

## The Life of Christ in Stereo

### Session 1: Chapters 1 and 2

#### Introduction

- Please, read or listen to the assigned chapters before you proceed.
- You may do so in the book, with the Android app, or on the web site.
- Download the app and view resources at: <http://locis.site>

#### What did you learn?

- If you are in a group, then allow each one to tell one important idea that they learned from their reading.
- If there is enough time, then anyone may tell a second idea, after the others have told their first idea.
- They may also reply to each other's queries and objections.

#### What did the passage say?

From the passage which they read for today's session, let each one tell one thing that Jesus said:

- A teaching: something to believe.
- A promise: something to receive.
- A command: something to obey.
- A warning: something to avoid.

Afterwards, they may tell another thing.

#### Understand Jesus' teaching

- People understood his parables.
- If not, then he told them the meaning.
- Jesus had three audiences: (a) leaders, (b) crowds, and (c) disciples.
- He often answered current issues.
- He was proving himself the Messiah.
- He often warned about the Roman invasion of AD 70 and afterwards.

#### Traditional Gospel distinctives

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| ● Matthew: Jesus = the Son of David | ● Matthew: Written for Judeans          |
| ● Mark: Jesus = the Lord's Servant  | ● Mark: Written for Romans              |
| ● Luke: Jesus = the Son of Man      | ● Luke: Written for Greeks & Hellenists |
| ● John: Jesus = the Son of God      | ● John: Written for all                 |

#### GOSPEL WRITERS' SOURCES

##### MATTHEW

- Was an eye and ear witness.
- Consulted with the other apostles.
- Met and talked with other witnesses.
- Knew biblical types and prophecies.
- Received the Holy Spirit.

##### MARK

- Was a witness to some events.
- Was related to Peter.
- Met and talked with other witnesses.
- Interviewed apostles.

##### LUKE

- Learned from Paul.
- Interviewed witnesses in Israel.
- Interviewed surviving apostles.
- Consulted other gospel writers.

##### JOHN

- Was an eye and ear witness.
- Consulted with other apostles.
- Met and talked with other witnesses.
- Knew Hellenized rabbinical ideas.
- Received the Holy Spirit.

Whilst the Gospels agree in all details, no one of them directly quotes from another's narrative. They must have had many same reliable sources.

## The Life of Christ in Stereo, Session 1

### Proposed chronologies of Jesus ministry

- Two-year: AD 28–29
- Three-year: AD 27–29
- Four-year: AD 27–30
- LOCIS: Spring AD 29 – Spring AD 33. See Cheney, Appendix IV, pp 226-236.

### Differences in the Gospels

“The [Gospel] writers used the same compositional devices as the biographer Plutarch [AD 46–119] employed when he reworked the same material in more than one of his biographies.” R. Bauckham in *Why are there Differences in the Gospels* by M.R. Licona, Oxford, 2017.

### Other blended versions

- Tatian combined the Gospels in his Diatessaron\* in Syriac language, between AD 160 and 175.
- Others translated this into other languages, notably Armenian and Arabic.
- Most modern ‘harmonies’ consist in four parallel columns. (\*‘Through Four’.)

### Intro, #2, The ‘Logos’ (John 1)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ...

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father...

**Greek Grammar rule:** In a declarative sentence with a verb of being (is, become), a subject noun may have a definite article ‘the’, whilst the predicate noun does not.

### Heraclitus (6th century BC)

- The Logos (Word) was a symbol of divine reason that ordered the universe and was accessible to those who listened to it.
- The Stoics later viewed the Logos as a universal principle that permeated the cosmos, giving it order and meaning.

### Philo of Alexandria (c. 20 BC–AD 50)

- The Logos (Word) is an intermediary between God and the cosmos, serving as both the agent of creation and the means through which humans can understand God.
- The Logos is the Angel of the LORD, acting as mediator between humans and God.

### Two Yahwehs in the OT ?

“Thrones were placed... The Ancient ... took his seat... One like a son of man came... before him. To him was given dominion and glory...” Dan 7:9-14

“They saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet ... a pavement of sapphire stone.” Exo 24:10

“I send an angel before you... Obey his voice... for my name is in him.” Exo 23:30-31

“The angel of the LORD ... said, ‘I will never break my covenant with you’.” Judges 2:1

### Chapter 2, #10, “Christ the Lord”

σωτήρ ὃς ἐστὶν χριστὸς κύριος

*savior who is christ lord*

- No definite articles ‘the’.
- If written in proper Greek, then ‘who’ = subject, ‘is’ = verb of being, ‘christ’ & ‘lord’ = predicate.
- translatable as “the Christ, the Lord.”
- Whose Lord? Same words: Rom 16:18; Col 3:24