

## Session 6

# Jesus Christ

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Apart from God himself, Jesus is the central character of the entire Bible, Old and New Testaments. The story of his life and death is found in the four gospels. In this chapter, we consider his teaching and the meaning of his death for us.

God's plan from the beginning was to fill the earth with his honour and glory. Because of the introduction of sin in the garden of Eden, God set in place a plan to destroy sin and death and provided mankind with a saviour—Jesus Christ. Jesus means 'Saviour'. He is also called Christ or Messiah both of which mean 'Anointed One'. So Jesus Christ means 'Anointed Saviour'.

### 6.1 Son of God

Jesus was conceived by God's power and was therefore the Son of God. Jesus, as God's only begotten and beloved son was his most treasured possession, and yet he was prepared to give him as a sacrifice for the sin of mankind. The apostle John wrote,

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16).

The Old Testament also speaks of God's Son:

You are my Son; today I have become your Father. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery. (Psalm 2:7-9)

### 6.2 Prophecies of Jesus

There are many other prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament. Here are some of them.

### Luke 1:26–38

God sent the angel Gabriel to tell Mary that she would have a child. She became pregnant with Jesus without having had intercourse with a man. The child was conceived in her womb by God's power, the Holy Spirit, and so the child was the son of God and Mary.

1. Why was it important that Mary was a virgin?
2. How would Mary have felt as she explained to her friends and family that she was pregnant? Do you think they would have believed her?
3. Find an Old Testament prophecy about the birth of a son to a virgin.
4. What was the throne of David (v32)? To which Old Testament promise was Gabriel referring?
5. Many people think that Jesus existed in some way before he was conceived. How would you answer this claim?

- He would come from the tribe of Judah.

The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.  
(Genesis 49:10)

Fulfilled: Luke 3:33

- He would be a descendant of David.

When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.  
(2 Samuel 7:12–13)

Fulfilled: Matthew 1:6,16

### Psalm 22: Jesus' crucifixion

This psalm was a prayer of David as he suffered from the continual attacks of his enemies. It is also prophetic of the circumstances of Jesus at his crucifixion, and is quoted several times in the gospels.

1. Find the places where this Psalm is directly quoted in the New Testament.
2. Find the places where this Psalm refers to the crucifixion, but is not directly quoted.
3. Are there any verses that could not refer to the circumstances of Jesus' crucifixion?

- He would be born in Bethlehem.  
But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. (Micah 5:2)  
Fulfilled: Matthew 2:4–6
- He would be born of a virgin.  
Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14)  
Fulfilled: Matthew 1:18
- He would live in Galilee.  
Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan—The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:1–2)  
Fulfilled: Matthew 4:12–16
- He would be rejected.  
He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. (Isaiah 53:3)  
Fulfilled: John 1:11
- He would enter Jerusalem riding on a donkey.  
Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zechariah 9:9)  
Fulfilled: John 12:13–15
- He would be executed.  
He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken. (Isaiah 53:7–8)  
Fulfilled: Matthew 27:12–14
- He would be crucified.  
Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. (Psalm 22:16)  
Fulfilled: Matthew 27:38
- People would cast lots for his clothes.  
They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing. (Psalm 22:18)  
Fulfilled: John 19:23–24
- He would be raised from the dead.  
... because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. (Psalm 16:10)  
Fulfilled: Matthew 28:5–9

### 6.3 His childhood

The story of his birth in a stable in Bethlehem is well known (Luke 2) and celebrated each year at Christmas time although it is almost certain that he was not born on December 25. Nor was he born in the year 0. Although our calendar is supposed to date from his birth, some mistakes were made when it was devised. Consequently, the birth of Jesus is now placed about 6 BC.

Shortly after his birth, Joseph took Mary and Jesus and fled to Egypt in response to God's warnings. On Joseph's return from Egypt he went to dwell in Nazareth. The only other description we are given of Jesus' youth appears in Luke 2:40–52 when, at the age of 12, he amazed the teachers in the Jerusalem temple. Matthew 2:13

Apart from these brief incidents, the four gospels concentrate entirely on the three years of his public ministry. In fact, much of the gospels describe the events in the last week of his life.

