Life of Jesus April 2

The Word of Life

Jesus, the Word, was even before the beginning of the world – In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God.  John 1:1

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 – Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children. 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 – The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. 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. – No one has ever seen God. The only Son, who is the same as God and is at the Father's side, he has made him known. John 1:18.

VERSE FOR TODAY: They did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of a human father; God himself was their Father. 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.

Life of Jesus April 3

The Human Generations

Jesus, humanly speaking was a descendant of David and would establish an everlasting kingdom – His royal power will continue to grow; his kingdom will always be at peace. He will rule as King David’s successor, basing his power on right and justice, from now until the end of time. The Lord Almighty is determined to do all this. Isaiah 9:7.

Genealogies are probably the least read passages in the Bible, an interesting note to the genealogy of Jesus – So then, there were fourteen generations from Abraham to David, and fourteen from David to the exile in Babylon, and fourteen from then to the birth of the Messiah. 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: The Lord says, “The time is coming when I will choose as King a righteous descendant of David. That King will rule wisely and do what is right and just throughout the land.” Jeremiah 23:5.

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

Life of Jesus April 4

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 – You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. Luke 1:31. Mary’s answer shows how surprised and confused she was – Mary said to the angel, “I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?” Luke 1:34. The angel was patient with Mary and explained to her how this could be – “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God’s power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God.” 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 – “I am the Lord’s servant, said Mary; “may it happen to me as you have said.” Luke 1:38a.

VERSE FOR TODAY: “… For there is nothing God cannot do.” Luke 1:37

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

Life of Jesus April 5

His Birth

Jesus being born in Bethlehem was no accident, first of all it was prophesied – The Lord says, ”Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel, whose family line goes back to ancient times.” 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 – She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in stripes of cloth and laid him in a manger – there was no room for them to stay in the inn. 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, born on their level but none the less Son of God!

VERSE FOR TODAY: So then Joseph woke up, he married Mary as the angel of the Lord had told him to do. Matthew 1:24.

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

Life of Jesus April 6

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 – but the angel said to them, “Don’t be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all people. This very day in David’s town your Saviour was born – Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger.” 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 – So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger. When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. Luke 2:16-18.

What a night the shepherds must have had.

VERSE FOR TODAY: The shepherds went back, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen; it had been just as the angels had told them. 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.

Life of Jesus April 7

Presenting Jesus

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

1. Jesus needed to be circumcised – A

week later, when the time came for the baby to be circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name which the angel had given him before he had been conceived. Luke 2:21.

1. Jesus needed to be dedicated or

presented to God. – as it is written in the law of the Lord: “Every first-born male is to be dedicated to the Lord.” Luke 2:23.

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 – “Now, Lord, you have kept your promise, and you may let your servant go in peace. With my own eyes I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples: A light to reveal you will to the Gentiles and bring glory to your people Israel.” Luke 2:29-32.

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

VERSE FOR TODAY: Mary remembered all these things and thought deeply about them. Luke 2:19

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

Life of Jesus April 8

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 the lives of others.

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 – “Where is the baby born king of the Jews?” Matthew 2:2a. 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 – Bethlehem in the Land of Judah… Matthew 2:6a. (Micah 5:2)

Herod sent Wise Men to find this baby with instructions – “Go and make careful search for the child, and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him.” Matthew 2:8b. The Wise Men followed the star and they found the baby Jesus – They brought out their gold, frankincense and myrrh, and presented them to him. Matthew 2:11b.

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: “We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him.” Matthew 2:2b.

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

Life of Jesus April 9

Flight to Egypt

Now Herod did not take too kindly to being tricked by the Wise Men and sent soldiers to Bethlehem and the surrounding area to kill all the boy babies up to two years old. Herod was determined to get this baby called King of the Jews!

Before Herod had a chance to carry out his deadly mission against innocent babies, God came to Joseph in a dream and told him to flee with his family to Egypt, to keep Jesus safe from Herod. In the middle of the night Joseph, Mary and Jesus left for Egypt.

What a horrible ordeal the killing of all those babies must have been! As the prophet Jeremiah said – “A sound is heard in Ramah, the sound of bitter weeping. Rachel is crying for her children she refuses to be comforted, for they are dead.” Matthew 2:18. (Jeremiah 31:15)

The deaths of all those children were in vain, because Jesus was safe and sound in Egypt and stayed there until Herod was dead. Herod’s son was not much better, so as instructed in dreams Joseph brought Jesus out of Egypt but instead of settling in the land of Israel, they moved to Nazareth in Galilee. Two prophesies were fulfilled – I called my Son out of Egypt, and He will be called a Nazarene. Matthew 2:15b, 23b.

VERSE FOR TODAY: The Lord says, “When Israel was a child, I loved him and called him out of Egypt as my son.” Hosea 11:1.

PRAYER THOUGHT: O Lord, I pray for protection like that you gave Jesus, in these days of evil and murder, also protection for my children and grandchildren as they go out into the world.