

Lesson No. 12

What Does the Bible Say About Our Savior in His Humiliation?

1. What do the Scriptures teach of the conception and birth of Christ?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

Luke 1:1-2:20; Matthew 1:18-25.

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF EVENTS CONNECTED WITH THE CONCEPTION AND BIRTH OF CHRIST. (Probably 6-5 B.C.)

God's time for the fulfillment of His many promises concerning the Savior has come. The angel Gabriel appears to a priest named Zacharias and informs him that he and his aged wife Elizabeth are to become the parents of a son, John, who is to prepare the way for the Messiah. Six months later the same messenger is sent to Mary, a virgin of Nazareth engaged to Joseph, both being of the house of David, and says to her, ***“And behold, you shall conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS ... The Holy Spirit shall come upon you, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow you: therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:31, 35).*** Mary bursts forth in a song of praise. Zacharias likewise exalts the Lord when John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Savior, is born. Later, when Joseph is troubled because of Mary's condition, the angel of the Lord comes to him in a dream and says to him, ***“Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS: for He will save His people from their sins” (Matthew 1:20, 21).***

The Roman emperor, Caesar Augustus, now issues a decree that all people of his empire are to be counted and taxed. This makes it necessary for Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem, the city of their ancestor David. Here the miracle of all ages takes place, which is described in these simple words: ***“And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn” (Luke 2:7).*** An angel appears to shepherds near Bethlehem, bringing them the wonderful news, ***“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).*** Following this message the multitude of the heavenly host sings praises to God. The shepherds hasten to worship the Child, and then spread the tidings of the newborn Savior.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) By the miraculous working of the Holy Spirit, Christ, the Son of God, received life as a true man in the Virgin Mary.
- (B) Christ was born of the Virgin Mary, a true man, in great poverty.

2. What do the Scriptures teach of the earthly life of Christ?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

The four Gospels.

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE EARTHLY LIFE OF CHRIST. (4 B.C.-30 A.D.)

On the eighth day after His birth the Christ-child is circumcised and given the name Jesus. When He is six weeks old His parents take Him to the Temple and present Him to the Lord.

A little later wise men from the East come to Jerusalem, seeking the newborn King of the Jews. They are advised to go to Bethlehem where, according to Micah 5:2, the promised Savior was to be born. Guided by the star which had appeared to them in the East, they find Jesus, worship Him, and present Him with costly gifts. King Herod now seeks to kill the Child, but God commands His parents to flee to Egypt. After the

king's death they make their home in Nazareth.

When Jesus is twelve years He is taken to Jerusalem to attend the Passover. Here He astonishes the teachers with His wisdom, and His parents with the words, ***“Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?” (Luke 2:49)***. He returns with His parents to Nazareth and is subject to them.

At the age of thirty Jesus goes out into the wilderness where John is preaching and baptizing. John points Him out to the multitude, exclaiming, ***“Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)***. The sinless Jesus, desiring to fulfill all righteousness, is baptized by John, and a Voice is heard from heaven, saying, ***“You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased” (Mark 1:11)***. After being tempted by the devil, Jesus enters upon three years of public ministry. He chooses twelve disciples, or apostles, mostly fishermen, and lives with them a life of poverty. He travels and preaches incessantly, inviting men to believe in Him to the salvation of their souls. He performs innumerable miracles, turning water into wine, healing incurable diseases, raising the dead, etc., and thus proves Himself to be the Son of God and the Savior of the world. Some Jews accept Him, but more reject Him. Their leaders, the self-righteous Scribes and Pharisees, hate Him for His doctrine which demands repentance and faith, and vainly try to kill Him. Then, when His hour has come, He calmly informs His disciples that He is going up to Jerusalem to suffer and die and to rise again.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) Jesus by word and deed revealed Himself as the Son of God and the Savior of the world.
- (B) He endured poverty, contempt, and persecution.

3. What do the Scriptures teach of the suffering, death, and burial of Christ?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

Matthew 26 and 27. --Mark 14 and 15.--Luke 22 and 23.--John 18 and 19.

A BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE HISTORY OF THE PASSION AND DEATH OF CHRIST. (30 A.D.)

