"This Man Called Jesus"

The next day he *saw Jesus coming to him and *said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! (John 1:29 NASB)

~This Man Called Jesus~

There has never been a man like Him and there never will be. Today, I want to touch on all the four Gospels and tell you about "This Man called Jesus." Most of today's sermon was adapted from the eighth chapter of "Encountering the New Testament" a

bible study that I had taken online last month. We will briefly go into the life of Jesus from the time He was born through His crucifixion and resurrection. I know to cover Jesus takes a lifetime, but we will do the short version today. Just who was "This Man called Jesus?"

There are many things that the Bible does not give us the details on; so we are continuously learning about Him. We don't know all the details or what we would like to know about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, but we have many sources. Our primary sources of course are from the four Gospels and other ancient historians such as Josephus, Suetonius, Tacitus and the Jewish Talmud. There has been more written about Jesus than anyone else in history. The Bible continues to be on the "best sellers list" and is the "number one" seller of all times, all because of, "This Man called Jesus."

The Old Testament is known as "The Promise of The Christ" and the New Testament is "The Fulfillment of That Promise. "The Old Testament Promises and the New Testament Fulfills."

~Jesus' Ancestry~

If we are born today, we are given a birth certificate and on it is written the year, month, date and the time of your arrival. But Jesus did not have a birth certificate, so we have to piece together the date by mainly historical writings. Matthew starts his book with the ancestry of Jesus. Matthew tells us in Chapter one and verse 16; *And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.* (Matthew 1:16 KJVR) Yes, Jesus as known was called

1

¹ Walter A. Elwell, Robert W. Yarbrough 8th chapter, Encountering the New Testament

Christ. I won't spend time going over the genealogy of Christ, but Matthew thought it important enough that he listed 42 generations, all the way back to David and Abraham.

Mat 1:1-17 KJVR

- (1) The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.
- (2) Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;
- (3) And Judas begat Phares and Zara of Tamar; and Phares begat Esrom; and Esrom begat Aram;
- (4) And Aram begat Aminadab; and Aminadab begat Naasson; and Naasson begat Salmon;
- (5) And Salmon begat Boaz of Rahab; and Boaz begat Obed of Ruth; and Obed begat Jesse;
- (6) And Jesse begat David the king; and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Uriah;
- (7) And Solomon begat Roboam; and Roboam begat Abia; and Abia begat Asa;
- (8) And Asa begat Jehoshaphat; and Jehoshaphat begat Joram; and Joram begat Ozias;
- (9) And Ozias begat Joatham; and Joatham begat Achaz; and Achaz begat Ezekias;
- (10) And Ezekias begat Manasses; and Manasses begat Amon; and Amon begat Josiah;
- (11) And Josiah begat Jechoniah and his brethren, about the time they were carried away to Babylon:
- (12) And after they were brought to Babylon, Jechoniah begat Shealtiel; and Shealtiel begat Zorobabel;
- (13) And Zorobabel begat Abiud; and Abiud begat Eliakim; and Eliakim begat Azor;
- (14) And Azor begat Sadoc; and Sadoc begat Achim; and Achim begat Eliud;
- (15) And Eliud begat Eleazar; and Eleazar begat Matthan; and Matthan begat Jacob;
- (16) And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.
- (17) So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.

If you look in the third chapter of Luke verses 23-38 you will see where Luke shows the genealogy all the way back to Adam. We won't look at that now, but when you have the opportunity you may want to read this genealogy in the Book of Luke, chapter 3.

John catches the ultimate genealogy of Jesus in his book of John from the very beginning, whenever that was, as John describes it.

John 1:1-5 KJVR

- (1) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- (2) The same was in the beginning with God.

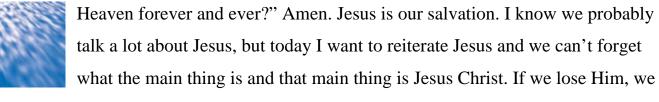
- (3) All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.
- (4) In him was life; and the life was the light of men.
- (5) And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

John brings it all home in the 14th verse of that same chapter.

