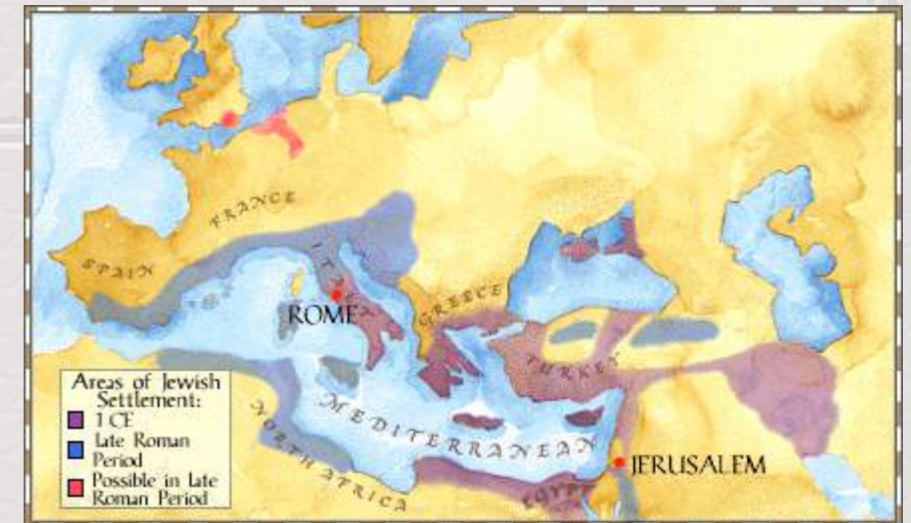




Time of Jesus Christ

Nature of Times

- ✿ Moral decay, Political abuses, Jews seeking the Messiah
- ✿ Jews largely in diaspora.
- ✿ Hebrews in Babylonia and Jerusalem
- ✿ Greek hellenized in Mesopotamia and Egypt
- ✿ Common ground was Temple in Jerusalem - center of their religion. When they gathered in synagogues worshiped as one nation.
- ✿ Jewish thought became mingled with Greek philosophy & new allegorical interpretation of OT.



Nature of Times

- ✦ Rome in decline - needed to preserve territory.
- ✦ Had policy to root out other nationalities.



Once open to Jewish religion - now sought unity in Empire.

Herod the Great

Built Greek towns surrounding Hebrews and Jerusalem.

Erected heathen temples and encouraged worship of Emperor and Rome - atheism dominated.

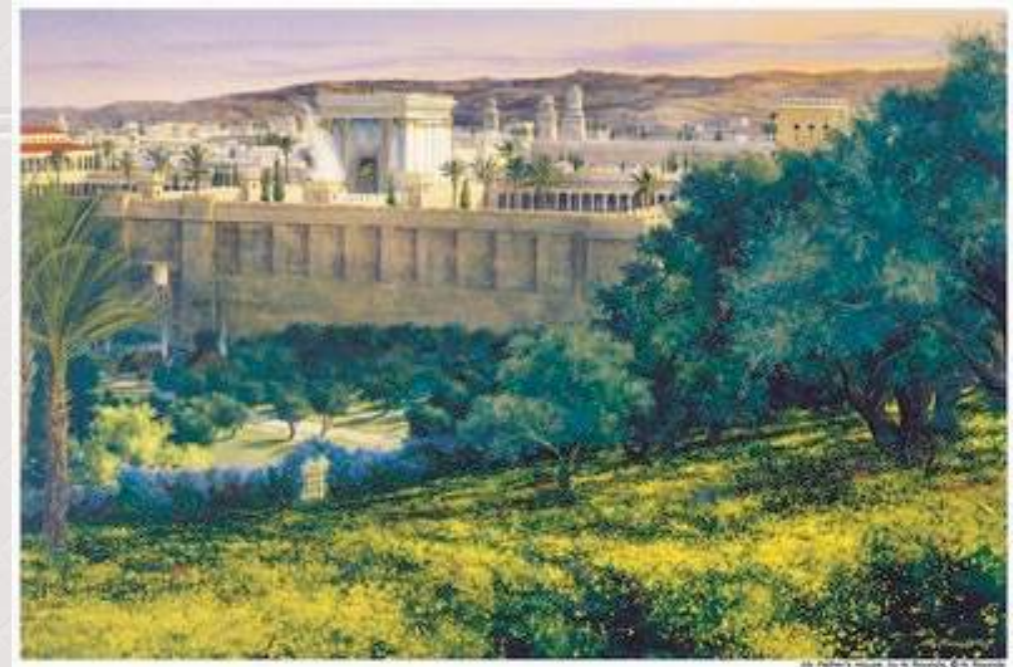


Nature of Times

- ✦ Oracles, divination, dreams, astrology, magic.
- ✦ Sanctity of marriage lost, abortion and murder of new borns common and unnatural sexual relations.
- ✦ Slaves not protected, cruelties such as being thrown to wild beasts in arena.
- ✦ No consideration for poor, no hospitals - even smallest alms for poor looked down upon.
- ✦ What was on minds of Jewish people?
 - ✦ Expectation of “The Messiah”

Nature of Times - Jerusalem

- ◆ Jerusalem was totally Jewish in character, had 200,000 and many more during great feast days
- ◆ The Temple, hundreds of synagogues differing nationalities, rabbinic academies and Jewish schools.
- ◆ Greek was language of government but people spoke Aramaic.
- ◆ Seeking Messiah but of what nature?



Nature of Times

- ✦ Were seeking God's manifestation in the **world** - establishment of His Kingdom **on earth**.
- ✦ Notion of Divine Personality that united God and Man was foreign.
- ✦ Viewed Messiah far above ordinary human nature: Royal, prophetic and angelic like, but not Divine.
- ✦ What was Jews main charge against Jesus?
 - ✦ He claimed to be God.

Historical Jesus

- ✦ Existence of Jesus also proven historical fact!

