

Jesus the Messiah

Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did
1 John 2:6 (NIV)

BOOK ONE: The Promise, Jesus' Birth, and Jesus' Teachings in Galilee

Based on the New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John



A programmed instruction study on the life and teachings of Jesus the Messiah (the Christ):

Suggested use: extension training and small group Bible study

GRASSROOTS LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

LIFE AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS THE MESSIAH

Jesus the Messiah

Live as Jesus lived (1 John 2:6)

BOOK ONE: The Promise, Jesus' Birth, and Jesus' Teachings in Galilee

A programmed instruction study on the life of Jesus the Messiah (the Christ):
Based on the New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John

Suggested use: leadership training and small group Bible study

Unless otherwise noted:

Scriptures taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version, NIV, Copyright 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011, by Biblica, Inc.

Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide. www.Zondervan.com

Map of *Palestine in New Testament Times* used by permission of United Bible Society

Self-published – 2021

IVORY COAST CHRISTIAN MISSION

Grassroots Leadership Development

515 E Lavender Ct

Ellettsville, IN 47429

Website: grassrootsld.org

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED:

This book or any section of it may NOT be reproduced on paper or by electronic means without written permission. This book or any section of it may NOT be translated and reproduced on paper or by electronic means without written permission.

Jesus the Messiah

Live as Jesus lived (1 John 2:6)

PREFACE:

The life and death of Jesus on this earth was fulfillment of God's promise to mankind. It is the most important event in human history. God's love for mankind has never changed. His eternal plan for those who love him has never changed. God created us in his image. It was spiritual. It was holy. It was personal because God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden.

The enemy of God, a rebellious angel named Satan, could not overthrow God so Satan set up his kingdom on earth in an effort to turn mankind against God. He deceived Adam and Eve into disobeying God by telling them they could be like God if they ate the forbidden fruit. The fruit gave us the knowledge of good and evil. With that knowledge, Satan has been able to tempt us into evil activities. Since that day there has been a war within us between good and evil. This war is a struggle for our relationship with God.

God is in control. He has a plan to restore man's eternal relationship with himself. We see his plan developing throughout human history. God told Satan that someday a descendant of Eve would crush Satan's head. That descendant is Jesus the Messiah. His plan is being carried out even as you read this book.

Mankind became so corrupt that God destroyed the earth with a flood and began again with the family of Noah. Noah was the only righteous man left on the earth. God promised Noah He would not destroy the earth again with a flood. But sin continued to corrupt mankind. God chose another righteous man named Abraham. He promised that all the earth would be blessed through Abraham's descendant. That descendant is Jesus the Messiah.

Sin continued to corrupt mankind. Through Moses, God set up a nation of Abraham's descendants called Israelites. He gave them laws and guidelines for living a holy life. God set up the priesthood to guide them into the paths of righteousness. Moses led the Israelites to the edge of the Promised Land. Joshua led them into the Promised Land. And then, judges maintained justice and political stability.

Eventually, the Israelites demanded a King like other nations. God chose Saul as the first king. Saul failed miserably because he did not obey God. God chose David as their second king. He was not perfect, but he was a strong leader who loved and obeyed God. God promised that the reign of King David over God's people would continue for eternity through one of David's descendants. That descendant is Jesus the Messiah.

This was the beginning of the title Messiah. The word Messiah comes from a Hebrew word which means *the anointed one*. The Greek word for *the anointed one* is *Christ*. A king was put into power with a ceremony where his head was anointed with oil. It was the responsibility of *the anointed one* to protect and lead God's people.

However, God's chosen people were divided and weakened by kings who were corrupt. God allowed their enemies to conquer them because of their unfaithfulness. Through the prophets, God pleaded with the Israelites to repent. Through the prophets, God promised a Messiah (anointed one), a descendant of King David, who would save them from their enemies and set up a perfect, eternal kingdom that would never end. God promised that the new kingdom would include Gentiles – those who are not descendants of Abraham.

At the time of Jesus' birth, the Israelites were under the suppressive control of the Roman Empire. They had no king of their own. The Roman government had appointed Herod as their king. He claimed to follow Judaism, but he was of Arab descent. The Jewish (Israelite) spiritual leaders were wealthy, corrupt and hypocritical. God's chosen people were like sheep without a spiritual shepherd to love them and guide them to God. The only hope for the common Jew was the Messiah promised by the prophets.

God sent the Messiah (Jesus the Christ) at just the right time in history. The common Jew was desperate for spiritual guidance and wise leadership. The Roman Empire controlled a large part of the Gentile world which included northern Africa, the Middle-East and Europe. This made travel easy for spreading of the Good News of salvation for everyone through Jesus the Messiah. Anyone who repented, accepted the Messiah as his Lord and obeyed his teachings could become a child of God – a citizen in the eternal Kingdom of God.

This study of the Life of Christ is divided into four courses. Each course takes about twelve weeks to complete when used in a training program. Below is a list of the four course books and the topics they cover:

BOOK ONE: The Promise, Jesus' Birth, and Jesus' Teachings in Galilee

BOOK TWO: Jesus' Popularity, Opposition, Spiritual Truth, Divine Identity

BOOK THREE: Jesus Taught Discipleship and Leadership

BOOK FOUR: Jesus' Crucifixion, Resurrection, the Great Commission

BEFORE YOU BEGIN BOOK ONE IN THE STUDY OF *JESUS THE MESSIAH*, PLEASE BE SURE YOU ARE USING THE UPDATED NIV TRANSLATION COPYRIGHTED IN 2011. Using an early version of the NIV may not lead you to the correct answers for questions in these lessons.