Very little is said of Jesus after this time until his appearance on the banks of the Jordan River at 30 years of age. We do know that Jesus followed in Joseph's footsteps and became a carpenter.

During this time Joseph probably died and Jesus, being the eldest in the family, would then have had to provide for his mother, four brothers and at least three sisters. During this time he would have learnt a great deal about human nature, including judgement and mercy. Matthew 13:55–56

### 6.4 His baptism

Jesus at the age of 30, had completed his personal preparation in Nazareth and was ready to be revealed publicly to Israel. The nation of Israel was also being prepared for Jesus' appearing by the preaching of his cousin, John the Baptist. John's message was simple: he called on men and women to renounce their waywardness, confess their sins and be baptised. John's preaching was effective and widespread, and even the leaders of the Jews, the Pharisees and Sadducees came to hear him. Jesus came to John to be baptised, and despite John's protests, was baptised in the river Jordan.

Immediately Jesus came out of the water the Spirit of God descended on him. John had previously been told that this would be the sign identifying the Messiah. At the same time a voice from heaven proclaimed "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." John 1:32–33  
Matthew 3:17

## 6.5 His temptations

With Mary as his mother, Jesus was a human being and called himself the “Son of Man”. He possessed the same human nature we all have and experienced all the temptations to sin that we all experience.

We are told in Hebrews 4:15 that Jesus was tempted in all the ways we are tempted yet he did not sin. After his baptism, Jesus went into the wilderness and after 40 days and nights without food, was tempted to sin.

**1st temptation:** to satisfy his hunger by turning stones into bread. Jesus’ response was simple: “It is written: ‘Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Matthew 4:4).

**2nd temptation:** to demonstrate he was the Son of God by jumping off a pinnacle of the temple and be rescued by angels. Jesus responds: “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” (Matthew 4:7).

**3rd temptation:** to become king of the world immediately. Jesus knew he would become king of the world, but he also knew that first he must suffer. His response: “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” (Matthew 4:10).

The Scriptures make it clear that, although he was the Son of God, Jesus was a mortal man and understands our temptations:

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity ... he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (Hebrews 2:14–18)

## 6.6 His disciples

As Jesus’ ministry progressed he was followed by huge crowds of people. Among them were people who were generally impressed by his teachings. These became Jesus’ disciples and from them he chose 12 who would accompany him in his ministry. After his death and resurrection his 12 disciples would be the ones to continue the work of preaching the gospel. To expand his teachings, Jesus regularly took these 12 aside and taught them.

### The 12 disciples

Simon Peter	Matthew
Andrew (Peter's brother)	Nathanael/Bartholomew
John	James
James (John's brother)	Judas (also called Lebbaeus or Thaddaeus)
Philip	Simon Zealot
Thomas	Judas Iscariot.

## 6.7 His miracles

When Jesus was baptised, he was given the power of the Holy Spirit by God. This enabled Jesus to perform many miracles of healing the sick, raising the dead, feeding the 5000 and so on. These miracles were not performed as a gimmick to attract the people to him but that the people might believe that he was the Son of God, their Messiah, and that he had been sent by God.

## 6.8 His teaching

### Matthew 5: the Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 5–7 contains Jesus' most famous speech, the "sermon on the mount". He begins with a list of those who will be blessed. (This section is often called "the beatitudes" which comes from the Latin word for "happy" or "blessed".) Notice that those who are blessed are often the people who are not well-off or successful by the world's standards. To live this way demands strong purpose and a clear aim in life. But those who live a godly life will be blessed with peace of mind and the joy of being part of God's family and taking a part in God's kingdom.

Read Matthew 5:1–16.

1. What does it mean to be "poor in spirit"?
2. What does it mean to be "meek"? How is this different from weak? What Bible characters were known for their meekness?
3. For each blessing, why does the reward fit?
4. Which of these qualities do you find it most difficult to show? What can you do to help develop it?