John 1:14 KJVR

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Don't you like that "full of grace and truth?" That is the grace and truth that saves us from ourselves, saves us from the transgression of His law. This is the true grace and law that will send us to Heaven with "The Christ" forever and ever. Can you say that "in



have lost it all. Please don't lose sight of the main thing, for He is our only ticket out of this secular and sinful world. Don't be left behind when He returns for you and me!

~Jesus Born~

Jesus was born in Bethlehem and is the most popular birth that has ever been recorded in the history of mankind. Surprisingly at His birth, He was visited by lowly shepherds and not kings. The shepherds were told first about His birth while staying in the fields watching their flock by night. An angel of the Lord delivered to them the message, "I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people." (Luke 2:10b)

And then Luke continues; Luke 2:13-14 KJVR And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, (14) Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Jesus came to this earth as the

Savior, King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The first thing the angels and shepherds did was to praise and worship Him. From the rising of the sun unto the going down of the same the LORD's name is to be praised. (Psalm 113:3 KJVR) Getting back to the Gospel of Luke verse 20; And the shepherds returned, glorifying and

praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them. (Luke 2:20 KJVR)

Jesus is to be glorified, glory to the Most High. Praise God for evermore. Let there leave no doubt that this sermon today is about Jesus. As the song or saying goes; "Let's talk about Jesus." There was a master plan for Jesus' life, just like He has a master plan for each one of us, but we have too much materialism and flesh to work the plan He has laid out for us. Jesus was perfect in all of His doings. No one else can say that they did not sin except for our Christ.

To fulfill scripture Mary went to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. Herod heard that a King was born and he ordered all male children less than two years of age born in Bethlehem to be killed. Only Jesus was taken to Egypt according to the instructions that Joseph was given by God. So Jesus escaped Herod's wrath. You see, even as a baby he was targeted for death by this secular and sinful world. You know, we read all through the gospels where various leaders had planned to kill Jesus, but His time had not yet come. After Herod's death Jesus was taken back to Nazareth by divine guidance, not Bethlehem as you might expect, since He was born there. Raised a Nazarene! (Mat 2:23) ~Jesus' Childhood~

Only one episode of Jesus in His young life is recorded in the Gospels. He was twelve years old at the time. Jesus and His family had gone to Jerusalem for their yearly trip to the Feast of the Passover. When on the way back home, about a day's journey, they

noticed Jesus was missing. After rushing back to Jerusalem and searching for him for three days, they found Him, "sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions." (Luke 2:46b) And then in the next verse; And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. (Luke 2:47 KJVR) Then we pick up the story in verse 49 with Jesus' reply, and I love this verse; And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business? (Luke 2:49 KJVR) Like I said I love this verse. Can you image at the age of twelve, speaking in the temple with the older leaders and them sitting around listening to Jesus speaking about biblical knowledge; way above His years.

~John the Baptist - Forerunner of Jesus~

All four Gospels associate Jesus with John the Baptist, a forerunner of Jesus Christ. John came preaching the end of this age, preaching the coming of the Messiah, and preaching that the final judgment was at hand and to repent was his messages. John was anti-temple, anti-nationalism, and anti-establishment, even though he was born into his father's priest-hood. Ancestral privilege meant nothing to him. He had one purpose here on earth and that was to preach the Word of God, his message was simple; repent of your sins and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins.

Some may ask; "What does the Lord require of us? Let me answer that question; He requires repentance, confession of sin, baptism and a behavior to prove one's sincerity."

John the Baptist played a very prominent role in the coming of Jesus. John recognized himself as a transitional figure and who was the forerunner to the Messiah. John said, he



baptized with water, but the one coming after him would baptize not with water, but with the Holy Spirit and Fire. John had a group of disciples and with his urging they switched over to following Jesus. John even baptized Jesus in

the Jordan River, so that righteousness would be fulfilled. (Mt. 3:15)

Jesus talked about John the Baptist a lot. As you know John was Jesus' cousin and was born about six months earlier then Jesus. Both births were announced by Gabriel the angel before they were born. Here is what Jesus said about John the Baptist; *I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.* (Matthew 11:11 KJVR)