Jesus, the Messiah, is more than a man chosen by God. He is God who humbled himself and became a man. He is both God and man. He *showed* us how to live the holy life by walking on this earth as a man without sin. He *taught* us how to be a child of God through parables and teachings about righteousness. He paid the penalty for our sins so we can be reconciled to God. He rose from the dead to overcome the penalty of death brought on all of us by our own sins. He sent the Holy Spirit who enables us to be God's chosen children. Jesus is preparing a place for us where He will reign forever as the anointed one. My prayer for you is that you will know Him as your Messiah, your King, your Saviour and your Lord.

For His glory,
Bob Sheffler

Jesus the Messiah

BOOK ONE: The Promise, Jesus' Birth, and Jesus' Teachings in Galilee

CONTENTS

PREFACE:	2
INTRODUCTION	7
INSTRUCTIONS	8
UNIT ONE: THE PROMISED MESSIAH	
LESSON ONE: The Promise of a Special Messiah	9
LESSON TWO: The Light Shines in the Darkness	14
LESSON THREE: The Genealogies of Jesus	16
UNIT TWO: BIRTH AND DEDICATION	
LESSON FOUR: Gabriel Announced the Birth of John the Baptist and Jesus	19
LESSON FIVE: The Birth of Jesus	22
LESSON SIX: The Dedication of Jesus	25
UNIT THREE: PREPARATION	
LESSON SEVEN: Foreign Scientists Came to Worship Jesus	27
LESSON EIGHT: The Life of Jesus During His Childhood and Youth	31
LESSON NINE: John the Baptist Prepared the Way for Jesus	33
UNIT FOUR: JESUS BEGAN HIS MINISTRY	
LESSON TEN: Satan Tempted Jesus in Three Powerful Ways	36
LESSON ELEVEN: John the Baptist Introduced the Messiah	39
LESSON TWELVE: Jesus' First Disciples and His First Public Miracle	40
UNIT FIVE: JESUS BEGAN TO TEACH	
LESSON THIRTEEN: Jesus Preached in Jerusalem and Taught Nicodemus	43
LESSON FOURTEEN: Jesus Taught in Judea and Samaria	47

UNIT SIX: JESUS GAINED DISCIPLES

LESSON FIFTEEN: Jesus Taught With Authority 50
LESSON SIXTEEN: Jesus Gained Many Followers 54

UNIT SEVEN: OPPOSITION BEGAN

LESSON SEVENTEEN: Religious Leaders Complain to Jesus 56
LESSON EIGHTEEN: Religious Leaders Oppose Jesus 60
LESSON NINETEEN: Jesus Chose Twelve Men to be Special Apostles 63

UNIT EIGHT: FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS – part one

LESSON TWENTY: Eight Spiritual Blessings 64
LESSON TWENTY-ONE: Fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets 70

UNIT NINE: FULFILLMENT OF THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS – part two

LESSON TWENTY-TWO: More about Fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets . . . 74
LESSON TWENTY-THREE: Teachings About Religious Hypocrisy 77
LESSON TWENTY-FOUR: Teachings About Trusting God 80

UNIT TEN: JESUS WARNED US

LESSON TWENTY-FIVE: Teachings About Humility 83
LESSON TWENTY-SIX: Jesus Warned Us 86
MAP: Palestine in New Testament Times 89

INTRODUCTION:

This study of the life of Jesus is based on the four books in the Bible commonly called the Gospels. The word Gospel is a Greek word which means good news. The Good News is salvation for all mankind through Jesus the Messiah. The Gospel books in the New Testament are four separate accounts of the life of Jesus. Each book is written with a different approach for telling the important facts about Jesus' life on the earth. The books are named after their author.

Matthew was written by one of the twelve special Apostles chosen by Jesus. He was a tax collector before he became an Apostle. Matthew tells the life of Jesus from a Jewish view point. He points out many events in the life of Jesus which fulfilled Old Testament prophecies of the promised Messiah. These events proved that Jesus is the promised Messiah.

Mark is also called John Mark. He worked with the Apostle Paul, but later he was a close worker with the Apostle Peter. Some feel his account of the life of Jesus is based on things he learned from the Apostle Peter who was with Jesus for his three year public ministry.

Luke was a medical doctor. He was a close worker with the Apostle Paul. He wrote his account of the life of Jesus for a Roman government official named Theophilus. Luke gained his information about Jesus from interviewing those who were eyewitnesses to the life of Jesus. They were people who knew Jesus and worked with Jesus – Luke 1:1-4.

John was also one of the special twelve Apostles. John wrote his account of Jesus to those who lived under the influence of the Greek culture. The Greek culture had a strong impact on the educational life of the Roman Empire. The Greek philosophers used symbolic words to refer to important ideas. Some of the symbolic Greek words which John used are *light*, *darkness*, and *word*.

We can be confident that all four accounts are accurate and true because the writers were guided by the Holy Spirit as they wrote. The events recorded in the four accounts are not all recorded in any one account. The records of some events which are recorded in more than one of the accounts may appear to disagree with each other in certain details. Those differences can easily be explained by considering the different approach of each writer and what he felt was most important. If their accounts were exactly the same, we would suspect they planned to deceive us by creating a false story and agreeing on the details before writing it down.

This study cannot cover every event recorded in all four accounts (John 21:25). For example, all miracles will not be covered in our study. We will attempt to cover the most important events and other events which will give us a good coverage of the life and teachings of Jesus.

We will attempt to study the life of Jesus in a chronological order (the order in which they happened). There are several opinions about the chronological order of these events when trying to include all events from all four accounts. I have chosen to follow the chronological order of The Daily Bible published by Harvest House.

This study of the life of Jesus is divided into four ten week courses. The first course covers the Old Testament promises of a Messiah, the birth of Jesus and his teachings in Galilee.