Documented by Tacitus (Roman 100AD) and Josephus (Jewish 37AD)

Josephus describes Him as follows:

- ✦ *Now there was about this time, Jesus, a wise man,... a doer of wonderful works, teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to Him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles.*
- ✦ ***He is Christ;** when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had **condemned him to the cross**, those that loved him at first did not forsake him, for he **appeared to them alive again** the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; tribe of Christians named after him, are not extinct to this day.*

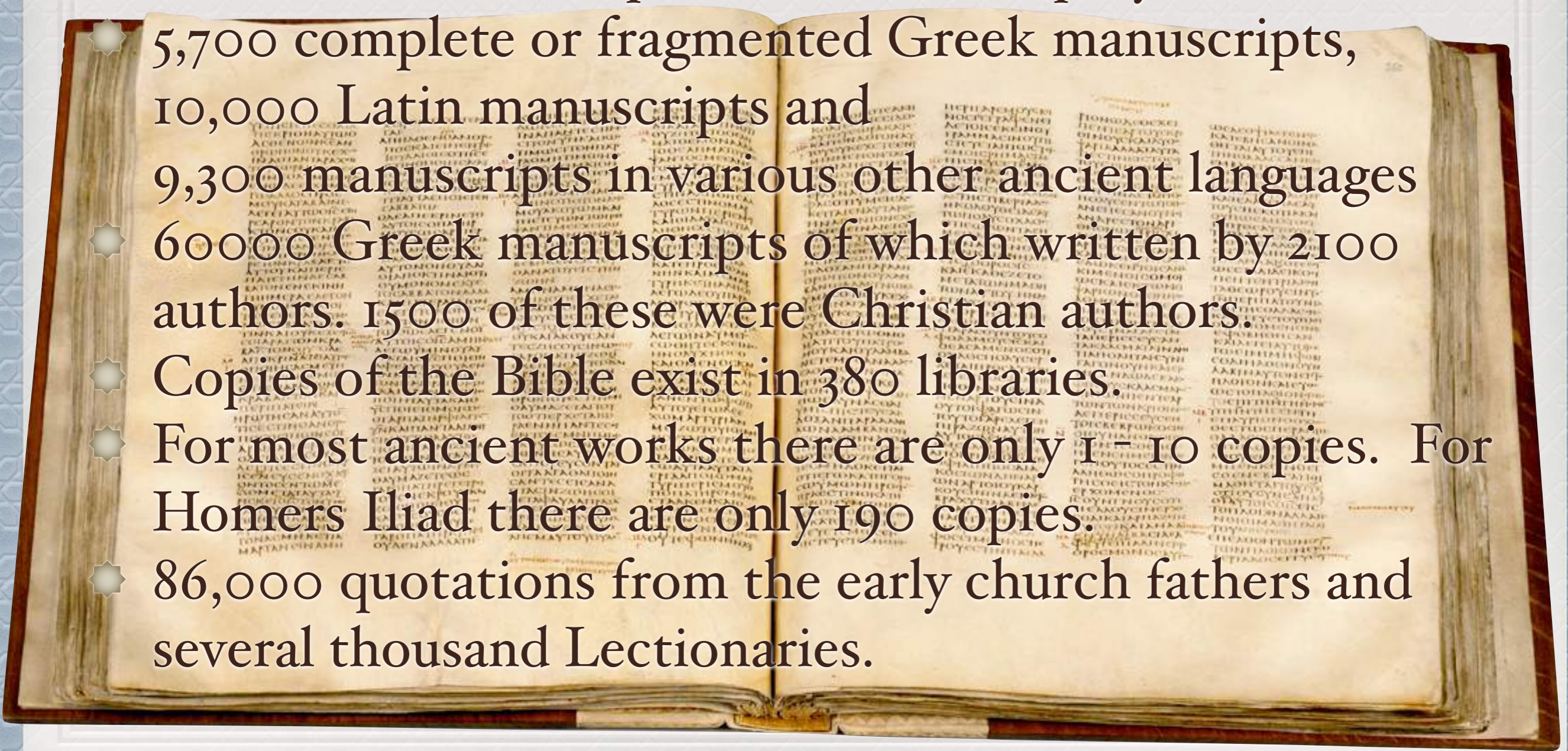
Bible

Most of what we know about Jesus is recorded in Bible

- The oldest books known are the Bible.
- There are 100's of manuscripts that date to the first millennium.
- 26th chapter of Matthew dates back to 70AD
- 100Ad Chapter 18 from John
- 340 codex Vaticanis - Latin,
350 Codex Sinaiticus - Greek

Bible

- ✦ Bible is the most copied book in antiquity
- ✦ 5,700 complete or fragmented Greek manuscripts, 10,000 Latin manuscripts and 9,300 manuscripts in various other ancient languages
- ✦ 60000 Greek manuscripts of which written by 2100 authors. 1500 of these were Christian authors.
- ✦ Copies of the Bible exist in 380 libraries.
- ✦ For most ancient works there are only 1 - 10 copies. For Homers Iliad there are only 190 copies.
- ✦ 86,000 quotations from the early church fathers and several thousand Lectionaries.



Nativity of Jesus

- ✦ Born in most humble circumstances in Bethlehem as prophesied in OT
- ✦ Most significant event in Christian History, Why?
 - ✦ God becomes Man - fully God and fully Human.
- ✦ Glorified by angles, recognized by wise men and Shepherds
- ✦ Can never forget role Mary played in this event - birthgiver of God.



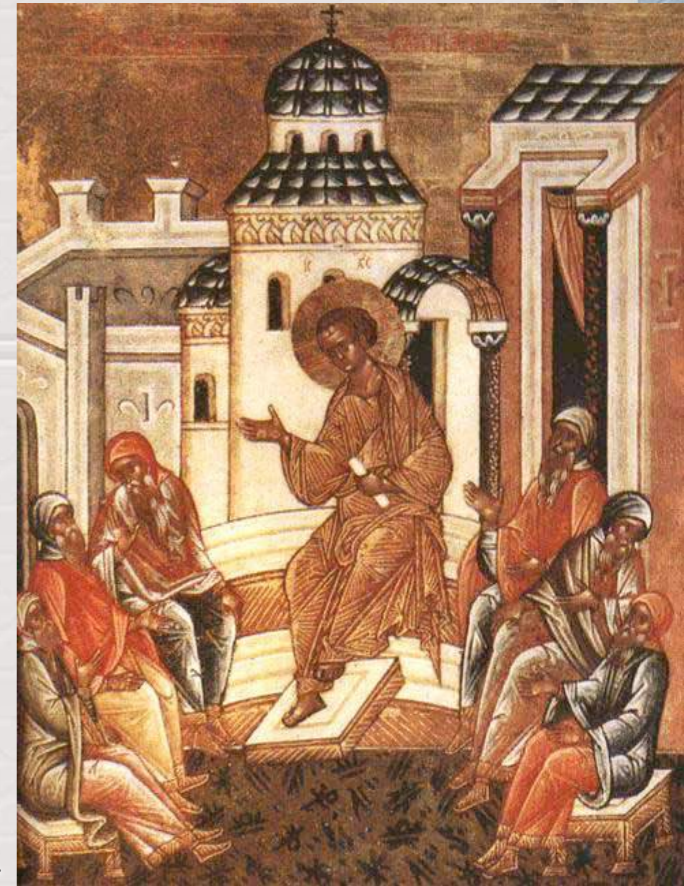
Presentation in Temple

- ✿ Following Jewish tradition Mary went to temple for purification to take Jesus for redemption of firstborn, in obedience to the Law of Moses.
- ✿ Recognized as Messiah - Elder Symeon.
- ✿ *“he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.”* (Luke 2:28-32)



Childhood

- ✦ Few details - focus on information important for salvation.
Scripture History of Savior - not biography.
- ✦ In first visit to Temple Christ demonstrated His mission - see Him Teaching -
“all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.” (2:Luke 47)
- ✦ Inside holds over 200,000,
Kidron valley 450 feet below tower on eastern wall.