Jesus spent much time telling the people the various characteristics they had to develop and put into practice if they were to be followers of him. To assist in his teachings he often used parables. A parable is a story with a hidden meaning. Jesus compared natural things with spiritual things in stories about every day events to which the people could relate.

## Miracles of Jesus

	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
<b>Healing</b>				
Man with leprosy	8:2-4	1:40-42	5:12-13	
Roman centurion's servant	8:5-13		7:1-10	
Peter's mother-in-law	8:14-15	1:30-31	4:38-39	
Two men from Gadara	8:28-34	5:1-15	8:27-35	
Paralyzed man	9:2-7	2:3-12	5:18-25	
Woman with bleeding	9:20-22	5:25-29	8:43-48	
Two blind men	9:27-31			
Man mute and possessed	9:32-33			
Man with a shriveled hand	12:10-13	3:1-5	6:6-10	
Man blind, mute and possessed	12:22		11:14	
Canaanite woman's daughter	15:21-28	7:24-30		
Boy with a demon	17:14-18	9:17-29	9:38-43	
Two blind men (one named)	20:29-34	10:46-52	18:35-43	
Deaf mute		7:31-37		
Man possessed, synagogue		1:23-26	4:33-35	
Blind man at Bethsaida		8:22-26		
Crippled woman			13:11-13	
Man with dropsy			14:1-4	
Ten men with leprosy			17:11-19	
The high priest's servant			22:50-51	
Official's son at Capernaum				4:46-54
Sick man, pool of Bethesda				5:1-9
Man born blind				9:1-7
<b>Command over the forces of nature</b>				
Calming the storm	8:23-27	4:37-41	8:22-25	
Walking on the water	14:25	6:48-51		6:19-21
5,000 people fed	14:15-21	6:35-44	9:12-17	6:5-13
4,000 people fed	15:32-38	8:1-9		
Coin in the fish's mouth	17:24-27			
Fig tree withered	21:18-22	11:12-14, 20-25		
Catch of fish			5:4-11	
Water turned into wine				2:1-11
Another catch of fish				21:1-11
<b>Bringing the dead back to life</b>				
Jairus's daughter	9:18-19, 23-25	5:22-24, 38-42	8:41-42, 49-56	
Widow's son at Nain			7:11-15	
Lazarus				11:1-44

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## Parables of Jesus

	<b>MATTHEW</b>	<b>MARK</b>	<b>LUKE</b>
Lamp under a bowl	5:14-15	4:21-22	8:16; 11:33
Wise and foolish builders	7:24-27		6:47-49
New cloth on an old coat	9:16	2:21	5:36
New wine in old wineskins	9:17	2:22	5:37-38
Sower and the soils	13:3-8, 18-23	4:3-8, 14-20	8:5-8, 11-15
Weeds	13:24-30, 36-43		
Mustard seed	13:31-32	4:30-32	13:18-19
Yeast	13:33		13:20-21
Hidden treasure	13:44		
Valuable pearl	13:45-46		
Net	13:47-50		
Owner of a house	13:52		
Lost sheep	18:12-14		15:4-7
Unmerciful servant	18:23-34		
Workers in the vineyard	20:1-16		
Two sons	21:28-32		
Tenants	21:33-44	12:1-11	20:9-18
Wedding banquet	22:2-14		
Fig tree	24:32-35	13:28-29	21:29-31
Faithful and wise servant	24:45-51		12:42-48
Ten virgins	25:1-13		
Talents (minas)	25:14-30		19:12-27
Sheep and goats	25:31-46		
Growing seed		4:26-29	
Watchful servants		13:35-37	12:35-40
Moneylender			7:41-43
Good Samaritan			10:30-37
Friend in need			11:5-8
Rich fool			12:16-21
Unfruitful fig tree			13:6-9
Lowest seat at the feast			14:7-14
Great banquet			14:16-24
Cost of discipleship			14:28-33
Lost coin			15:8-10
Lost (prodigal) son			15:11-32
Shrewd manager			16:1-8
Rich man and Lazarus			16:19-31
Master and his servant			17:7-10
Persistent widow			18:2-8
Pharisee and tax collector			18:10-14

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## Jewish Sects

### PHARISEES

Their roots can be traced to the second century B.C.—to the Hasidim.