Having triumphantly entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, Jesus, on the evening of Maundy Thursday eats the Passover with His disciples, points out one of them, Judas, as His betrayer, and then institutes the Lord's Supper. Later He endures such agony of soul in the Garden of Gethsemane that His sweat falls to the ground like great drops of blood. Thereupon He goes forth to meet Judas who betrays Him with a kiss, and having permitted Himself to be bound by a band of soldiers, Jesus is led to Annas, the retired high priest, for a preliminary hearing. Then He is arraigned before the Sanhedrin, the Jewish high court presided over by the high priest Caiaphas. Here Jesus, having called Himself the Son of God, is found guilty of blasphemy, condemned to death, and shamefully mistreated. In the meantime His disciple Peter denies Him three times. Having no right to inflict capital punishment, the Jews in the early hours of Good Friday lead Jesus to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate. When Judas sees this, he goes and hangs himself. The Jews now accuse Jesus of being a rebel king, but when Pilate learns that Christ's kingdom is spiritual he declares Him innocent and sends Him to Herod. Herod mocks Jesus, puts a white robe on Him, and returns Him to Pilate. Pilate again pronounces Him innocent and seeks in various ways to release Him, but the Jews insist that He be crucified. Finally, having scourged Jesus, Pilate once more declares Him innocent, and sentences Him to death on the cross. At nine o'clock in the morning, having carried His own cross, Jesus is crucified between two thieves on the hill called Calvary, or Golgotha. Seven times He speaks as He suffers not only the most cruel tortures ever invented by man but also the very agonies of hell, being forsaken by God. From twelve to three o'clock darkness covers the earth. Then Jesus, having declared the work of salvation finished, with a loud voice commends His soul into the hands of His heavenly Father, and of His own will gives up the ghost and dies. Immediately there is a great earthquake, graves are opened, and the curtain of the Temple tears asunder. Friends of Jesus lovingly lay His body in a nearby tomb and roll a large stone before the entrance. Here His body rests until the third day without seeing corruption. His enemies, remembering His prophecy that He would rise again, secure the tomb with a seal and post a guard to watch it.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) Christ suffered extreme agony of body and soul.
- (B) He died on the cross.
- (C) His body was laid in the grave and remained there to the third day, but without seeing corruption, or decay.

4. What did Christ accomplish by all that He did and suffered ?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **Romans 5:19.** By **one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.**
- (b) **Isaiah 53:5.** But **He** was wounded for **our** transgressions, **He** was bruised for **our** iniquities; the chastisement for **our** peace was upon **Him**, and by **His** stripes **we** are healed.
- * (b) **2 Corinthians 5:21.** (God) **made Him** who knew no sin **to be sin for us**, that **we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**
- (b) **Galatians 3:13.** Christ has **redeemed us from the curse** of the law, having **become a curse for us.**
- (c) **2 Timothy 1:10.** (Christ) has **abolished death** and **brought life and immortality** to light through the gospel.
- (d) **Genesis 3:15.** He (the Woman's Seed) shall **bruise your (Satan's) head.**
- (d) **1 John 3:8.** For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might **destroy the works of the devil.**

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

Christ, our Substitute,

- (A) Fulfilled the Law perfectly for us, so that it can no longer condemn us;
- (B) Redeemed us from the guilt, the punishment, and the slavery of sin;
- (C) Overcame death for us; now we need not fear temporal death, since eternal death has no power over us.
- (D) Conquered the devil for us; now he can no longer successfully accuse us, and we can victoriously withstand his temptations.

5. Who receives the benefit of this redemption wrought by Christ?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- * (a) **Matthew 18:11.** For the Son of Man has come to **save that which was lost.**
- (a) **1 John 2:2.** And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for **the whole world.**
- (a) **2 Peter 2:1.** (They deny) the Lord who **bought them**, and bring on themselves swift destruction.
- (a,b) **John 3:16.** 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.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) Christ redeemed the whole world, that is, all human beings, without a single exception.
- (B) Only he receives the benefit of this redemption who by faith receives Christ as his personal Savior and trusts in Him for his salvation.

Before the Next Lesson

FILL OUT Work Sheet No. 12.

MEMORIZE the Bible passages marked with an asterisk (*). Also the Explanation of the Second Article. See Catechism.



READ Luke, chapters 8-14.

Work Sheet No. 12

1.

(Check whether true or false.)

Joseph was the real father of Jesus. True. False.

2.

Why must we ever firmly maintain the doctrine of the VIRGIN Birth of Jesus?.....

.....
.....

3.

(Fill in the missing words.)

During the three years of His public ministry Jesus manifested Himself asand as

..... by..... and

4.

(Check the correct statement.)

(A) Jesus died because He could not escape His enemies.

(B) Jesus died because He wanted to die.

5.

Search the Passion History in the Gospels for the Seven Words, or utterances, of Jesus on the cross.

(Matthew 27:32-56; Mark 15:21-47; Luke 23:26-49; John 19:17-37)

1.....

2.....

3.....

4.....

5.....

6.....

7.....

6.

(Complete the statement.)

Jesus suffered and died as our Substitute means.....

.....

7.

(Check the correct statement.)

(A) Jesus redeemed only those who are finally saved.

(B) Jesus redeemed all men, also those who are finally lost.