

Life and Teachings of Jesus



February 7, 2012

Dr. Cindy Ausec

Learning Objectives



- ❧ Know the basic tenants of Christianity
- ❧ Know the Historical background for Jesus' time; the four Gospels and Gospel "Q"
- ❧ Know the sources for the Life of Christ
- ❧ Know the important events of his life, death and resurrection
- ❧ Know the themes of his ministry

The World of the First Century CE

Conditions of Judaism and the Roman Empire

- ☞ Judea was under the control of the Roman Empire
- ☞ The Empire expected conquered nations to honor the Emperor's cult – caused unrest in Judea
- ☞ Judaism – Rabbis were developing what would become the Mishnah and the Talmud

End of the World is Near

- ❧ Anticipation among some (esp Jews) that the world was nearing its end or a climactic moment
- ❧ Palestine - hope that a messiah would emerge and lead the people in overthrow of the Roman monster
- ❧ Many would identify themselves as the Messiah
- ❧ Residents at Wadi Qumran by the Dead Sea - certain that the end was near went to the desert to await the coming of the lord

The life and teaching of Jesus



- ❧ Not Mentioned in non-Christian Literature prior to 1st century CE
- ❧ Jesus did not write down his teachings
- ❧ Gospels were written beginning about 40 years after his death, These Gospels, are not true biographies
 - ❧ Focus on the last few months in the life of Jesus
 - ❧ Rarely address Jesus' childhood or early adult years
 - ❧ None contain a physical description of Jesus
 - ❧ Exact details differ among the four Gospels

Gospel “Q” or Quelle



- ❧ Assumed some of the disciples did write down his sayings – resulting in the “Q” or Quelle “source” document
 - ❧ Primary source for authors of Matthew and Luke.
 - ❧ Matthew and Luke also used Mark and other sources
 - ❧ Mark - 65-70 C.E.
 - ❧ Matthew - 90 C.E.
 - ❧ Luke - 90 C.E.
 - ❧ John - probably originated in Asia Minor end of 1st Century C.E.
- ❧ Unseen division between what Jesus actually said and what is from the apostolic Age. VERY difficult to tell which is which.
- ❧ Life of Jesus must be reconstructed through a lens of faith
- ❧ Jesus’ eschatological conviction of the imminent “end of the age”

Gospels – Jesus' Birth (Matthew & Luke)