John was a fearless preacher and was put into prison for publicly rebuking Herod Antipas for marrying his brother's wife and his other immoral behaviors. This cost John his life since Herod had him beheaded as a result of a drunken oath. (Mk 6:14-29) You



might say John had no fear because he was on the Lord's side. He preached truth and called sin what it was. Do you know anyone like that today? Probably not, sin is often covered up or watered down as I call it. As the

saying goes, no one wants to "call a spade a spade!" You start talking about sin and you

could be kicked out of many churches today, get thrown out of your workplace, meetings, get-togethers, etc. Don't bring up the name of Jesus. Well, that is who we want to talk about today, Jesus, Jesus, the wonderful name of Jesus, our redeemer.

~Jesus' Temptations~

After John had baptized Jesus, He was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the Devil. Jesus endured forty days of fasting and temptations by the Devil, the Tempter. Jesus was tempted by Satan to turn stones into bread and to cast himself down from the heights of the temple to prove God would take care of Him. Jesus knew the inner meaning of these temptations; to divert Him from the will of His Father. In ever case Jesus found guidance and strength from the Scriptures. Satan had to withdraw when confronted by the Word of God. Jesus put down every diversion that the Devil offered him. Jesus answers were; And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. (Luke 4:4 KJVR)

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. (Luke 4:8 KJVR)

And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. (Luke 4:12 KJVR)

All of Jesus' answers were from the Old Testament Scriptures; which was the only Scripture they had in those days. But, wow, did He set the Devil straight? The Bible says, after this, that the Devil departed from Him for a season. All these things that happened to our Lord Jesus were preparing Him for His walk and His ministry here on earth.

~Jesus starts His Ministry~

After getting back to Nazareth, his hometown where He was raised. One Sabbath
He made a startling announcement, reading from the book of Isaiah,
Chapter 61:1-2. And in Luke chapter 4 it says;

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath

anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this Scripture fulfilled in your ears. And all bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth. And they said, Is not this Joseph's son? (Luke 4:16-22 KJVR)

~Jesus Training of Disciples~

Jesus, during all this time was training His disciples for what was to come. Jesus told them that they would not always have praise and they would be persecuted. His reply to them was part of what we refer to as the "Sermon on the Mount."



Mat 5:10-12 KJVR Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (11) Blessed are

ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. (12) Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Jesus did five things, among many others, to help the disciples to carry on the ministry after His physical presence was not here on earth.

- 1. He set the example as He taught His followers.
- 2. He established organization by gathering and appointing the Apostles.
- 3. He sent the Apostles out on preaching missions so they could get some experience.
- 4. He sent them out with His own power and authority.
- 5. He went to great lengths to teach them what they should know for future ministry. Jesus told the disciples what discipleship should mean to them.

And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. (Mar 8:34 KJVR)

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. (Mar 8:35 KJVR)

For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? (Mar 8:36 KJVR)

Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? (Mar 8:37 KJVR)

Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels. (Mar 8:38 KJVR)

Listen carefully! Jesus said; you must deny yourself and pick up your cross and follow Him. Don't make excuses; give your all to "This Man Called Jesus." That's a 100%! ~Jesus' Preaching~

After Jesus' preaching started, Matthew describes His ministry this way. And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them:

(Mat 15:30 KJVR)

Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel. (Mat 15:31 KJVR) Jesus fed the multitude. One time He fed four thousand, as recorded in Matthew, and another time the numbers were over five thousand. Matthew records it: When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities.

