longer be, this is the same with Jesus. When we pray and talk to Him, of course we always listen too, we build that fellowship with Him. The more we read about Him in the Bible and the many things He has done and is doing we begin to love Him and want to serve Him and do what He wants us to do.

When we start to show His love through us to others we will find a peace that we never knew even existed.

God Bless You... Anne

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Anne Skinner is founder of Hannah House and Prison Letters, she has been in full time Ministry for 20 years. She was co-host of a Television show called "Gospel Road". She now is an author and motivational Speaker and Teacher of the Word of God.

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