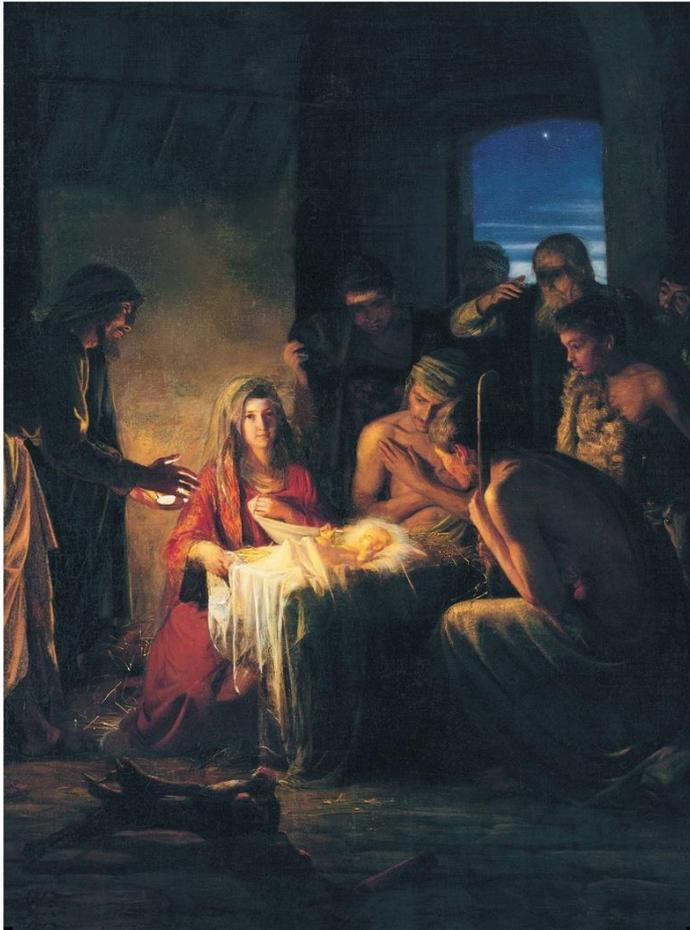


- ❧ Only Luke contains materials relating to Jesus' childhood
- ❧ Problems in harmonizing details
 - ❧ Agree that Jesus was born in the ancestral home of David: Bethlehem
 - ❧ Matthew – Jesus born prior to the death of Herod the Great (4BCE)
 - ❧ Both assert that Jesus was born of Mary who was a virgin
 - 8th Century BCE prophet Isaiah: “Behold, a young woman [virgin] shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel”
 - ❧ All Gospels agree that Jesus was a resident of the village of Nazareth
 - ❧ About his childhood and young maturity, we are told only of the event recorded in Luke - the twelve-year old Jesus' discussion with the teachers of the law

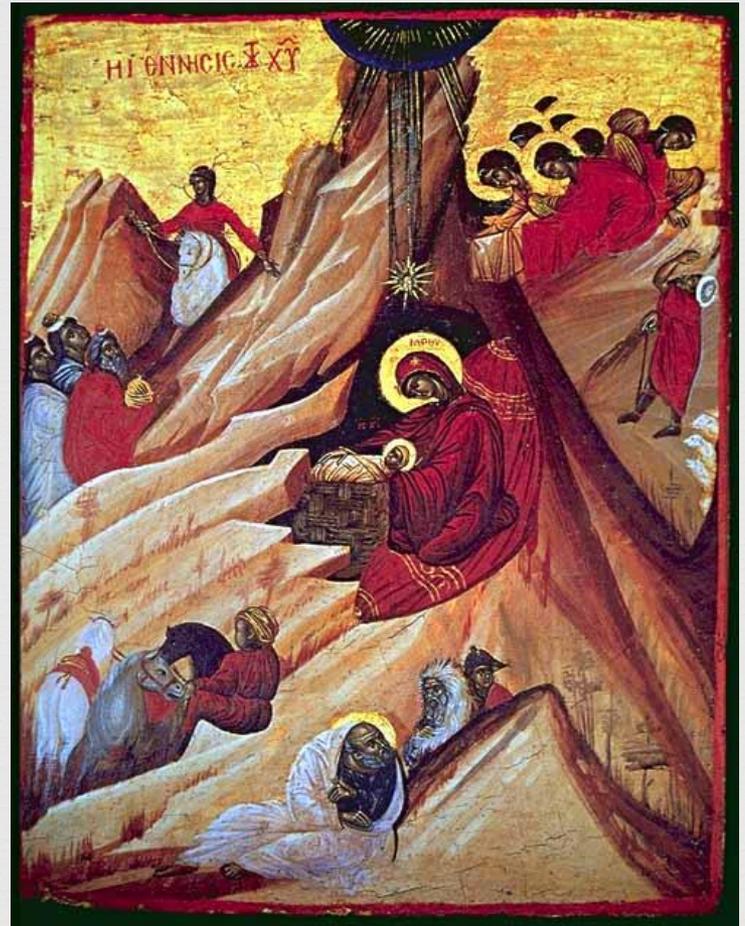
Jesus' Birth



Greek Orthodox Icon



The Birth of Jesus, by Carl Heinrich Bloch, used by permission of the National Historic Museum at Frederiksborg in Hillerød, Denmark



Gospels – Jesus and the Apostles

- ❧ Place Jesus within the background of 1st Century Judaism
- ❧ He quotes the Hebrew Scriptures in his teaching
- ❧ Sees Jesus – fulfills the prophecies of the Hebrew Bible
- ❧ Jesus and the Apostles used the Jewish synagogue as the starting point of their ministry
- ❧ They celebrate the Jewish holidays and are concerned with the correct interpretation of Jewish laws
- ❧ Jesus is often presented in variance with some forms of 1st century Judaism, but the similarities are more common

Gospels and Jesus' Ministry

- ❧ Luke - Jesus was about 30 years of age when he began his ministry
- ❧ First public act was his baptism by John the Baptist in the Jordan River
- ❧ Jesus went into the Judean wilderness where he fasted for 40 days and pondered the nature of his ministry - Tempted by Satan
- ❧ Jesus returned to Galilee, where he began to preach
- ❧ From the Galilean villages, he chose his disciples - the Gospels list twelve disciples