1. Along with the Torah, they accepted as equally inspired and authoritative, all material contained within the oral tradition.
2. On free will and determination, they held to a mediating view that made it impossible for either free will or the sovereignty of God to cancel out the other.
3. They accepted a rather developed hierarchy of angels and demons.
4. They taught that there was a future for the dead.
5. They believed in the immortality of the soul and in reward and retribution after death.
6. They were champions of human equality.
7. The emphasis of their teaching was ethical rather than theological.

### SADDUCEES

They probably had their beginning during the Hasmonean period (166-63 B.C.). Their demise occurred c. A.D. 70 with the fall of Jerusalem.

1. They denied that the oral law was authoritative and binding.
2. They interpreted Mosaic law more literally than did the Pharisees.
3. They were very exacting in Levitical purity.
4. They attributed all to free will.
5. They argued there is neither resurrection of the dead nor a future life.
6. They rejected a belief in angels and demons.
7. They rejected the idea of a spiritual world.
8. Only the books of Moses were canonical Scripture.

### ESSENES

They probably originated among the Hasidim, along with the Pharisees, from whom they later separated (I Maccabees 2:42; 7:13). They were a group of very strict and zealous Jews who took part with the Maccabees in a revolt against the Syrians, c. 165-155 B.C.

1. They followed a strict observance of the purity laws of the Torah.
2. They were notable for their communal ownership of property.
3. They had a strong sense of mutual responsibility.
4. Daily worship was an important feature along with a daily study of their sacred scriptures.
5. Solemn oaths of piety and obedience had to be taken.
6. Sacrifices were offered on holy days and during sacred seasons.
7. Marriage was not condemned in principle but was avoided.
8. They attributed all that happened to fate.

### ZEALOTS

They originated during the reign of Herod the Great c. 6 B.C. and ceased to exist in A.D. 73 at Masada.

1. They opposed payment of tribute for taxes to a pagan emperor, saying that allegiance was due only to God.
2. They held a fierce loyalty to the Jewish traditions.
3. They were opposed to the use of the Greek language in Palestine.
4. They prophesied the coming of the time of salvation.

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## 6.9 Opposition

Opposition to Jesus' teaching began to grow as the people, and especially their leaders, refused to accept him as the 'Messiah'. Also, Jesus' opposition to the teachings of the scribes and Pharisees became more obvious as both groups looked for signs and tried to trip him up on points of law.

Matthew 15-17  
e.g., Matthew 17:24-27

The raising of Lazarus finally prompted the chief priests and Pharisees to try to put him to death. When Jesus finally set out for Jerusalem, the leaders of the Jews had decided to kill him. God's purpose was about to be fulfilled, that through the blood of Jesus all who would follow him could live.

John 11:53  
Luke 18:31

## 6.10 His death

Throughout his ministry, Jesus taught his disciples that he must die, so fulfilling the role of the servant of the Lord who suffers humiliation and death, spoken of by the prophet Isaiah (52:13-53:12). He had been constantly involved in conflict with the religious author-

### Luke 22: The Last Supper

Just before his death, Jesus held a last meal with his disciples. He gave a familiar table ritual new meaning by using the bread and wine as symbols: his body was about to be broken on their behalf, and his blood about to be shed sacrificially to ratify God's new covenant with men.

Read Luke 22:14–23.

1. What did the bread and wine represent?
2. What did Jesus mean by the “new covenant in my blood”?
3. Jesus said to repeat the ceremony “in remembrance of me”. How often do you think he meant?

ities, mainly because of his scorching criticisms of their man-made traditions which diverted men from the real purpose of God's law.

After the meal he went out to pray—and to meet his enemies. He was arrested and put through a trial which appears to have broken the appropriate legal rules.

