

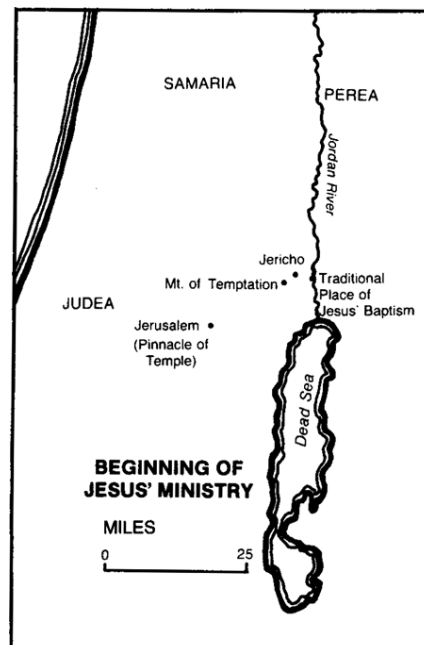
The Life of Christ

Beginning of Jesus' Ministry

Pastor Cliff Beveridge

- The baptism of Jesus [Matt 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-23; John 1:29-34]
 - ✦ Matt 3:13-17: Christ appeared before John the Baptist.
 - Matt 3:13: Jesus came to John to be baptized.
 - Matt 3:14: John questioned Jesus' need for baptism.
 - John's baptism was a baptism of repentance and John knew that the Messiah did not need to repent of anything.
 - John recognized that he might need baptism, but not Jesus.
 - Matt 3:15: Jesus told John to permit Him to be baptized.
 - Those who were coming to be baptized were sinners, repenting in anticipation of the coming of the Messiah.
 - Jesus knew that the will of God was for Him to be baptized by John in order to be identified with sinners.
 - Matt 3:16-17: Jesus was baptized.
 - The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus [Isa 11:2] and would empower Him for ministry [Luke 4:1, 14].
 - God the Father spoke from heaven, acknowledging Jesus as His beloved Son, in whom He was well-pleased [Isa 42:1].
 - This unique baptism signified the beginning of Jesus' ministry [Isa 61:1].
 - In the O.T. prophets [1 Kgs 19:16], priests [Ex 28:41], and kings [1 Sam 9:16; 16:3, 12-13] were anointed.
 - ✦ Mark 1:9-11: Christ appeared before John the Baptist.
 - Mark 1:9: Jesus came to John to be baptized.
 - Mark 1:10-11: Jesus was baptized.
 - The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus.
 - God the Father spoke from heaven, acknowledging Jesus as His beloved Son, in whom He was well-pleased.
 - ✦ Luke 3:21-23: Christ appeared before John the Baptist.
 - Luke 3:21-22: Jesus was baptized and then prayed.
 - The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus.
 - God the Father spoke from heaven, acknowledging Jesus as His beloved Son, in whom He was well-pleased.
 - Luke 3:23: Jesus began His ministry at roughly 30 years old.
 - ✦ John 1:29-34: Christ appeared before John the Baptist.
 - John 1:29: John proclaimed Jesus as the Lamb of God [Isa 53:7] who would take away the sin of the world [Isa 53:12].
 - A goat was sacrificed on the Day of Atonement [Lev 16:9].

- Daily offerings were lambs, but they were not for sin.
 - John likely had the Passover lamb and Isa 53 verses in mind.
 - John 1:30: John identified Jesus as the Man he had spoken about who was greater and would come after him [Mk 1:7].
 - John 1:31: John did not recognize Jesus.
 - John and Jesus were related [Luke 1:36].
 - However, there is no record of John and Jesus ever meeting.
 - John 1:32: John witnessed the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus as a dove and remaining upon Him.
 - The Spirit came in bodily form from out of heaven.
 - The Holy Spirit did not typically remain upon O.T. saints [Psalm 51:11].
 - John 1:33: John reiterated that he did not recognize Jesus.
 - John explicitly states here that God the Father sent him to baptize with water.
 - His personal witness of the Spirit descending upon Jesus was a sign from the Father that Jesus was the Messiah.
 - John 1:34: John's eye-witness testimony was that Jesus was the Son of God.
 - The prophesied Messianic King is the Son of God [Ps 2:7].
 - The title "Son of God" speaks to Jesus' divine nature.
 - Satan understood the significance of this title [Luke 4:1-13].
- The temptation of Jesus [Mt 4:1-11; Mk 1:12-13; Lk 4:1-13]
- ✦ Matt 4:1-11: Jesus is tempted in the wilderness.
 - Matt 4:1: After His baptism, Jesus travels into the wilderness.
 - This is the wilderness of Judea northwest of the Dead Sea near Jericho (see map).
 - The Holy Spirit led Jesus up to the wilderness.
 - The purpose was for Jesus to be tempted by the devil.