Temptation of Christ



Jesus' Ministry



- ❧ Exact length of Jesus' public ministry is not known
 - ❧ Math, Mark and Luke (synoptic Gospels) - the events could fit into one year
 - ❧ Gospel of John - the events fit into a 3 yr period
 - ❧ Traditionally, Christians accept John's outline and speak of a 3 yr ministry

- ❧ Location of Jesus' ministry is also a matter of some dispute
 - ❧ Synoptic Gospels present Jesus working in Galilee and appearing in Jerusalem only for special occasions
 - ❧ John's account has Jesus spending more time in the province of Judea, around Jerusalem

- ❧ All of the Gospels agree that Jesus spent his time teaching and healing
 - ❧ He was called rabbi by his disciples
 - ❧ Teachings - respected as being outstanding among the world's great religious teachers
 - ❧ Sometimes message in direct simple statements (Sermon on the Mount)
 - ❧ Most often remembered, for us use of the parable - short stories

Multiple Themes of Jesus' Ministry

- ❧ Many of Jesus' teachings seem pacifistic - turn the other cheek
- ❧ Can be militant - he urged his disciples to be armed; at another, he stated that he had not come to bring peace but a sword
- ❧ Many of Jesus' actions and teaching seem to suggest an attitude of indifference toward the laws of Judaism
- ❧ At times, Jesus had a very reverent attitude toward the laws of Judaism - similar to the teachings of the Mishnah
- ❧ Concern with the coming end of the age - Many associate this new age with the return of Jesus, the resurrection, and the judgment of the dead
- ❧ Jesus was concerned with human values
- ❧ He was aware of the hateful oppression of his people by the Romans but similarly aware of the disastrous possibilities of revolution against the Romans

Jesus Worker of Miracles



- ☞ Miracles were a very real part of the world of Jesus, and he performed them regularly
 - ☞ He healed the sick, the blind, and the lame
 - ☞ He fed the hungry
 - ☞ Raised the dead
 - ☞ Cast out demons walked on the waters and stilled the storms

Jesus as Messiah – The Christ

☞ At Caesarea Philippi he asked his disciples:

“Who do men say that I am?” and they told him, “John the Baptist; and other say, Elijah; and others one of the prophets” and he asked them, “but who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ”

☞ Clearest statement of Jesus’ identification as a messianic figure

☞ He followed this statement with the warning that he would soon go to Jerusalem and be put to death

Jesus' Arrival in Jerusalem

- ✧ Arrived for the celebration of the Passover
- ✧ Entered Jerusalem on the Sunday before his death
- ✧ Spent time in the temple teaching and engaging in debates with his opponents



Last Supper

- ❧ Thursday evening partook of a final Meal the Last Supper
- ❧ Sharing of the bread and wine – Eucharist
- ❧ Support the doctrine that in the ritual bread and wine are transformed into the body and blood of Christ
- ❧ Most Protestants believe that the bread and wine are symbolic of Christ and are a reminder of his sacrifice



Trial of Jesus



- ❧ Betrayed by Judas, one of his closest disciples, and arrested by the temple guards
- ❧ Tried by the Sanhedrin the Jewish high court
- ❧ Trial and hearing by Pontius Pilate, the Roman procurator of Judea, and beating by his troops.
- ❧ Interviewed by Herod Antipas, the governor of Galilee

Opposition to Jesus



- ❧ Gospels - opposition to Jesus and the responsibility for his death came mainly from within the body of Jewish leadership, esp. the Pharisees (more liberal group)
- ❧ Other opposition came to Jesus from the Sadducees an aristocratic group who controlled the temple (very conservative)
- ❧ Was probably also opposed by the Zealots – fanatical anti-Roman patriots who stirred up revolution at every opportunity
- ❧ Roman Government was the ultimate and fatal opposition

Jesus is Crucified

- ⌘ At 9 o'clock in the morning, he was sent out of the city and crucified with two felons
- ⌘ Series of cataclysmic events occurred as Jesus was dying.
- ⌘ By 3 o'clock in the afternoon, he was dead
- ⌘ Taken from the cross and buried in a nearby borrowed tomb



Jesus is Risen

- ✧ Jesus was crucified on Friday and was placed in the tomb
- ✧ Mark records that the women found the tomb empty
- ✧ Eventually gathered his friends together at the Mount of Olives and ascended into heaven
- ✧ Luke mentions that some of the Apostles doubted the rise of Jesus