When the witnesses failed to produce sufficient evidence to condemn him, he was forced to make what his judges regarded as the blasphemous statement that he was the Messiah. He was condemned to death. The Jews handed him over to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, as a political rebel against Rome, and although Pilate was privately convinced of his innocence he ordered him to be put to death by the Roman punishment of crucifixion.

### Why did Jesus have to die?

We have already seen (in Session 1) that sin and death were introduced to the world by Adam and Eve. Paul's letter to the Romans states that “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23). So unless our sins are forgiven, we must die. People must recognize that sin is hated by God and must be overcome if he is to be pleased.

Genesis 2:16–17; 3:6

Under the Law of Moses, animals needed to be sacrificed for sins to be forgiven. This principle was also seen when Adam and Eve sinned and God provided animal skins to cover them.

Hebrews 9:22

Genesis 3:21

Similarly, the death of Jesus was a sacrifice which provides a way in which sins can be forgiven. There never again needs to be another sacrifice. The sacrifice of Jesus was made once and for all and never

Hebrews 10:11–14

# Jerusalem

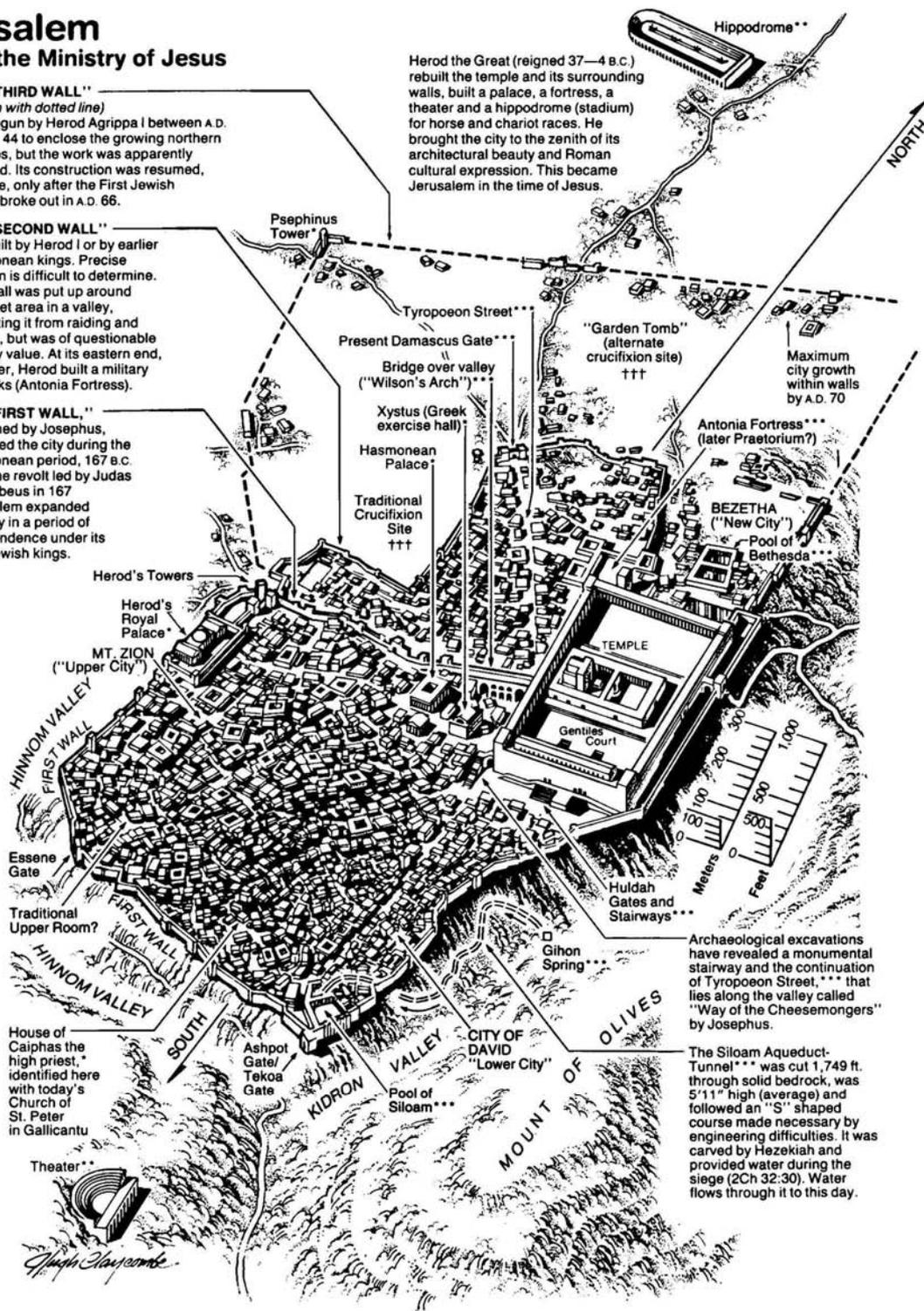
## During the Ministry of Jesus

The **"THIRD WALL"** (shown with dotted line) was begun by Herod Agrippa I between A.D. 41 and 44 to enclose the growing northern suburbs, but the work was apparently stopped. Its construction was resumed, in haste, only after the First Jewish Revolt broke out in A.D. 66.

The **"SECOND WALL"** was built by Herod I or by earlier Hasmonean kings. Precise location is difficult to determine. This wall was put up around a market area in a valley, protecting it from raiding and looting, but was of questionable military value. At its eastern end, however, Herod built a military barracks (Antonia Fortress).

The **"FIRST WALL,"** so named by Josephus, encircled the city during the Hasmonean period, 167 B.C. After the revolt led by Judas Maccabeus in 167 Jerusalem expanded steadily in a period of independence under its own Jewish kings.

