

FINDING JESUS IN THE GOSPELS

READING HIS STORY IN THE GOSPELS IN PROPER CHRONOLOGICAL SEQUENCE

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IT IS COMMON KNOWLEDGE THAT AMONG ALL THE INSPIRED WRITINGS—EVEN AMONG THOSE OF THE NEW TESTAMENT—THE GOSPELS HAVE A SPECIAL PLACE, AND RIGHTLY SO, BECAUSE THEY ARE OUR PRINCIPAL SOURCE FOR THE LIFE AND TEACHING OF THE INCARNATE WORD, OUR SAVIOR. [DOCUMENTS OF VATICAN II: *DEI VERBUM* #18]

THE GOSPELS ARE THE SUMMIT OF ALL THE SCRIPTURES... A UNIQUELY TRANSFORMATIVE LITERARY FORM. BELOW WE HAVE ARRANGED EVENTS DESCRIBED IN THE GOSPELS OF STS. LUKE AND JOHN [& SEVERAL FROM ST. MATTHEW] SO THAT THE READER CAN FOLLOW THE STORY OF JESUS CHRONOLOGICALLY—AS IT ACTUALLY UNFOLDED... FROM ALL ETERNITY AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE FATHER... MADE INCARNATE IN THE WOMB OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY... ALONG THE DUSTY ROADS OF GALILEE... ON TO JERUSALEM AND THE CROSS... AND ULTIMATELY TO JESUS' RESURRECTION & BEYOND. WE SUGGEST THAT IN THIS ENDEAVOR YOU READ STRAIGHT THROUGH -- AS YOU'D READ A NOVEL -- FROM "COVER TO COVER". TRY TO "GET YOUR ARMS AROUND" THE WHOLE OF THE STORY SO THAT YOU CAN BETTER UNDERSTAND THE INDIVIDUAL EVENTS IN THEIR PROPER CONTEXT.

PRE-EXISTENCE & THE INFANCY NARRATIVES [@6 BC]

JN 1:1—18 ... "THE WORD BECAME FLESH"
LK 1... ANNUNCIATIONS TO ZECHARIAH AND MARY, VISITATION...
MT 1:18—25 ...ANNUNCIATION TO JOSEPH
LK 2:1—40 ... BIRTH OF JESUS, SHEPHERDS, PRESENTATION,
MT 2:1—23... MAGI & HEROD & FLIGHT TO EGYPT
LK 2:41—52 ... FINDING IN THE TEMPLE & JESUS GROWS IN WISDOM

EARLY JUDEAN MINISTRY [DECEMBER 27 AD—LATE SPRING 28 AD]

MT 3:1 thru 4:11 ...THE BAPTIST, JESUS BAPTIZED, TEMPTATION
JN 1:19—51... BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD, CALL OF FIRST DISCIPLES
JN 2... WEDDING FEAST AT CANA & CLEANSING OF TEMPLE
JN 3... NICODEMUS & PASSING OF THE BAPTIST
JN 4... SAMARITAN WOMAN AND CURING ROYAL OFFICIAL'S SON
JN 5... WHINING PARALYTIC, JESUS' DISCOURSE

MINISTRY IN GALILEE [EARLY SUMMER 28 AD—EARLY FALL 29 AD]

LK 4:14 thru 44... THE GALILEAN MINISTRY, NAZARETH, DEMONIAK
LK 5... SECOND CALL OF PETER, ANDREW, JAMES, JOHN; PARALYZED MAN
LK 6... SABBATH, THE 12, SERMON ON MT/PLAIN ... "OLD WINE BETTER!"
LK 7... CENTURION'S SERVANT, WIDOW'S SON, ON JOHN, the MAGDALENE
LK 8... THE HOLY WOMEN, PARABLES, CALMING THE STORM, DEMONIAK,
LK 9:1—17... TWELVE MISSIONED, MULTIPLICATION OF LOAVES & FISHES
MT 14:22—33 JESUS (& PETER) WALK ON WATER
JN 6:22—70... BREAD OF LIFE DISCOURSE
MT 16:13--17:27 PETER'S PROFESSION, CROSS, SATAN, TRANSFIGURATION, etc.
LK 10... 72 MISSIONED, JESUS' JOY, GOOD SAMARITAN, MARTHA & MARY
LK 11... OUR FATHER, PARABLES, JESUS' TEACHINGS, HYPOCRISY
LK 12... JESUS TEACHES; COURAGE, TRUST, TREASURE, READINESS
LK 13...MORE TEACHINGS; PENANCE, FIG TREE, SABBATH CURE, NARROW
LK 14...SEEK LOWEST PLACE, the POOR, FOLLOWING JESUS
LK 15... CHAPTER OF DIVINE MERCY, LOST SHEEP, PRODIGAL SON
LK 16... WILY MANAGER, MONEY, LAW, RICH MAN & LAZARUS
LK 17...TEACHINGS, 10 LEPERS, COMING OF SON OF MAN
LK 18... CORRUPT JUDGE, PHARISEE & PUBLICAN, CHILDREN, RICH MAN
LK 19:1—27...ZACCHAEUS, PARABLE INVESTING MONEY

