

The Next Seven

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Key New Testament Passages from the Gospels

1 Early Life of the Savior

Reading: Luke 1:1-2:38; Matthew 2:1-23; Luke 2:39-52

2 The Appearance of John the Baptist

Reading: Luke 1:1-25; 1:57-80; Matthew 3:1-12; John 1:19-36

3 Sermon on the Mount

Reading: Matthew 5-7

4 Jesus Teaches Nicodemus About the New Birth

Reading: John 3:1-21; Cf. 1 Peter 1:17-25; Titus 3:3-7; 1 John 5:1-4

5 Jesus Receives Sinners

Reading: Luke 7:36-50; 15:1-32; 19:1-10

6 This is my Beloved Son in Whom I am Well Pleased

Reading: Matthew 3:13-17; 17:1-13; John 12:12-33; 2 Peter 1:15-21

7 I Am the Resurrection and the Life

Reading: John 11:1-45 (v25-26)

New Testament Review – Lesson 4

Overview

As we continue our review of basic Bible knowledge we come to the New Testament. Of necessity such a review must include the early life of the Savior.

The gospels of Matthew and Luke contain essential details concerning the genealogy of Jesus necessary to confirm he is a physical descendent of both Abraham and David.

As well, a careful study of these genealogies confirm that Jesus has a physical right to the throne of David by way of his mother and the legal right by way of his legal, guardian father Joseph. In addition to this important information the genealogy of Jesus recorded in Luke's gospel leads all the way back to the first man Adam!

As clearly taught in the gospels, Jesus was miraculously conceived in the womb of Mary and subsequently born in Bethlehem. Wicked Herod attempted to destroy the young child, but warned by the angel of the Lord Joseph took Mary and the young child into Egypt. They remained there until Herod died, whereupon Joseph took Mary and the baby Jesus to his childhood home of Nazareth.

At the appropriate time the Lord thrust John the Baptist into his ministry as the forerunner of Messiah. John the Baptist captured the imagination of the Jewish nation as they watched his powerful ministry. John proceeded to use the great platform the Lord gave him to announce the soon arrival of the Messiah.

At just the right time the Father led Jesus to John for his public baptism. After baptizing Jesus, John confirmed him to be the promised Messiah after witnessing

the Spirit's descension upon him in the form of a dove. As well, the Father spoke from heaven declaring, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Upon returning in the power of the Spirit following his temptation in the wilderness, Jesus began his public ministry. While it is beyond the scope of this series of lessons to study his whole ministry we can highlight several important things every student of Scripture should remember.

The well known Sermon on the Mount recorded in Matthew's gospel contains a wealth of teaching we all should learn such as the model prayer, how to deal with the basic needs of life, and the golden rule.

Among the many things Jesus taught during his public ministry known is greater than his discourse on the new birth found in John chapter three. His conversation with Nicodemus reveals the necessity of the new birth and how it is received. In fact, it is in that private conversation with Nicodemus we find the most famous verse in the Bible, John 3:16.

As one reads the life of Christ in the gospels it is essential we see the heart of the Savior. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners! He loves every man, including the most downtrodden and those most burdened by sin. Luke's gospel in particular places great emphasis upon the Lord's love for sinners. We see his love illustrated in his dealings with an unnamed woman (Luke 7), the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15), and a man named Zacchaeus (Luke 19).

In this lesson we need to also draw attention to two events in the life of Jesus that speak clearly of his intrinsic deity as the Son of God. The first event is what we normally refer to as his transfiguration and the second is the mighty miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11).

On the Mount of Transfiguration Peter, James, and John witnessed the glory Christ possessed as God incarnate. Of course this glory was normally veiled by his

human nature, but on this occasion the Lord pulled back the veil! This event is an important testimony to the true nature of Jesus as the God-man.

The next event that every student of the Bible should be thoroughly familiar with is the powerful resurrection of Lazarus from the dead. How could a man dead four days be raised to life again? As Martha said of her brother when the Lord told them to take away the stone covering the entrance to Lazarus' tomb, "Lord, by this time he stinks, for he has been dead four days."

Jesus proceeded to raise Lazarus from the dead! Such a creative miracle proves the claim of Jesus to be the "resurrection and the life." Only God could make such a claim, but that is just the point. Jesus Christ is the unique Son of God, God come in the flesh for our salvation. Praise his name!

Key Passage this Week

- Matthew 6:1-34

Key Verse

- Matthew 6:33

List at least five things you can learn from this part of our Lord's sermon on the mount (Matthew 6)?

Activity

List at least five other clear indications from Scripture that Jesus is God.

Digging Deeper

For those students who desire to explore this section of Biblical history further here are a few links to interesting articles available online:

Michael Faraday—God’s Power and Electric Power – (Faraday’s church emphasized living by Jesus’ words in the Sermon on the Mount)

<https://answersingenesis.org/creation-scientists/profiles/michael-faraday-gods-power-and-electric-power/>

The Resurrection Is Credible

by C. H. Spurgeon

<https://answersingenesis.org/education/spurgeon-sermons/1067-the-resurrection-is-credible/>

The Slaughter of the Innocents: Historical Fact or Legendary Fiction?

<http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2009/12/08/The-Slaughter-of-the-Innocents-Historical-Fact-or-Legendary-Fiction.aspx>

General Knowledge of the Old Testament

T or F The New Testament does not contain the family tree of Jesus.

Why did Joseph (the legal guardian father of Jesus) decide to take Mary as his wife instead of divorcing her?

Who was the forerunner of Jesus preparing the way of the Lord?

Following his baptism, in what form did the Holy Spirit descend upon Jesus?

What was the first miracle Jesus performed in his public ministry?

What teaching of Jesus do we call the “golden rule?”

Quote below what we commonly refer to as the “model prayer” or the Lord’s Prayer.

What is the name of the Pharisee who came to Jesus by night and received teaching on the new birth?

What parable of Jesus tells the story of a son who wasted his living but in time repented and returned to his father?

What is the name of the tax collector who needed to climb a sycamore tree in order to see Jesus as he passed by?

What three disciples accompanied Jesus on the mount of transfiguration?

What is the name of the man whom Jesus raised from the dead four days after his funeral?