- Matt 4:2: Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights.
 - The purpose of this fasting is not specified.
 - Once the 40 days were complete, Jesus became hungry.
- Matt 4:3-4: Satan tempted Jesus regarding food.
 - Satan (the tempter) knew that Jesus was the Son of God.
 - Jesus responded with a quotation from Deut 8:3.
- Matt 4:5-7: Satan tempted Jesus regarding protection.
 - Satan arrogantly thought to himself that if Jesus could quote Scripture, so could he.
 - However, Satan misquoted Ps 91:11-12, omitting the phrase “To guard you in all your ways.” at the end of verse 11.
 - Jesus responded with a quotation from Deut 6:16.
- Matt 4:8-10: Satan tempted Jesus regarding dominion.
 - Satan gained dominion over the world when Adam fell.
 - Jesus responded with a quotation from Deut 6:13.
 - These three quotations from Deuteronomy are significant because Jesus recognized the authority of that book which has often faced criticism by so-called scholars.
- Matt 4:11: Satan left and angels came to minister to Jesus.
 - Satan was only leaving Jesus alone temporarily.
 - God the Father sent the angels to tend to Jesus [Lk 22:43].
- For these to be temptations just as we face [Heb 4:15], it had to be possible for Jesus to succumb to the temptations, just as Adam/Eve had done in the garden.

Satan’s Temptations of Eve and of Jesus		
Temptation	Genesis 3	Matthew 4
Appeal to physical appetite	You may eat of any tree (3:1).	You may eat by changing stones to bread (4:3).
Appeal to personal gain	You will not die (3:4).	You will not hurt Your foot (4:6).
Appeal to power or glory	You will be like God (3:5).	You will have all the world’s kingdoms (4:8-9).

- ✦ Mark 1:12-13: Jesus is tempted in the wilderness.
 - Mark 1:12: The Spirit impelled Jesus into the wilderness.
 - Mark 1:13: Jesus was tempted by Satan for 40 days.
 - Mark is the only gospel writer to mention that Jesus was amongst wild beasts in the wilderness.
 - Mark also says that the angels were ministering to Jesus continually while he was in the wilderness.

- ✦ Luke 4:1-13: Jesus is tempted in the wilderness.
 - Luke 4:1: After His baptism, Jesus travels into the wilderness.
 - Jesus is described as being full of the Holy Spirit, clearly a reference to His humanity (in kenosis).
 - In Matthew we learn that the Holy Spirit led Jesus to the wilderness, but in Luke we learn that the Holy Spirit also led Jesus around once He was in the wilderness.
 - Luke 4:2: Jesus fasted for 40 days while being tempted.
 - The Holy Spirit was leading Jesus around for all 40 days.
 - As we saw in Luke, Jesus was being tempted by the devil for the entirety of the 40 days.
 - As we saw in Matthew, Jesus did not become hungry until the end of the 40 day fast.
 - Luke 4:3-4: Satan tempted Jesus regarding food.
 - Satan (the devil) knew that Jesus was the Son of God.
 - Jesus responded with a quotation from Deut 8:3.
 - Luke 4:5-8: Satan tempted Jesus regarding dominion.
 - Dominion over the world was handed over to Satan.
 - Jesus responded with a quotation from Deut 6:13.
 - Luke 4:9-12: Satan tempted Jesus regarding protection.
 - The southeast corner of the temple overlooks a deep valley.
 - Satan misquoted Ps 91:11-12, omitting the phrase “in all your ways.” at the end of verse 11.
 - Jesus responded with a quotation from Deut 6:16.
 - Luke 4:13: Satan left Jesus until an opportune time.
- The call of the first disciples [John 1:35-51]
 - ✦ John 1:35-37: John again declared Jesus as the Lamb of God.
 - The “next day” is the 3rd event of a series [John 1:29, 43].
 - John the Baptist was standing with two of his disciples.
 - Jesus was walking by and the disciples heard John make the declaration.
 - Upon hearing this, the two disciples began following Jesus, both literally and figuratively.
 - ✦ John 1:38: Jesus questioned the disciples.
 - His question – “What are you seeking?” – had both an immediate as well as a deeper meaning.
 - The disciples referred to Jesus as Rabbi (master/teacher).
 - They said they wanted to know where He was staying.
 - The word “staying” has a significant meaning in many of John’s writings where it means “abiding” [John 15:4-7].
 - ✦ John 1:39: The disciples came and stayed with Jesus.
 - His statement – “Come, and you will see.” – had both an immediate as well as a deeper meaning.
 - The disciples stayed with Jesus for that day.
 - The time they arrived was the tenth hour.
 - This could be 10 AM (if Roman time) or 4 PM (if counted from 6 AM as was done in the Synoptic gospels).