LATE JUDEAN MINISTRY [FALL 29 AD—LATE WINTER 30 AD]

JN 7... FEAST OF BOOTHES

JN 8... THE ADULTERESS, LIGHT OF THE WORLD ... **I AM!!!**

JN 9... MAN BORN BLIND

JN 10...GOOD SHEPHERD, FEAST OF DEDICATION, JESUS RETREATS

JN 11...RAISING OF LAZARUS, PLOTTING OF SANHEDRIN

THE PASSION AND DEATH OF OUR LORD [EARLY APRIL, 30 AD]

JN 12: 1—19 ... ANOINTING AT BETHANY, PALM SUNDAY

MT 21:17 thru 25:46 -- HOLY WEEK; DUELS, DIALOGUES, DISCOURSES & PARABLES

JN 12: 20--50 THE HOUR ARRIVES & PREPARATION.

LK 22:1—13 PREPARATION

LK 22:24—30 ARGUMENT: WHO IS THE GREATEST?

JN 13:1—17... WASHING OF FEET

LK 22:14—23 INSTITUTION OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST... & BETRAYER

JN 13:18—38 LORD... WHO IS IT?

JN 14 JESUS' LAST SUPPER DISCOURSE—the **"I will Abide" Soliloquy**

JN 15 JESUS' LAST SUPPER DISCOURSE

JN 16 JESUS' LAST SUPPER DISCOURSE

JN 17 JESUS' LAST SUPPER DISCOURSE

LK 22:39—46... AGONY IN THE GARDEN

JN 18:1 thru 19:16a... ARREST AND TRIAL OF JESUS

JN 19:16b—42... CRUCIFIXION & DEATH OF JESUS

MT 27:62—65 ... THE GUARDS SEAL THE TOMB

THE RESURRECTION [APRIL 9, 30 AD]

MT 28, MK 16, LK 24, & JN 20...

JN 21 BY THE SEA OF GALILEE... **SIMON, SON OF JOHN, DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THESE?**

ACTS 1:1—14... THE ASCENSION

WE MUST THEN DIG DEEPLY IN CHRIST. HE IS LIKE A RICH MINE WITH MANY POCKETS CONTAINING TREASURES; HOWEVER DEEP WE DIG, WE WILL NEVER FIND THEIR END OR LIMIT. INDEED, IN EVERY POCKET NEW SEAMS OF FRESH RICHES ARE DISCOVERED ON ALL SIDES. FOR THIS REASON THE APOSTLE PAUL SAID OF CHRIST, IN HIM ARE HIDDEN ALL THE TREASURES OF THE WISDOM & KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.

[ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS]

READ... REFLECT... RESPOND... REST... RECEIVE... RESOLVE

REMEMBER... RECOLLECT... RESONATE... RADIATE

Holy Mother Church has firmly and with absolute constancy held, and continues to hold, that the four Gospels... **whose historical character the Church unhesitatingly asserts, faithfully hand on what Jesus Christ, while living among men, really did and taught for their eternal salvation until the day He was taken up into heaven** (see Acts 1:1). Indeed, after the Ascension of the Lord the Apostles handed on to their hearers what He had said and done. This they did with that clearer understanding which they enjoyed after they had been instructed by the glorious events of Christ's life and taught by the light of the Spirit of Truth. The sacred authors wrote the four Gospels, selecting some things from the many which had been handed on by word of mouth or in writing, reducing some of them to a synthesis, explaining some things in view of the situation of their churches and preserving the form of proclamation **but always in such fashion that they told us the honest truth about Jesus**. For their intention in writing was that either from their own memory and recollections, or from the witness of those who "themselves from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the Word" we might know "the Truth" concerning those matters about which we have been instructed (see Luke 1:2-4) ... [Dei Verbum #19].

THE SEQUENCE OF READINGS OUTLINED IN THIS ENDEAVOR WILL TAKE ABOUT 6 HOURS TO COMPLETE