

The Life of Christ

Introduction to Jesus Christ

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- Luke's Introduction [Luke 1:1-4]
 - ✦ Luke called attention to other gospel records of the life of Jesus Christ [Luke 1:1].
 - At that point in time, the legitimate gospel records would have included Matthew and Mark.
 - Following Luke, the only other gospel record recognized world-wide as divinely inspired is the Gospel of John.
 - Many apocryphal "gospels" were written: Gospel of Thomas, Gospel of Peter, Jewish Christian Gospels, Secret Gospel of Mark, Gospel of Nicodemus, etc.
 - Other forms of early Christian literature also included information about the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.
 - ✦ Luke recognized that many of these accounts were inaccurate, so he strove to compile his own historical record based upon information from eyewitness [Luke 1:2].
 - ✦ Luke conducted a thorough investigation going back to the beginning of Jesus' life [Luke 1:3].
 - ✦ The immediate recipient of Luke's work was Theophilus, so he might know the truth about these events [Lk 1:3-4; Acts 1:1].
- Pre-incarnation Work of Christ [John 1:1-3]
 - ✦ Verse 1: This "In the beginning" precedes the Gen 1:1 "In the beginning".
 - ✦ Verse 1: The phrase "The Word" (ὁ λόγος, ho logos) is a title for Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
 - ✦ Verses 1 and 2: The word "was" is in the imperfect tense which describes continuous action in the past – reflecting the eternal nature of God the Son.
 - ✦ Verse 3: Jesus Christ was the principal member of the Trinity to accomplish the creation (see also v. 10 and Col 1:16).
- The Light of life [John 1:4-13]
 - ✦ Verse 4: Jesus Christ was the member of the Trinity who shined the Light of life upon humanity (see also John 5:26).
 - ✦ Verse 5: Satan hinders the unbelieving from seeing the Light of the gospel of the glory of Christ [2 Cor 4:3-4].
 - ✦ Verses 6-8: The purpose of the faithful witness to the Light (John the Baptist) was to produce faith in the Light.
 - ✦ Verse 9: Jesus Christ is the true Light which shines upon every person, exposing sin and unrighteousness.
 - ✦ Verse 10: Jesus Christ (the creator of the world) came into the world, but the people of the world did not recognize Him due to blindness and rebellion.
 - ✦ Verse 11: Jesus Christ came to His own people – the nation of Israel – and they rejected Him as a whole.

- ✦ Verse 12: Not all of Israel rejected Him, and those who believed in Jesus were born again and became children of God through this new birth.
- ✦ Verse 13: This new birth is of God (supernatural), not of natural descent or by human effort or through human will.
- The Word became Flesh [John 1:14-18]
 - ✦ Verse 14: The Son of God, full of grace and truth, came in the likeness of sinful flesh [Rom 8:3] to dwell among the people.
 - ✦ Verse 15: John the Baptist exalts Jesus Christ who, although born after him, existed before John.
 - ✦ Verses 16: Through Jesus Christ believers receive grace blessing after grace blessing as part of the abundant life He came to provide [John 10:10].
 - ✦ Verse 17: Israel received the Law through Moses, but the Church receives the incredible freedom of grace and truth through Jesus Christ Himself.
 - ✦ Verse 18: The true essence of God the Father was never fully understood before Jesus, the only begotten God, came to explain (exegete) Him to the world.
- The Genealogy of Jesus
 - ✦ See handout.
 - ✦ A king must have a genealogy, whereas a servant needs none – Matthew contains the Son of David's legal line to the throne of David, but Mark has none.
 - ✦ A human being has a genealogy, whereas God does not – Luke contains the Son of Man's physical line to Adam, but John has none.
 - ✦ Genealogical Messianic Promises
 - Seed of the Woman [Gen 3:15]
 - The line of Shem [Gen 9:26-27]
 - The line of Abraham [Gen 12:1-3]
 - The line of Isaac [Gen 26:2-4]
 - The line of Jacob [Gen 28:13-15]
 - The tribe of Judah [Gen 49:10]
 - The house of David [2 Sam 7:12-16; 1 Chr 17:11-14; 22:9-10]
 - Born of a virgin [Isa 7:14]
 - Born in Bethlehem [Micah 5:2]