- ✘ John 1:40: Andrew was one of the two who followed Jesus.
 - Andrew was Simon Peter's brother.
 - The other disciple is likely John the son of Zebedee.
- ✘ John 1:41-42: Andrew brought his brother Simon to Jesus.
 - He announced to Simon that Jesus is the Messiah (Christ).
 - Jesus recognized Simon because of His prophetic gift and told him he would be known as Cephas (Peter = rock).
- ✘ John 1:43-44: Philip became a disciple of Jesus.
 - Andrew and John were from Galilee, but they began following Jesus in Judea where they had been with John the Baptist.
 - Philip was also from Bethsaida, a city in Galilee.
- ✘ John 1:45: Philip testified about Jesus to Nathaniel.
 - Moses [Deut 18:18-19], the prophets [Dan 7:13-14; Mic 5:2].
 - Philip called Jesus the son of Joseph (see v. 49).
- ✘ John 1:46: Nathaniel questioned Philip's testimony.
 - Nathaniel doubted the Christ would come from Nazareth.
 - He likely believed the Messiah would come from Jerusalem, Hebron or some other prominent city.
 - Philip showed wisdom in not arguing with Nathaniel, but instead told him to, "Come and see." with his own two eyes.
- ✘ John 1:47: Jesus prophetically recognized Nathaniel.
- ✘ John 1:48: Nathaniel asked Jesus about how He knew him.
 - Jesus, once again using His prophetic gift, told Nathaniel exactly where he was when Philip found him.
 - The fig tree is a place of safety and rest [1 Kgs 4:25; Mic 4:4].
- ✘ John 1:49: Nathaniel recognized Jesus as the Christ.
 - He first identified Him as Rabbi (teacher).
 - He then identified Him as the Son of God and King of Israel.
- ✘ John 1:50-51: Jesus assured Nathaniel a greater basis for faith.
 - Seeing Nathaniel prophetically under the fig tree led him to believe.
 - The greater things probably referred to the miracles in John chapter two.
 - He then told Nathaniel that he would see the angels of God ascending and descending upon Him (see Gen 28:12).

- The first miracle [John 2:1-11]
 - ✦ John 2:1-2: On the third day after arriving in Galilee [Jn 1:43], there was a wedding in Cana.
 - Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.
 - Mary was there but is not said to be invited.
 - She seemed to have some responsibilities at the wedding, but what exactly they were is not clear.
 - Such wedding feasts would last as many as seven days.
 - ✦ John 2:3-5: Mary noticed that the wine had run out.
 - Mary told Jesus that “they” had an issue with the wine.
 - Jesus’ initial response was not dismissive.
 - Pastor Cliff’s paraphrase: “Ma’am, is that our concern?”
 - Jesus was telling his mother, “This is not our problem.”
 - Jesus went on to say that His hour had not yet come.
 - In John, this refers to the coming crucifixion [Jn 7:30; 8:20].
 - Jesus was telling his mother, “I can do something about the wine issue because the Cross is yet future.”
 - When His hour came there would be mourning, but until then it was time for rejoicing [Luke 5:33-35].
 - Mary told the servants to do whatever Jesus said to do.
 - ✦ John 2:6-8: Jesus had the servants fill six waterpots.
 - These waterpots were 20-30 gallons in size.
 - These waterpots were used for Jewish purification rites before and after meals [Matt 15:1-2].
 - The servants obeyed Jesus and filled the waterpots full.
 - Jesus then had the servants draw some out of the waterpots and take it to the headwaiter of the wedding banquet.
 - ✦ John 2:9-10: The water had become fine wine.
 - The headwaiter was not aware that the wine had come from the waterpots used for Jewish purification rites.
 - The headwaiter recognized that this was the finest wine.
 - It was customary to serve the finer wine first.
 - This wine being finer than any wine that had been served was symbolic that something greater had come in Jesus.
 - Fine wine takes a long time to ferment, yet Jesus had turned the water to fine wine in an instant.
 - Likewise, God created a universe that looks to be millions and millions of years old in one creative event [Gen 1:1].
 - Jesus did this miracle (and all His other miracles) in the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - ✦ John 2:11: Having witnessed this miracle, Jesus’ disciples responded in faith.
 - This was the first of the miracles that attested to Jesus as the anointed One of God (the Christ).
 - Performing these miracles manifested Jesus’ glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father [John 1:14].
 - This is not the same as the glory He had before [John 17:5].