(Mat 14:13 KJVR)

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick. (Mat 14:14 KJVR)

And when it was evening, his disciples came to him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals. (Mat 14:15 KJVR)

But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat. (Mat 14:16 KJVR) And they say unto him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. (Mat 14:17 KJVR)

He said, Bring them hither to me. (Mat 14:18 KJVR)

And he commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, he blessed, and broke, and gave the loaves to his disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. (Mat 14:19 KJVR)

And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. (Mat 14:20 KJVR)

And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children. (Mat 14:21 KJVR)

Jesus even raised the dead, as in the Gospel of John, chapter 11, verse 1-46; the raising of Lazarus, which was the brother of Mary and Martha. All three were close



friends of Jesus. After Lazarus died, Jesus did not return to the family for four days. This brings on the shortest verse in the Bible and shows the compassion He had for His dear friend Lazarus. "Jesus wept." (John 11:35

KJVR) After asking, "Where have you laid him?" He went to the grave, and remember, he had been dead for four days. But, it didn't matter how many days he had been dead to Jesus. Just another miracle from Jesus. Let us look at these verses. *And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth.* (John 11:43 KJVR) *And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go.* (John 11:44 KJVR)

This man called Jesus restored sight to the blind, cured lepers, healed a man with dropsy, restored a crippled woman's health. There were a great many more than I can record or mention today. He did all of these while under fierce opposition of the Pharisees. And the more miracles he performed the stronger there opposition to Jesus. They went even as far as planning to kill Him, and did, but it was only in Jesus' timing.

~Jesus' Last Passover~

On the Saturday before Passover in A.D. 30, Jesus presented himself to the city of Jerusalem as the Promised Messiah. Of all things, Jesus rode in on a donkey, not what kings were used to, but the humble Jesus was

no ordinary king. (Mt 21:1-11) He was and still is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Upon entering the city, Jesus again denounced the money changers' activity of turning God's house of Prayer into a marketplace. (Mk. 11:15-18) The next few days were spent in conflicts with the authorities, who were trying to trap Him in His words in order to discredit Him. He also continued preparing His disciples for the ministry. (Mk. 11:27-12:40) He prepared His last physical Passover with His apostles. During this

(Mk. 11:27-12:40) He prepared His last physical Passover with His apostles. During this last earthly Passover is where Judas was the one to betray Him, Judas left early during the Passover meal to make arrangements for The Messiah's betrayal.

~Jesus on Trial~

Jesus and His apostles later left the Passover and went to the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus began praying to His Father and three times he said to Him, "Your will be done." (Mt. 26:36-45) He had been loyal to His Father's will in all things up to this point, so He wasn't changing or departing from the will of the Father. After this, Judas came and betrayed Jesus with a kiss and for the payout of 30 pieces of silver.

Jesus was taken to the high priest's house and interrogated by Annas, the former high priest and father-in-law of Caiaphas the current high priest. Annas was not able to ascertain anything so he sent Him to Caiaphas. Much false testimony was offered, but it

was not until asked by the high priest; But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. (Mat 26:63 KJVR)

Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven. (Mat 26:64 KJVR)

Then the high priest rent his clothes, saying, He hath spoken blasphemy; what further need have we of witnesses? behold, now ye have heard his blasphemy.

(Mat 26:65 KJVR)

What think ye? They answered and said, He is guilty of death. (Mat 26:66 KJVR) Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands, (Mat 26:67 KJVR)

Early morning, Jesus was taken to the palace of Pilate. In a private interview with Jesus, Pilate could not find any basis for any charge against Him. Hearing the word "Galilee" Pilate sent Jesus to Herod Antipas who ruled in Galilee. Herod, wanting to stay out of the affair, sent Jesus back to Pilate. Pilate again could not find any basis for the



charges against Him. Pilate even made an effort to free Jesus by offering them a murderer by the name of Barabbas. Barabbas was released instead of

Jesus. (Luke 23:18-19) Pilate then, had Jesus flogged and the crowd kept shouting, "Crucify Him, Crucify Him." With pressure from the crowd, Pilate washed his hands of the whole affair and released Jesus over to them for crucifixion.

~Jesus to be crucified~

Jesus was taken to the execution grounds called Golgotha, where he was nailed to a tree. A sign was put above His head that read, "Jesus of Nazareth, the king of the Jews." His clothing was gambled away and divided from the foot of the cross. So Jesus died, offering his life in payment for our sins, just as He said He would. A high Sabbath (for that sabbath day was an high day; John 19:31) was approaching, Arimathea requested the body from Pilate, and he with Nicodemus, prepared the body for burial before sunset. He was put into an unused tomb, a Roman seal was placed on the tomb and guards were posted to see that He didn't get away. Everything happened just as Jesus said it would.