John the Forerunner

- ✦ Announces approach of the “*kingdom of **Heaven***” and need to prepare as prophesied by Isaiah (40:3-5).
- ✦ He directed all to the “*one mightier than I [who] is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to unloose.*” (Luke 3:16)
- ✦ How does his baptism differed from rite of cleansing?
- ✦ His was a call :
*Repent for the Kingdom of **heaven** is at hand!* (Matt 3:2)



Baptism by John

- ✦ John Baptized Jesus in Jordan River
- ✦ Why was Jesus Baptized?
 - ✦ To show us way to enter the kingdom
“to fulfill all righteousness.” (Mat 3:15)
*“Enters filthy [sinful] waters of the world
and ... brings up [purifies] the entire world
with Him.”* - Gregory Palamas
- ✦ Reveals Holy Trinity.
*Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a
dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven
which said “you are my beloved Son; in You I
am well pleased.”* (Luke 3: 22)



Temptations

- ✦ Jesus was “*led by the Spirit into wilderness.*” *Luke 4:1*
- ✦ Fasted 40 days - Why?
 - ✦ Shows strength of human will when aligned with divine Will.
 - ✦ Faced and overcame temptations
 - ✦ Shows us way to enter into His kingdom. Whatever He overcame we can overcome. (Synergia)
- ✦ From that time Jesus began to preach and to say,
“***Repent for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.***” *(Mat 4:17)*



Turn Stone into Bread



Worship me and all will be Yours



Throw Yourself Down from Here

Beginning Anew ?

- ✿ Wedding at Cana - first miracle - separation from past and beginning of doing the work of His Father (John 2)
- ✿ Symbolizes union of God with His bride Israel.
- ✿ Jesus settles in Capernaum - His first home



First Disciples

- ✦ *“Follow me, I will make you fishers of men.”* Mark 1:16
- ✦ Who were first called?
- ✦ Andrew and brother Simon (Peter).
- ✦ Then James and brother John.
- ✦ *“They immediately left the boat and their father and followed Him.”*
(Matthew 4:22)



Money Changers

- ✦ Goes to Jerusalem for Passover feast -
Time for purification and to pay tribute to Temple of exact half shekel of Temple -
- ✦ Necessary for money changers and buying sacrificial animals. Result?
- ✦ Temple became like a bazaar. Often referred to as Bazaar of Annias.
- ✦ First public act was to purge Temple of this commercialism - was a desecration of His Father' House.
- ✦ What happened?
 - ✦ No one tried to stop Him. Succeeds in battle over evil



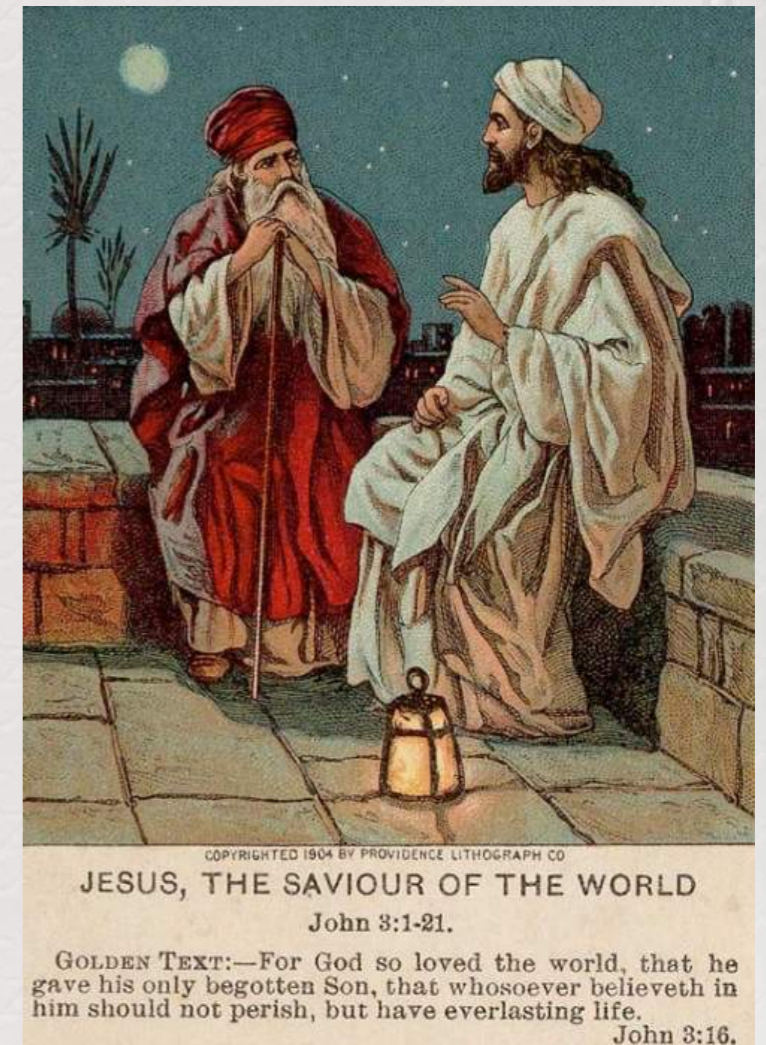
Nicodemus



- ✦ Nicodemus believed Jesus came from God - came secretly to understand His teachings
- ✦ Jesus tells him, *“Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”* How?
- ✦ *“unless one is born of **water and the Spirit**, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.”* But How can this be?
- ✦ *“And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*
- ✦ *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.***
- ✦ *For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”*

Nicodemus

- ✦ *“he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”*
(John 3:1-15)
- ✦ God’s gift is His Son as His expression of love for the world.
- ✦ He came to save **if we believe**, and is condemnation if do not believe.
- ✦ How did Jew understand this ?
- ✦ Jesus then retires to county with disciples and taught.