Herod the Great (reigned 37—4 B.C.) rebuilt the temple and its surrounding walls, built a palace, a fortress, a theater and a hippodrome (stadium) for horse and chariot races. He brought the city to the zenith of its architectural beauty and Roman cultural expression. This became Jerusalem in the time of Jesus.



Archaeological excavations have revealed a monumental stairway and the continuation of Tyropeon Street, \*\*\* that lies along the valley called "Way of the Cheesemongers" by Josephus.

The Siloam Aqueduct-Tunnel\*\*\* was cut 1,749 ft. through solid bedrock, was 5'11" high (average) and followed an "S" shaped course made necessary by engineering difficulties. It was carved by Hezekiah and provided water during the siege (2Ch 32:30). Water flows through it to this day.

\* Location generally known, but style of architecture is unknown; artist's concept only, and Roman architecture is assumed.  
 \*\* Location and architecture unknown, but referred to in written history; shown here for illustrative purposes.  
 \*\*\* Ancient feature has remained, or appearance has been determined from evidence.

Buildings, streets and roads shown here are artist's concept only unless otherwise named and located. Wall heights remain generally unknown, except for those surrounding the Temple Mount.

DEEP VALLEYS on the east, south and west permitted urban expansion only to the north.

needs to be repeated.

Jesus has opened the way to life. Through his death we can gain forgiveness and be given eternal life when Jesus returns to earth. So Jesus is a saviour in that he saves us from our sins and certain death. Romans 5:18–19; 6:6–7,23

## 6.11 His resurrection

And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. (1 Corinthians 15:17)

All of the Bible's teaching about salvation and hope for the faithful revolves around the resurrection of Christ.

The Son of God died soon after 3.00pm. He was laid in a tomb at around 6.00pm that evening. The tomb into which Jesus' body was placed was sealed with a large circular stone.

The rulers in Israel who had plotted the death of Christ then sought to ensure that the resurrection he had spoken of could not be faked by his disciples. They approached the Roman governor Pilate, and requested soldiers to guard the tomb until the third day. This request was granted and the tomb was sealed under their supervision. As far as they were concerned, that was the end of the matter.