~Jesus' Resurrection~

Just as He said He would, three days and three nights later, He arose and was resurrected from the tomb. Sometime after he rose from the grave the women who had



been following Him went to the tomb to anoint the body. They discovered He had already risen, as He said He would. He was seen the day that His

followers were in the garden looking for Him and many times after that in the next few weeks that followed, both in Galilee and Jerusalem.

(Mt. 28:16-20; Jn 21:1-24; Acts 1:3-8; I Cor 15:6-7)

When the time came for Jesus to be received back into heaven, he pronounced a benediction on the disciples and disappeared heavenward out of their sight with the promise to return. (Lk. 24:50-53; Acts 1:9-11)

~The Meaning of Jesus~

The true meaning of Jesus of Nazareth was recorded in the Gospels of the New Testament. Christian believers have taken this strength for the past some two-thousand years. No one understands it fully, and have not and probably will not comprehend it all. But certain things do stand out. Let me give you five.

- 1. The uniqueness of Jesus
 - a. He is not just another religious leader.
 - b. He is in a class by Himself.
 - c. He is described as the "King of kings and Lord of lords."
- 2. The story of Jesus is supernatural, from the beginning to the end.
 - a. Any attempt to remove this element from the accounts destroys them entirely.
 - b. The story abounds with references to God, angels, demons, Satan, miraculous events, divine healings, the Holy Spirit.
 - c. These are not ancient myths, but historical realities.
- 3. There is the challenge to us to believe and the command of Jesus to follow Him.
 - a. There is only one way to know Jesus and that is to step out in faith.
- 4. The story of Jesus tells us that death is not the end of anything, but for Christ's followers, the beginning of a glorious new existence.
 - a. If we believe in Jesus we will have death's power of the grave.
 - b. Believe Jesus lives, those of us who trust Him will live forever with Him.
 - c. He is the resurrection and the life.
 - i. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:
 (John 11:25 KJVR)
 - ii. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? (John 11:26 KJVR)
- 5. The story of Jesus is true because the final point is true.
 - a. That Jesus is alive and promises to be with us now and to the end.

This same Jesus who walked on Galilee's shores, healed the sick of their diseases, forgave sinners of their transgressions, and performed extraordinary miracles of power is the same Jesus who is with us today. When we leave here today, let us tell someone about Jesus. And don't let them tell you otherwise, be 100% for Jesus. There is no just part Jesus, there is no buffet line in Jesus, you have to take Him with you all the way.

- This man called Jesus, which came to earth and lowered Himself to a human so that we might have eternal life.
- This man called Jesus, that was born of a virgin
- This man called Jesus, who was the Son of the Most High God.
- This man called Jesus, whose kingdom will never end.
- This man called Jesus, which walked this earth 2000 years ago and still lives.
- This man called Jesus, a man which was misunderstood by the majority.
- This man called Jesus, who healed the sick and raised the dead.
- This man called Jesus, that discipled twelve apostles so His plan of salvation would be carried on until His returning.
- This man called Jesus, who set the perfect example for us to follow
- This man called Jesus, which was crucified on a tree to pay for our sins.
- This man called Jesus, that was buried in an empty tomb and three days and three nights later he arose from the dead. He conquered death, just as He said He would.
- This man called Jesus, that appeared to hundreds of people after His resurrection.
- This man called Jesus, who is still alive, and well, and working in people's lives.

Amen, In The Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

I have gotten information for this article from a number of different sources; From God, internet, Bibles, dictionaries, and study materials from several different authors, etc. I do not take full credit for these writings since there are many. I did not in some cases keep up with this information in order to give proper credit. Credits will sometimes be in the above writing. My comments, writings and rewriting of the sources are in this article. I therefore cannot take full credit for this writing. The full credit would have to go to Jesus Christ, the creator of all things.

This article as well as many other messages can be found at <u>www.deweyfox.com</u> and click on "Christianity."

October 2009

Dewey E. (Obed) Fox, Bond Servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