Samaritan Woman

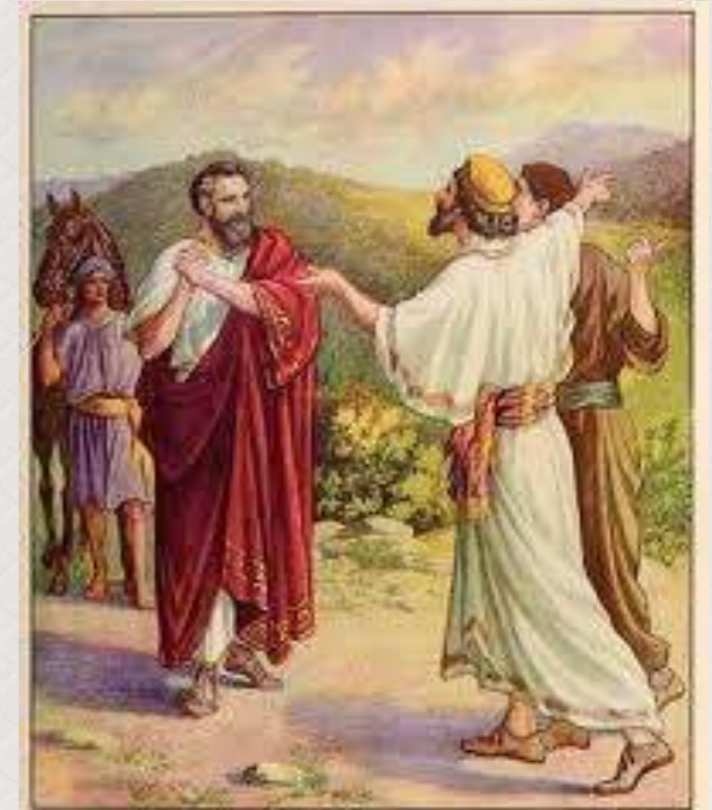
- ✦ Jacob's well (*John 4:1-42*)
- ✦ Jews have no dealings with Samaritans
- ✦ Jesus not seen as ordinary Jew.
- ✦ He offers **living water** that forever quenches the thirst, "*springing up into everlasting life.*" What is living water?
- ✦ *There will come a time when neither this mountain nor in Jerusalem shall you worship the Father... You worship what you do not know... true worshipers worship the **Father in spirit and truth. God is Spirit.***
- ✦ She says, "*I know the **Messiah** cometh. ...He will tell us all.*"
Jesus responds: "**I am He**"
- ✦ Many are converted by His word and she tells everyone.



Greek Orthodox
St. Photina Church

Nobleman's Son

- ✦ Christ returns to Galilee and city of Cana - now received with reverent attention.
- ✦ One of Herod Antipas' officer's son was at point of death, **believing** in healing power of Jesus he seeks His help.
- ✦ Jesus said *"Go your way; your son lives."* (John 4:30)
- ✦ His second miracle is based on **faith**.

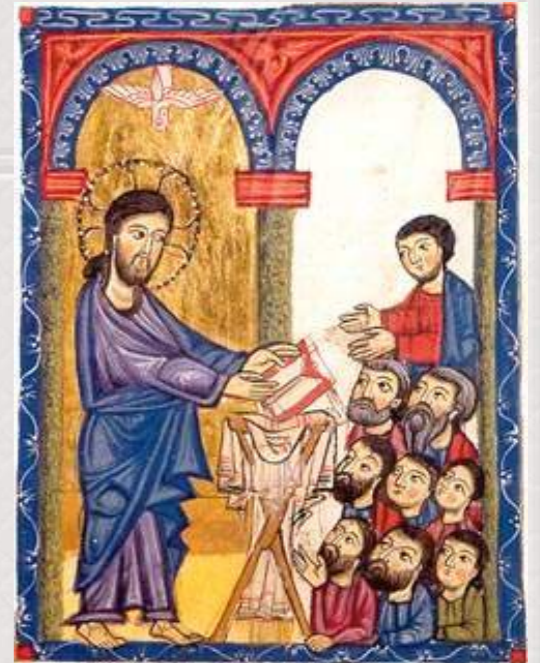


JESUS AND THE NOBLEMAN'S SON

Returns to Nazareth

- ✦ Reads Scripture in Synagogue in Nazareth from Book of Isaiah handed to him

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed...”



- ✦ Then He said to them:

“Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

- ✦ Their response: *“This is Joseph’s son?”* Couldn’t believe

- ✦ What happened?

- ✦ Challenges them about lack of belief and they drove Him out of the city. - Returns to Capernaum for summer.

Healing of the Paralytic

- ✦ Fall, returns to Jerusalem alone
 - ✦ Challenged by Jewish officials for His Messianic claims - encounters persecution
 - ✦ Snubs authority of Temple to heal the paralytic at pool of Bethesda.
 - ✦ Why did he do this?
 - ✦ Challenge hypocrisy of priests and their outward laws.
- Directs attention to serving poor and needy.
Affirms He is **equal with God** - angering them more.



Healing of the Paralytic

- ◆ *“The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does the Son also does in like manner....*

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. (John 5: 19, 25)

- ◆ Now they wanted to kill Him.
- ◆ What does he do now?



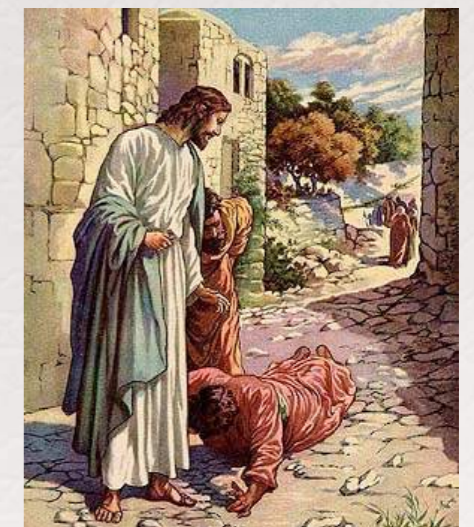
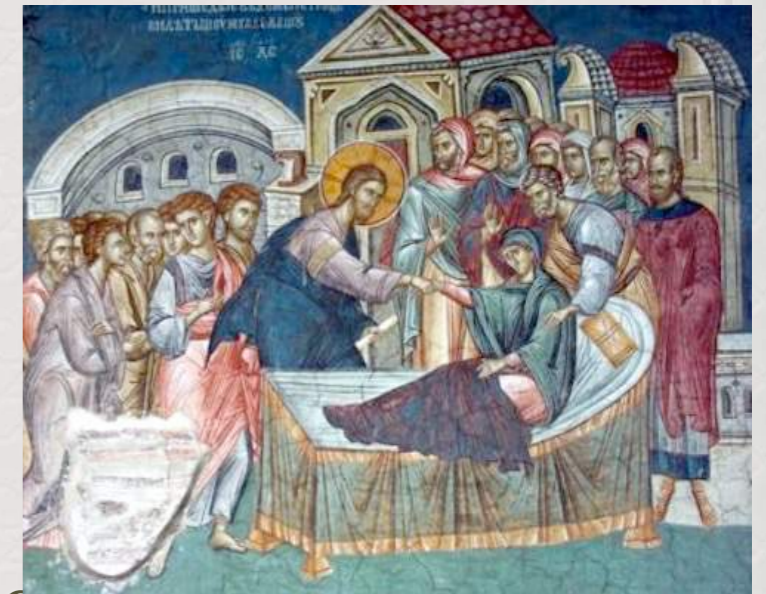
Disciples called to True Discipleship

