

CHAPTER THREE

THE WORK OF CHRIST

Many have heard about the last events of Jesus' sinless life on earth. He was condemned as a common criminal, hung from a cross until dead, and three days later he rose from the dead. But few people understand the meaning of these events.

In this chapter, you will explore Jesus' life, his death, and his resurrection.

THE LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST

About 2,000 years ago, Jesus Christ was born in the obscure town of Bethlehem. While Jesus was an infant, Joseph and Mary took him to Egypt to escape the wrath of an irate king, Herod the Great. Then, while he was still a young child, they moved to Nazareth of Galilee.

1. When the angel announced his birth, what purpose did he give for Jesus coming into the world? *Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:31-33*

2. In what ways did Jesus develop as a youth? *Luke 2:52*

3. What are some activities of Jesus' public ministry?
Matthew 4:23

4. What was his purpose in selecting the twelve apostles?
Mark 3:14

5. What characterized Jesus' leadership? *Luke 22:25-27*

How can you follow Jesus' example? _____

This study booklet merely touches on the events of Jesus' life. At the end of the gospel of John we read, "Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written" (John 21:25). Some of the more familiar events of Jesus' life are presented in the illustration on page 20.

THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST

6. What did Jesus predict would happen to him? *Matthew 16:21*

7. What kind of death did Jesus suffer? *Matthew 27:35*

With what kind of men did he die? *Matthew 27:38*

8. Did Jesus go to the cross voluntarily? Explain your answer.
John 10:17-18

9. What is man's condition apart from Christ? *John 3:18*

10. Look up 1 Peter 3:18. What did Jesus do to bring condemned men to God?

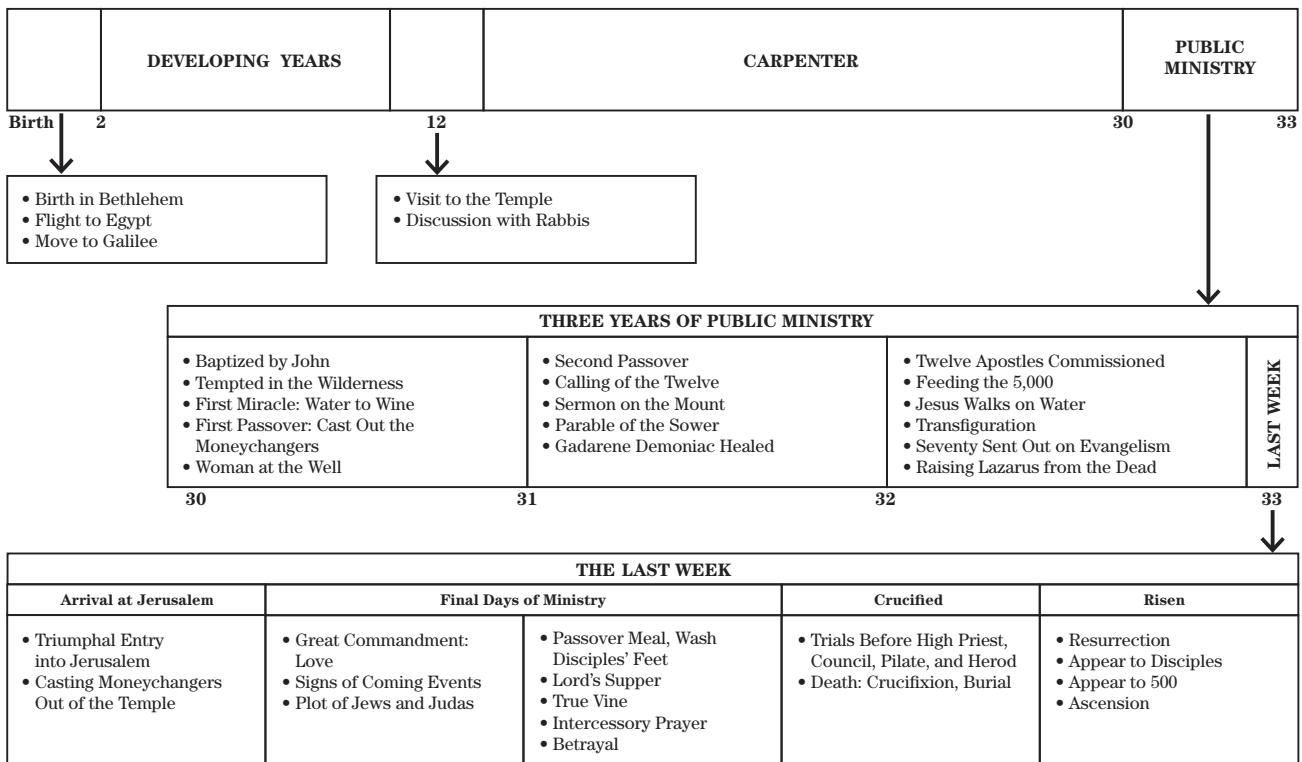
11. Can anything be added to Christ's death to make you more acceptable to God? Why or why not? *Hebrews 10:12-14*

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

12. After Jesus died and was buried, what was done to secure his tomb? *Matthew 27:62-66*

13. Read Matthew 28:1-7. What was discovered at the tomb on the first day of the week?

AN OVERVIEW OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST



What did the angel say about Jesus?

14. What were the soldiers bribed to say? *Matthew 28:11-15*

“As a lawyer I have made a prolonged study of the evidence for the events of the first Easter Day. To me the evidence is conclusive, and over and over again in the High Court I have secured the verdict on evidence not nearly so compelling. . . . I accept [the Gospel evidence for the resurrection] unreservedly as the testimony of truthful men to facts they were able to substantiate.”

EDWARD CLARKE²

15. After his resurrection, Christ appeared to his disciples.

a. What was their first impression? *Luke 24:36-37*

b. What things did he do to show them he had a body?

Luke 24:39-43

16. What is the essence of the gospel message?

1 Corinthians 15:1-5

² As quoted by John R. W. Stott in *Basic Christianity* (London: InterVarsity, 1958), 46.

Remember These Points

- Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, raised in Galilee, and became a carpenter. He spent three years ministering to thousands and proving that he was the Christ.
- Then he was condemned to die on a cross to bear the penalty for our sin.
- After three days, Jesus rose bodily from the dead. His resurrection is a historical reality.