Mary Magdalene and several other Galilean women who were followers of Jesus, having observed his burial, resolved to return later to the tomb to complete properly the embalming of his body. This they did early on the morning of the Sunday, the first day of the week. But instead of finding the tomb as they expected, they were shocked to discover the stone had been rolled away and the tomb was empty. As they stared at the scene in amazement, two angels appeared before them and announced the stunning news: "Why seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen!"

The disciples of Christ had been sadly depressed following his death, for even though he had warned them of what was to happen to him, they had not expected it. The women therefore went to them straight away to tell them what they had seen. Peter and John immediately went to the tomb to confirm for themselves that the body of their Master was no longer there. At this point the disciples thought that Jesus' corpse had been taken by the authorities and disposed of elsewhere. They became disillusioned, because all their hopes in this Messiah had been dashed. How wrong they were!

Having been disillusioned there was only one thing that would convince the disciples that Jesus had risen: they had to see him with

### **Eyewitnesses of the resurrected Christ**

1. Mary Magdalene wept outside of the empty tomb, thinking the body had been taken. In a very moving scene (John 20:16), Jesus appeared to her and all doubt was removed.
2. Two of his disciples who were leaving Jerusalem to travel to the town of Emmaus.
3. At the end of that same day, the disciples, who did not believe he had risen, were together in hiding, fearing the authorities may come after them next. Jesus miraculously appeared amongst them and showed by his scars the proof of who he was. They rejoiced in seeing what they hadn't believed was possible.
4. One of the disciples, Thomas, was not present on this occasion. He did not accept the disciples' account and not until 8 days later did Jesus finally appear to him also. Only then did he believe.
5. Many others also. In fact Paul records that on one occasion he appeared to five hundred people at once (1 Corinthians 15:6).

their own eyes. This they were permitted to do, and the change in these men was complete after they saw that their master had risen from the grave.

Jesus was amongst his disciples for forty days following his resurrection. In spite of all the efforts of the Pharisees and other rulers of the day, the truth could not be covered up: Jesus Christ, the Son of God, had been raised from the dead

## **6.12 After the resurrection**

In the record of his last conversation with them in Acts 1, Jesus left them with a marvellous promise. They thought that he would re-establish the kingdom of God immediately, but he pointed out that this was not to be. Instead the disciples were to carry on the work he had begun.

They were to be the apostles, or messengers of the gospel of his resurrection, to the people of Israel first and afterward to the whole earth. To assist them in this great mission, the Holy Spirit, the very power of God, would be with them to help them to speak clearly and courageously of the things they had seen. They would be able to perform miracles to show the people that the power they had was from God.

Jesus was now ready to depart. Throughout his life he had constantly relied on close association with his Father to enable him to overcome the sin prone nature he possessed.

Jesus was taken up from them into heaven. This dramatic occasion was used to make what is probably the clearest statement in the Bible concerning the eventual return of Christ to the earth. An angel standing there, said to the disciples

Men of Galilee, why do you stand here looking into the sky?  
This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven,  
will come back in the same way you have seen him go into  
heaven. (Acts 1:11)

The personal, physical, visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth is an important teaching of the Bible.

### 6.13 Belonging to Christ

How are you personally affected by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

The Scriptures make it clear that to belong to Jesus we must repent of our sins and be baptised. Scriptural baptism is of a faithful believer by total immersion. Jesus himself was baptised in the river Jordan as an example for us.

In addition Jesus said, "He who believes and is baptised will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned". Peter also said, "Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins".

Mark 16:16

Acts 2:38

### Homework

1. Was Jesus tempted to sin? Did he ever sin?
2. What is the effect (penalty) of sin? (Romans 6:23)
3. In what way did the Law of Moses point forward to Jesus?
4. The Law contained sacrifices for sin. Why then was it necessary for Jesus to die as a sacrifice?
5. Why did God raise Jesus from death to life?
6. What does Jesus' resurrection mean for us when we die?
7. The Bible (in Romans 6) teaches that to identify ourselves with Christ's death and resurrection, we must do something. What is it we must do?