- ✦ Returns to Galilee - Fishermen are repairing their nets - major industry
- ✦ Peter's boat becomes the Pulpit.
- ✦ Message most likely same as the Sermon on the Mount
- ✦ The miracle of the fish and the message of becoming fishers of men
- ✦ *“Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men.” So when they brought their boats to land they forsook all and followed Him. (Luke 5: 10 - 11)*



Jesus Heals

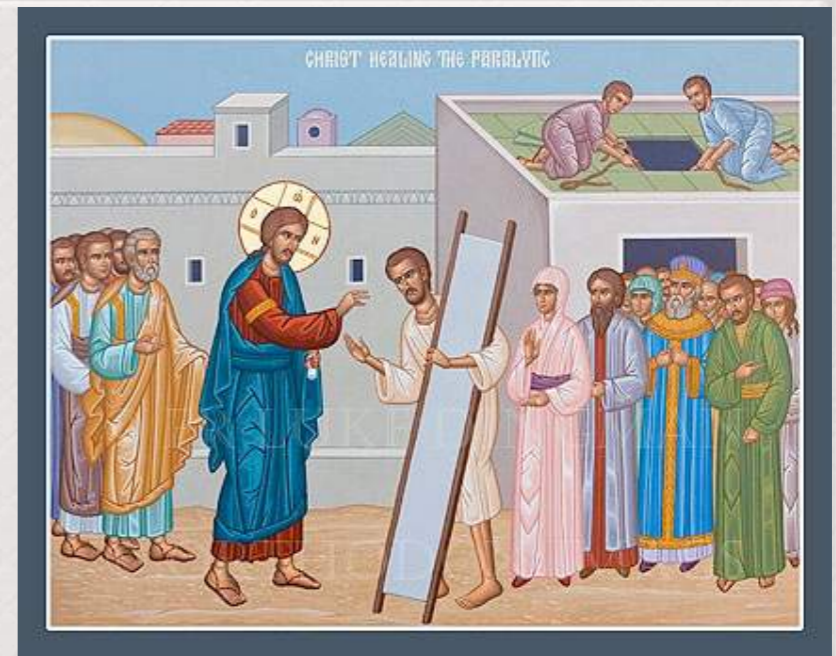
- ✦ Peter's Mother-in-law had "*a high fever.*" Jesus rebukes the fever and it left.
- ✦ Public now acclaims His authority to command "*unclean spirits.*"
- ✦ What happens as a result?
 - ✦ Multitudes brought to Him for healing. His healing is Major aspect of Incarnation Consoler of humanity.
 - ✦ Why did He heal so many in this way?
 - ✦ Because of His many healings, even lepers, they cannot deny His powers.
- Now, sets out to other cities with authority.



Jesus Forgives Sins

- ✦ Jesus heals a paralytic whose faith was so strong that they opened the roof of room where Jesus was, to lift him down because of large crowds
- ✦ Then Jesus said, “*Son, your sins are forgiven you*” and he was healed.
- ✦ Scribes there murmured, “*Why does this man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone.*”

(Mark 2: 1-12)



Jesus Forgives Sins



- ✿ This is followed by the forgiveness and call of Matthew the tax collector, a sinner.
- ✿ Repentance was **freely given** by Jesus.
- ✿ Different than Jewish practice of the time: Sacrifices, sufferings, had to be offered coupled by good works that go beyond just correcting for the sin. A kind of payment to appease God required.
- ✿ Forgiveness only came from God.
- ✿ Jesus taught - all sinners are welcome for grace whereas Jewish thought was pessimistic that for some even death was evidence of true repentance.
- ✿ *“For I am not come to call righteous men, but sinners.”*

Sermon on the Mount

- ✦ Significance of Sermon on Mount?
- ✦ Sought to teach the inner and outer manifestation of discipleship
- ✦ Beatitudes - Law written on hearts
- ✦ New law (New Covenant) that fulfills and replaces the laws of Moses.
- ✦ Instructs on spiritual disciplines -
Prayer, fasting, almsgiving
- ✦ Exhorts all to righteousness

“Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt 5:20)





Beatitudes - Blessed are:

- ✦ **Poor in spirit:** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- ✦ **They that mourn:** for they shall be comforted.
- ✦ **Meek:** for they shall inherit the earth.
- ✦ **They which do hunger and thirst after righteousness:** for they shall be filled.
- ✦ **Merciful:** for they shall obtain mercy.
- ✦ **Pure in heart:** for they shall see God.
- ✦ **Peacemakers:** for they shall be called the children of God.
- ✦ **They which are persecuted for righteousness' sake:** for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Sermon on the Mount

- ✦ Is it essential that we do these things?
- ✦ *“Everyone who hears these sayings of mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: as the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on the house; and it fell. And great was its fall.”*
He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

(Matt 7: 26-27,29)



A Deceiver?

- ✦ Pharisees saw miracles of Jesus as work of Satan.
- ✦ Denied Jesus was God.
Called Him a deceiver who misleads.
- ✦ How did they try to establish this?
- ✦ By proving that He sanctioned other religions and Himself committed breaches of traditional law.
- ✦ Healed on the Sabbath,
Allowed disciples to eat without washing.....

Call to Be King



- ✦ Death of John the Baptist and retreat to Beth-Saida -- miracle of feeding of 5000 and miraculous rescue at sea, walks on water.
- ✦ What did the people do?
 - ✦ Began to murmur that truly He was the Messiah, The Son of God.
- ✦ Many called Him to become their King
Because their idea of a Kingdom was different than what He came to teach, Jesus refuses and retires to Capernaum.

