April 1

April Fool’s Day

Don’t Be Fooled

 In these days of door to door religious salesmen, cults of every belief imaginable and unimaginable don’t be fooled into believing! – Read: Ephesians 5:6.

 The Bible is our guide to the Christian way of life, if confronted with confusion from a cult, check it out in the Bible, if still confused talk with a trusted minister or Bible scholar.

 Don’t ever be fooled by being told you have to do a list of things to be saved, because it is God that determines who will be saved, not we ourselves, no matter what we do we cannot save ourselves! Our only requirement is to believe in Jesus as the Son of God and put our faith and trust in Him and everything else will fall into place with the help of the Holy Spirit.

 In these days of numerous cults and religious organizations we cannot be too careful in our confrontation with the outside world! Don’t be afraid to question and research any group you come in contact with to make sure you are not fooled.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Ephesians 2:8-9.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, guide me so that I am not fooled by false doctrine, but live by faith in the true God.

April 2

Life of Jesus

The Word of Life

 Jesus, the Word, was even before the beginning of the world – Read: John 1:1, 2.

 Jesus was sent into the world as the light of the world, but unfortunately the world did not understand or accept the light – In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in the darkness and the darkness comprehended it not. John 1:4, 5. KJV.

 Although some did realize who Jesus was and received him – Read: John 1:12. We can also become Children of God, if we come to the light of Jesus.

 We’re back to the concept of God as three persons in one, Jesus the Son became human and lived one earth – Read: John 1:14a. In the Old Testament it is stated (Exodus 33:20) that no one can see God and live, Jesus is fully God and man, Jesus was not God as he really is but a form of God in human flesh and made God known through this human form. – Read: John 1:18.

VERSE FOR TODAY: John 1:13.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Help me never to want to be in the darkness of this world but want to remain in the light of Jesus.

April 3

Life of Jesus

The Human Generations

 Jesus, humanly speaking was a descendant of David and would establish an everlasting kingdom – Read: Isaiah 9:7.

 Genealogies are probably the least read passages in the Bible, an interesting note to the genealogy of Jesus – Read: Matthew 1:17.

 The human genealogy of Jesus has quite a few important, well known people in it – Abraham, Isaac, David, Solomon, and Jacob to name a few and even more interesting are the women noted: Rahab and Ruth – neither of which are Israelites – Rahab, a Canaanite prostitute, mother of Boaz, (Ruth’s husband) Ruth a Moabite was the mother of Obed, who was the father of Jesse, who was King David’s father.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Jeremiah 23:5.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for a just and perfect kingdom through Jesus.

April 4

Life of Jesus

Mary’s Angel

 For a moment put yourself in Mary’s place, she was a young girl, engaged to be married and them a bolt from the blue! Imagine, if you can, being visited by an angel, what an awesome experience the angel himself would cause, much less the message he brought! The message was this – Read: Luke 1:31. Mary’s answer shows how surprised and confused she was – Read: Luke 1:34. The angel was patient with Mary and explained to her how this could be – Read: Luke 1:35. Here again we see the divine and human side of Jesus, human mother, God the Father.

 Mary was an accepting, believing soul – Read: Luke 1:38.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Luke 1:37

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I always be as receptive to your will, and believing in your promises, O Lord, as Mary was.

April 5

Life of Jesus

His Birth

 Jesus being born in Bethlehem was no accident, first of all it was prophesied – Read: Micah 5:2.

 Secondly, and possibly to make the prophesy happen, there was a census ordered throughout the Roman Empire, each person had to go to the city of their ancestors to be counted and taxed. Joseph was from the lineage of David and Bethlehem was David’s birthplace so Mary and Joseph, now married, journeyed to Bethlehem to be counted and Mary’s time came to have her baby – Read: Luke 2:7.

 The humble birth of our King, born in a lowly stable to ordinary folks, so through the years he could identify with common folks, be on their level but none the less Son of God!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Matthew 1:24.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you O Lord, for sending your Son.

April 6

Life of Jesus

Visitors

 If you can, imagine yourself a shepherd, on the hills around Bethlehem. In the dark, quiet stillness of the night, you would probably be resting on the ground, raised on one elbow, looking over the sheep that were just below you, when all of a sudden an angel in bright clothing appears out of the night sky! We would be afraid like the shepherds on the hills were – Read: Luke 2:10-12. Then not just one angel, but a whole multitude of angels appeared singing praise to God, what a sight for these Shepherds to behold.

 When the angels left, the shepherds decided to go to Bethlehem and see for themselves if what the angel had said was true – Read: Luke 2:16-18.

 What a night the shepherds must have had.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Luke 2:20.

PRAYER THOUGHT: Thank-you, O Lord, for always giving us the truth, if we search your

Word, we’ll find as the shepherds did, that what you say is true.

April 7

Life of Jesus

Presenting Jesus

 According to Jewish law, two things were required to happen:

1. Jesus needed to be circumcised – Read: Luke 2:21.
2. Jesus needed to be dedicated or presented to God. – Read: Luke 2:22.

 To fulfill these requirements Joseph and Mary took the child Jesus from Bethlehem to Jerusalem to present him in the Temple to the Lord. In the Temple they met Simeon, a devout man, filled with the Holy Spirit, who was waiting for the Saviour of Israel. Then Simeon took Jesus in his arms he knew Jesus was the one he had been waiting for – Read: Luke 2:28-32.

 Mary and Joseph were surprised at all the things Simeon said their baby would do!

VERSE FOR TODAY: Read: Luke 2:19

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I be blessed as Simeon as I come to the realization of who Jesus is!

April 8

Life of Jesus

The Wise Men

 The story of the visit to Jesus by the Wise Men is an important event in the life of Jesus, not only because of the changes that occur in Jesus’ life but also the tragic happenings in other lives.

 Just when the Wise Men visited is unclear, Matthew records these events along with the birth of Jesus, but some historians feel it could have taken place up to two years after the birth.

 The Wise Men saw the star and followed it and arrived in Jerusalem inquiring as to – Read: Matthew 2:2. When King Herod heard about this new King he thought would try to take his throne he set his chief priests and scribes to find the answer, they found it in the prophesy of Micah – Read: Matthew 2:6. (Micah 5:2)

 Herod sent Wise Men to find this baby with instructions – Read: Matthew 2:8. The Wise Men followed the star and they found the baby Jesus – Read: Matthew 2:11.

 The Wise Men followed Herod’s instructions, except the part about returning to him, they returned to their country a different way as instructed by God in a dream.

VERSE FOR TODAY: Matthew 2:12.

PRAYER THOUGHT: May I always seek to worship you and carry out your instructions as the Wise Men did.