



A STUDY OF THE LIFE OF JESUS

Lesson One: Christ's Life Prior to His Ministry

Lesson Texts: *Matthew 1:1-25; Luke 1:1-80, 3:23-38; John 1:1-18*

A. Luke's Preface and Dedication and John's Introduction (Luke 1:1-4; John 1:1-18)

1. Where was Jesus "in the beginning?"
2. What part did Jesus have in Creation?
3. For what purpose was John the Baptist sent from God?
4. a. Of whom is it said, "He was in the world, ...and the world did not know Him?"

b. Why [do you think this was] said about Him?
5. a. What did Jesus give to those who "received Him?"

b. What does that mean?
6. What comparisons did John the Baptist make between himself and Jesus?
7. a. In contrast to the law given through Moses, what is said to have come through Jesus Christ?

b. [Can you] give a brief summary of how this is true?

B. The Genealogy of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-17, Luke 3:23-38)

8. How many generations were there from Abraham to Christ?
9. a. According to Luke, of whom is Jesus "supposed" to be the son?

b. Why did he [Luke] express it in that way?

10. How do you explain the above differences between the genealogies of Jesus as recorded by Matthew and Luke? [Use footnotes in your Bible if you have them.]

C. Annunciation to Zacharias of the Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:5-25)

11. a. Who were Zacharias and Elizabeth?
- b. Describe their character.
12. What was Zacharias doing at the time the angel appeared to him and revealed that Elizabeth would bear a son?
13. What did the angel tell Zacharias in reference to the son that was to be born to him and his wife?
14. When Zacharias asked for proof from the angel to verify his message, what sign did he [the angel] give him?

D. Annunciation of the Birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38)

15. a. When Joseph learned that Mary was to have a child, what was he going to do?
- b. Why?
- c. In response to this, who appeared to Joseph?
- d. What did he reveal?
16. What prophecies were fulfilled by the birth of Jesus?
17. a. Whose throne did the angel tell Mary her son would occupy?
- b. Why could He do that?
18. a. What did Mary ask the angel after being told she was to bear a son?
- b. What was his response?

E. Mary's Visit to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56)

19. a. What was Mary's relationship to Elizabeth?

b. What caused Mary to visit her [Elizabeth] at this time?
20. a. What happened when Mary greeted Elizabeth?

b. Why?

F. The Birth and Early Life of John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-80)

21. Briefly summarize the events surrounding the birth of John the Baptist.
22. What did Zacharias say that John would do?
23. What is said of John as a child?
24. What [do you think] is meant by the phrase "*till the day of his manifestation to Israel?*"

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow, it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

Hebrews 4:12



Women Alive in Christ Questions:

1. Reflect on the activity of Christ at Creation (John 1:1-2;) then on the truth that He was born in human flesh and blood from the womb of an *insignificant - to – the – world* young woman named Mary. Write out your thoughts.

2. God chose to use a young girl such as Mary for this miraculous event in history. Luke 1:30 tells us that Mary found grace (*favor*) with God. Grace is always undeserved. It is given to those who believe, yet who sin, who fall short of the glory of God - people like Mary, like you, and like me. Grace asks that we do, by grace (undeserved favor), whatever God asks of us. God wants our hearts to say "yes" to His will, no matter how surprising, or what the cost. It will bear eternal fruit and glorify our Savior.

Will you ask the Lord, now as you read this, to reveal more and more of Himself to you through this study?

Will you expect and desire opportunities to courageously say "I am the servant of the Lord" let it be to me according to His will for me?

Will you ask your Savior to fill you with joy as you discover more of and about His grace, His love, His acceptance and His peace during your study of His word? Do you believe He will?

3. Will you have this be your measureable goal: committing to give an honest effort each week to do your lesson, to be committed to your small group, and attend the lecture? What practical adjustments might you have to make in your day and your week as a result?

4. Let your prayer request for this week be any concerns/obstacles in your life that would keep you from the above commitments.