The Great Crisis

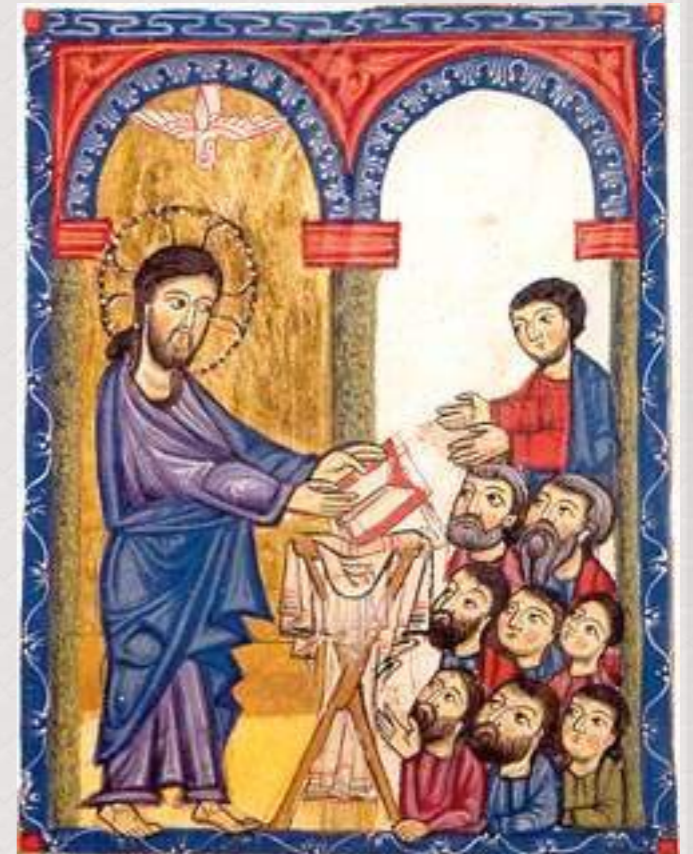
- ✦ What were Jews expecting?
 - ✦ A King and a new **kingdom of this world** based on outer benefits.
- ✦ His refusal created doubts about Him being the true Messiah.
- ✦ What was nature of Jesus' Kingdom?
 - ✦ A Kingdom based on an **inner** acceptance of God. Kingdom of Heaven.
- ✦ With this thought he is in Synagogue in Capernaum teaching on Sabbath.

The Great Crisis

- ✦ *“I am the living Bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for this life of this world... **unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.**”*

John 30 - 66

- ✦ He repeats this thought five times.
- ✦ *“From that time on many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.”* (Today many also refuse to believe this)



Peter's Confession

- ✦ Many healings not sufficient to prove He was Messiah. Realized many disciples influenced by “*leaven*” of the Sadducees and Pharisees. He **tests their faith**:
- ✦ Asks disciples: “*Who do men say that I am?*”
- ✦ Disciples: “*Some say John, some Elijah, Jeremiah or a prophet.*”
- ✦ Jesus: “*But who do you say I am?*”
- ✦ Peter: “*You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.*” (Mat 16:16)
- ✦ Jesus: “*On this rock I will build my Church*” - Meaning this faith. Faith based on experience. Remember faith of Abraham?
- ✦ From that time He began to tell them about His death.
- ✦ Marked Jesus as Christ and His followers as the Church.



Transfiguration

- ✦ With high point in Apostle's faith, 8 days later Jesus took Peter, John and James up the 2 mile mountain pathway *"to pray"*.
- ✦ To them Jesus appeared transformed, *"his face altered"*, His robe *"white and glistening."* Moses and Elijah appeared and talked with Him about his *"decrease He was about to accomplish in Jerusalem."*
- ✦ Disciples offered to build *"tabernacles."*
- ✦ A cloud came - they became *"fearful."* A voice said: *"This is my beloved Son. Hear to Him!"* Then Jesus was alone. Kept silence.



“Faithless Generation”

- ✦ Seeing His divinity, this sealed their faith even in light of His announced future death.
- ✦ Scribes brought a man's son His disciples could not cure.
- ✦ He said, *“O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you and bear with you?”* (Luke 9:41)
Shows the weakness of many disciples.
- ✦ He said, *“This kind can come out only by prayer and fasting.”* He healed the boy. (Mark 9:29) - Teaching necessity of Ascetic work.
- ✦ Makes several trips to Jerusalem preparing for final days, **strengthening disciples faith**, preparing them for His death and their work to follow.
- ✦ Faith is ongoing process (**faithing**)

Raising of Lazarus

- ◆ Fullest evidence of His divinity and humanity - prelude to His Resurrection
- ◆ Bethany is only two miles from Jerusalem.
- ◆ Gap in information from His earlier visit to Bethany and Lazarus is said to be the “*one who loved Christ.*” Shows how limited the info is given to us in the Scriptures.
- ◆ Christ did not come until four days after He died - was custom to bury same day.
- ◆ Tells Martha, “*I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?*”
- ◆ Weeps - Shows humanity. Then raises Him from dead.



Raising of Lazarus

- ✦ Pharisees and chief priest meet to determine what to do with Jesus.
- ✦ What do you think they are thinking?
- ✦ Suspected He would be coming for the Passover feast.
Sent word for anyone who saw him to seize him.
- ✦ Jesus rested in Bethany and knowing their verdict & withdrew to a far away place.



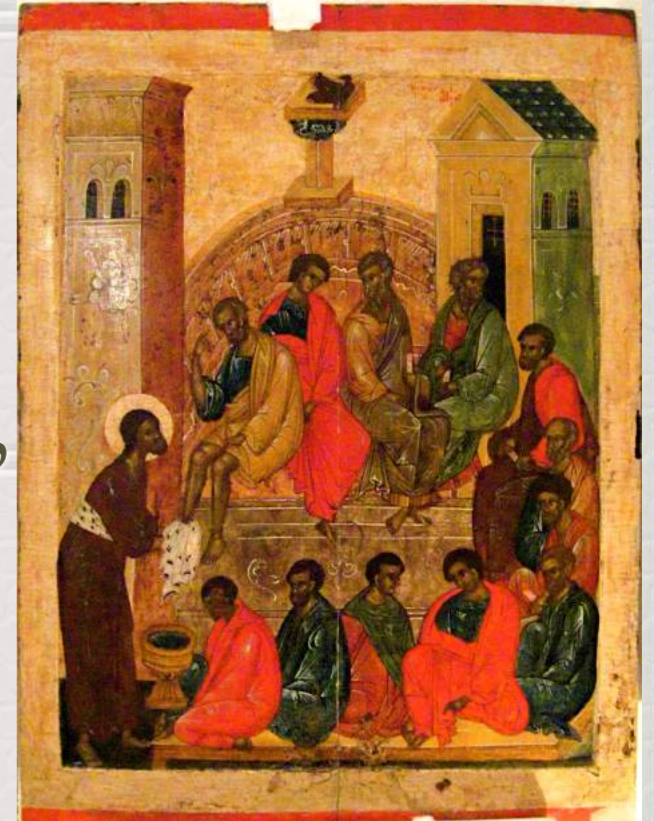
Entry into Jerusalem



- ✦ Leaves Bethany, early morning, knowing of His coming suffering and death. Makes a solemn passage to Jerusalem.
- ✦ City crowded with Pilgrims due to Passover celebration.
- ✦ Sent for a colt, which was announcement of His coming.
- ✦ How did he come?
- ✦ Came, not as earthly King, but humble, riding on a donkey.
- ✦ Many heard of raising of Lazarus, brought branches to meet him with Hosannahs raising excitement in city.
“Blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord.”
- ✦ Excitement infuriated the Pharisees.

Endtimes

- ✦ After 3 days teachings on salvation in temple, Jesus retires to Mt of Olives with disciples, teaches about end time.
- ✦ Begins warning them *“many will come in My name saying ‘I am the Christ,’ and will deceive many.”* (Matt 24:5)
- ✦ Wars, famines, pestilence's and earthquakes indicate beginning of sorrows. You'll be hated and they will kill you.
- ✦ *“**he who endures to the end shall be saved.**”*
Must endure to be saved.
- ✦ *After the tribulation then the sun will be darkened and the “sign of the Son of Man will appear in the heaven... and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”* (Matt 4:29 - 31)



Watchfulness and Works

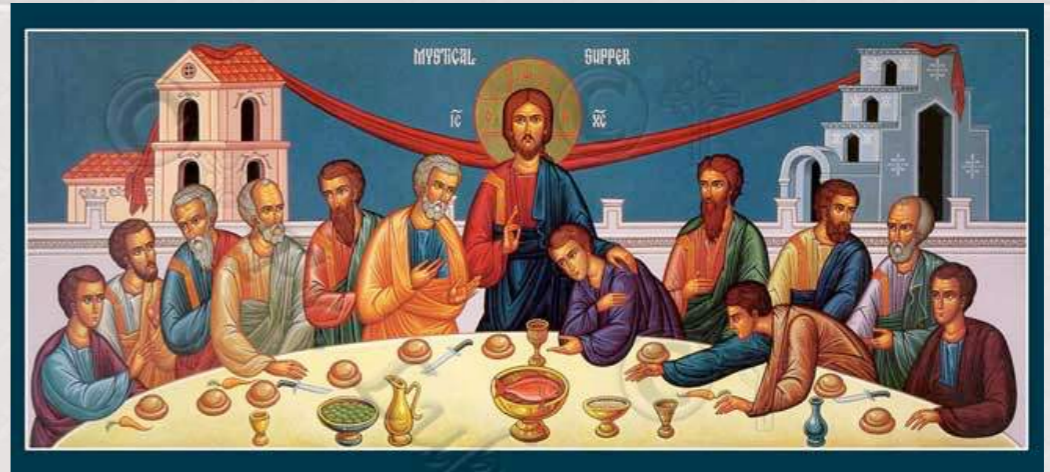
- ✦ Jesus then tells them that *“of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”* (Mat 24: 36)
- ✦ Therefore he instructs that they must be ever watchful, *“Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour the Lord is coming.”* (Mat 24: 42) **Keeping your hearts pure.**
- ✦ *“You must be ready, for the son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”* (Mat 24:44)
- ✦ Parable of the Fig tree (necessity to bear fruit).
Parable of the ten virgins (oil lamps filled).
Parable of the five talents (show return on gifts given).

Works Based on Faith

- ✿ Wedding banquet - need for a “*wedding garment*” *(Matt 22: 1-14)*
- ✿ Greatest commandment: “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.*” *(Matt 22:34-40)*
- ✿ Judgment based on works: *Separate the sheep from the goats for eternal life or eternal punishment.* *(Matt 25: 32-46)*
- ✿ Faith with works = works based on faith *(James 2:17)*

Institution of Eucharist

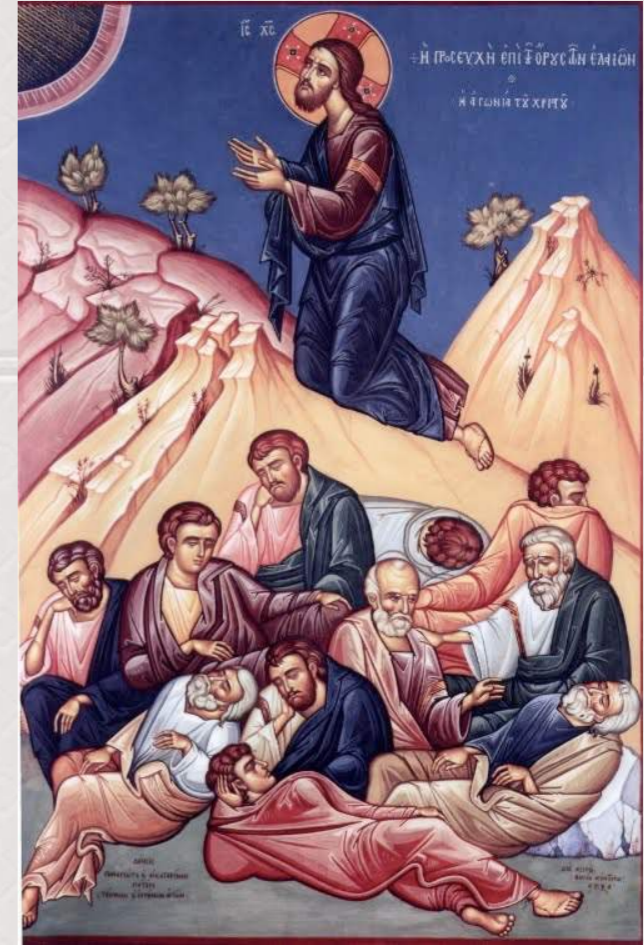
- ✦ Judas betrays Christ going to chief priests. Accepts money, price of ransom for a slave.
- ✦ Adjourned to the Upper room for a private supper and institution of the Eucharist.
- ✦ As said in the Liturgy:
*He took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to the disciples and said, “Take eat; this is **My body**”*
- ✦ *Then he took the cup and gave thanks, and gave it to them saying: Drink of it all of you. For this is **My Blood** of the new covenant, which is shed for for many for the remission of sins.*



(Mat 26:26-28)

Passion

- ✦ Jesus prays: *Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, **not My will, but Yours, be done.*** (Luke 22:42)
- ✦ He is arrested, tried, and scourged and exonerated by Herod and Pilate, but convicted by Jews when they asked for Barabas to be forgiven and Pilate gave orders for Crucifixion with two other criminals.

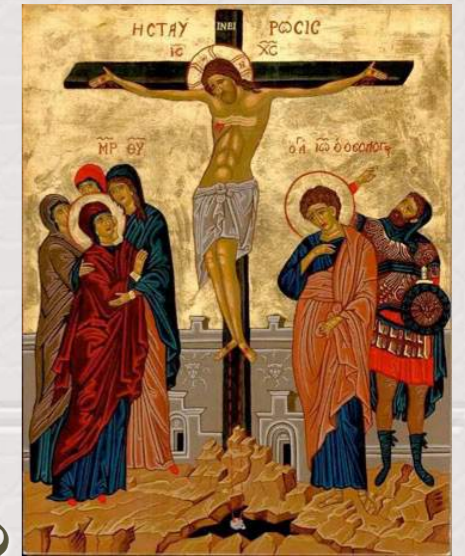


Crucifixion

- ✦ Crucified, he says, *“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do.”* (Luke 23:34)
- ✦ One thief mocked Him but the other defended because He believed He was God, saying, *“Remember me, Lord, when you come into Your kingdom.”*
- ✦ Last breath says, *“Father, into your hands I commit myself.”*
The sun was darkened and veil in the Temple was torn in two.
- ✦ Significance?



Crucifixion



- ✦ Was this a sacrifice offered to God? If so Why?
- ✦ Jews and Pilate had him killed.
Was there any ceremony of sacrifice or a payment?
- ✦ Later doctrines include terms like “Sacrificial Offering” or “substitutionary atonement”.
- ✦ *God told Adam, "In the day thou eatest of the tree, **thou shalt die.**" (Genesis 2:17.) This bond then the devil held in his possession. And Christ did not give it to us, but Himself tore it in two, the action of one who remits joyfully' - St John Chrysostom*
- ✦ What is climax of story?

Resurrection - Victory Over Death

- ✦ Theotokos and Mary Magdalene go to the tomb to anoint Him and find the tomb empty and an angel.
- ✦ *“Do not be afraid... He is not here; for **He has risen** as He said. Come see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly to tell His disciples that **He is risen from the dead**, and indeed He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him....”* So they went... with fear and great joy...
(Matthew 28:5-8)
- ✦ Here we see the undoing of the consequences of the Fall.



Teaches Apostles

- ✦ *He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. Then he appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time.... Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.* (1 Cor 15:4-8)
- ✦ Thomas affirms His Resurrection
- ✦ Jesus prepares disciples for descent of Holy Spirit and their ministry
- ✦ *“I send the promise of my Father upon you,”*
(Lk 24:49) **promise of Holy Spirit.** (John 15:16)



Great Commission



- ✦ Promising to send Holy Spirit He gives Great Commission:
“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.
- ✦ ***He who believes and is baptized will be saved;***
- ✦ *but he who does not believe will be condemned.*
- ✦ *And these **signs** will follow **those who believe:***
- ✦ *In my name they will cast out demons;*
they will speak with new tongues;
they will take up serpents;
and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them;
they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.” (Matt 28: 16-20)

Ascension

- ✦ He ascended “*up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.*” (Mark 16:19)
Paradise now open for all who choose to believe and follow.
- ✦ Gather in upper room in prayer and fasting & await arrival of the Holy Spirit.



Pentecost

- ✦ Finally, climax, what happens?
- ✦ **Descent of Holy Spirit** who empowers Apostles.
- ✦ *“and they went out and preached everywhere, the **Lord** working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.”* (Mark 16:20)
- ✦ The “*One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church*” is established on Earth.



Peter's Message

- ✦ What was message Peter gave to convert first Christians?
- ✦ Began emphasizing Spirit quoting Prophecy of Joel:...
*“I shall **pour out My Spirit on all flesh**”* (Acts 2:17)
- ✦ *Proclaims* Jesus is Messiah attested by His *“miracles, wonders and signs”* (Acts 2:22)
- ✦ Calls them **murderers**,
He you took *“by lawless hands, have crucified and put to death.”* (Acts 2:23)
- ✦ Then emphasizes Resurrection and His **victory over death**.
God *“raised up, having **loosed the pains of death**...”* (Acts 2:24)



How Peter Converts

- ✦ Quotes prophecies of David
“*He is at my right hand...*” attesting to His ascension.
“*Nor will You allow Your holy One to see corruption*” and His Resurrection. (Acts 2:25,27)
- ✦ “*Jesus God has **raised up**, of which we are all witnesses*”... Having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He **poured out** this which you now see and hear.” (Acts 2:32-33)



How Peter Converts

- ✦ Quotes David's prophecies in Psalm 68,
"The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, Till I make your enemies Your footstool."
- ✦ Closes Proclaiming, Jesus was **killed** by you and then **glorified** as Lord and Christ.
- ✦ What did People then say?
What shall we do?
- ✦ Peter replies, "**Repent**, let every one of you be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of Sins; and ...**receive the gift of Holy Spirit**."
- ✦ To this day we begin our journey by **Repentance** (Change of Mind), **Baptism** (cleansing of sins) & **Chrismation** (receiving Holy Spirit).



How Peter Converts

- ✦ What was immediate result?
- ✦ *“About **3,000** souls were added to them.”* (Acts 2:41)
- ✦ *“They continued steadfastly in the apostles doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.”* (Acts 2:42)
- ✦ Salvation began with these acts.
Belief in **Resurrection, Ascension** and
Descent of **Holy Spirit**.
Followed by **Repentance, Baptism, & Chrismation**.
- ✦ Thus begins Apostolic Age, the establishment of Churches to nurture Holy Spirit, so all can now become like Christ, in image as God created us.



Divine Economy

- ✦ **Incarnation** of God - Gift of salvation.
- ✦ **Baptism** by John the Forerunner and Holy Spirit - Union with God
- ✦ **Teaching** of Jesus Christ - Way of Life.
- ✦ **Transfiguration** - Showing His divinity, building faith
- ✦ **Crucifixion & Resurrection** - victory over death liberating all of mankind.
- ✦ **Ascension** - Opening of gates of Paradise to all who believe.
- ✦ **Descent of Holy Spirit** - establishing Church with her sacramental, liturgical and ascetical life for salvation of each individual who believes, continually building faith.

Assignment

- ✿ Assignment
 - ✿ Reflect on whole story
 - ✿ Ponder meaning of salvation
 - ✿ Examine your role
 - ✿ Explore the meaning of faith
 - ✿ Research life of one of Apostles other than Paul
 - ✿ Read section on Salvation.



Next: Redemption