

Jesus Of Nazareth

Jesus The Christ



INRI

Jesus Nazarenus Rex Judeorum
Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews



Chi-Ro

Greek for Christos



The Incarnation




The Incarnation

The Reason for The Season Baby!

- ◆ Literally means to “take on flesh”
- ◆ The belief that God’s eternal Son took on human nature and became man in Jesus of Nazareth to save us from our sins
- ◆ “God with skin on”
- ◆ South American tribe story

The Incarnation: Why?

Four Reasons:

1. To save us from sin, death, and eternal separation from God
 2. So that we could know God's true nature and his love for us
 3. To be our role model of how we should live. Ex. WWJD?
 4. To make us sharers in God's life
- 
- A stylized silhouette of a mountain range in shades of teal, located at the bottom right of the slide.

Apostles Creed

- ◆ I believe in **Jesus Christ**, his **only Son**, our **Lord**, who was conceived by the power of the **Holy Spirit** and born of the **Virgin Mary**.

Jesus: the Name

- ◆ From the Hebrew word Yehoshua or Joshua
- ◆ It means God saves or saviour
- ◆ A common name
- ◆ This name was given Mary by the angel Gabriel
- ◆ From conception God had destined that Jesus would save the world from sin and death
- ◆ What does your name mean?

Saviour



The Christ: Messiah

- ◆ The Hebrew word *Masiah* translates to the Greek word *Christos* which literally means “anointed one.”
- ◆ Was first applied to the king of Israel, God’s anointed leader
- ◆ Throughout history the Jews believed that God would send a king who would represent Yahweh’s love and care for his people

What kind of Messiah was expected?

- ◆ Most Jews expected a political and military leader who would lead Israel to a great military victory and re-establish Israel as an independent nation
- ◆ Many Jews expected the coming of the Messiah to be accompanied by an apocalyptic event (dramatic)

The Messiah



Suffering Servant

- ◆ Jesus baffled many of the common expectations for the Messiah being a conquering earthly leader
- ◆ He chose to be a suffering servant who took on the sins of his people
- ◆ He was truly a man of the people, a model for ultimate leadership
- ◆ “The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Matthew 20:28)

The Son of Man

- ◆ Jesus often used this title. It comes from an Old Testament vision in which Daniel the prophet saw "... one like a son of man coming out on the clouds of heaven."
- ◆ The title had two purposes:
- ◆ To emphasize his connection with humanity
- ◆ To reveal his role as the judge who will establish his kingdom at the end of time

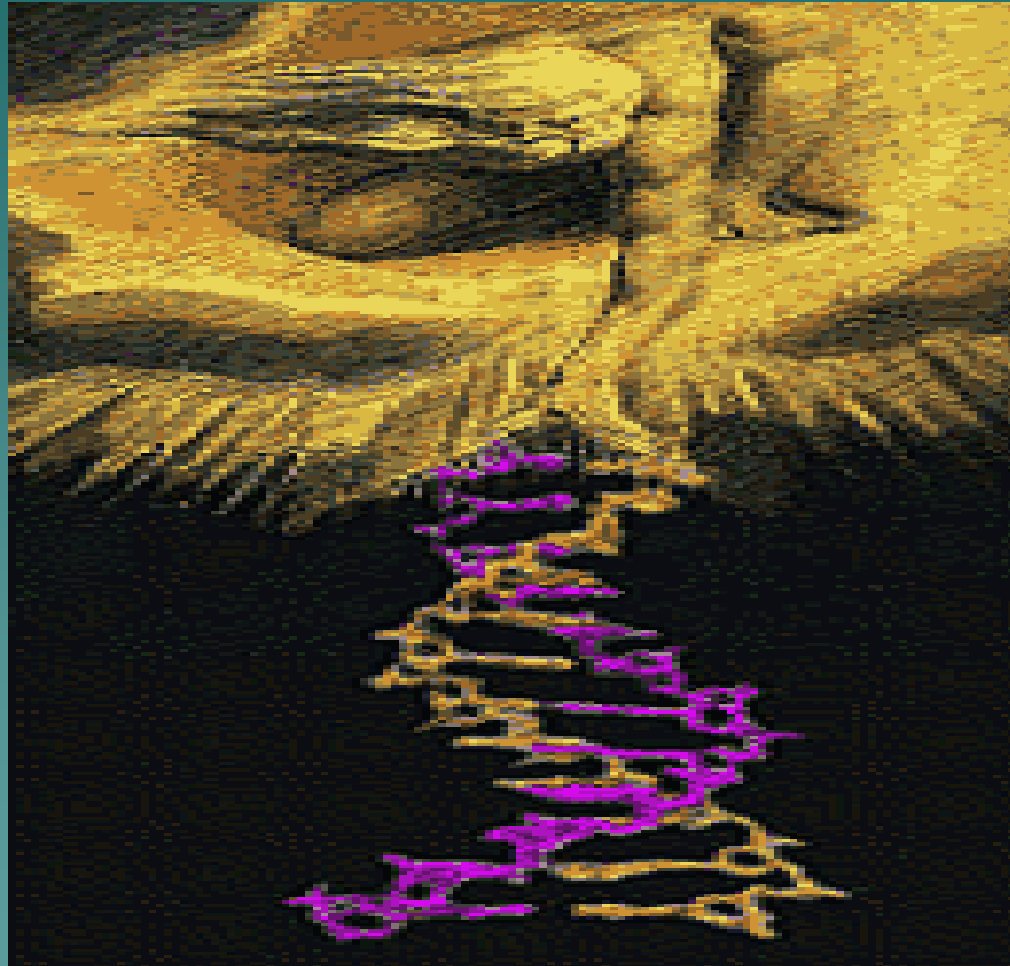
The Return of the King



Son of God

- ◆ Both at his baptism and transfiguration the Father calls Jesus his “beloved Son”
- ◆ Jesus says “The Father and I are one” Jn.10:36
- ◆ Humans are adopted children not genetic children of God
- ◆ Jesus had God’s DNA

God's DNA



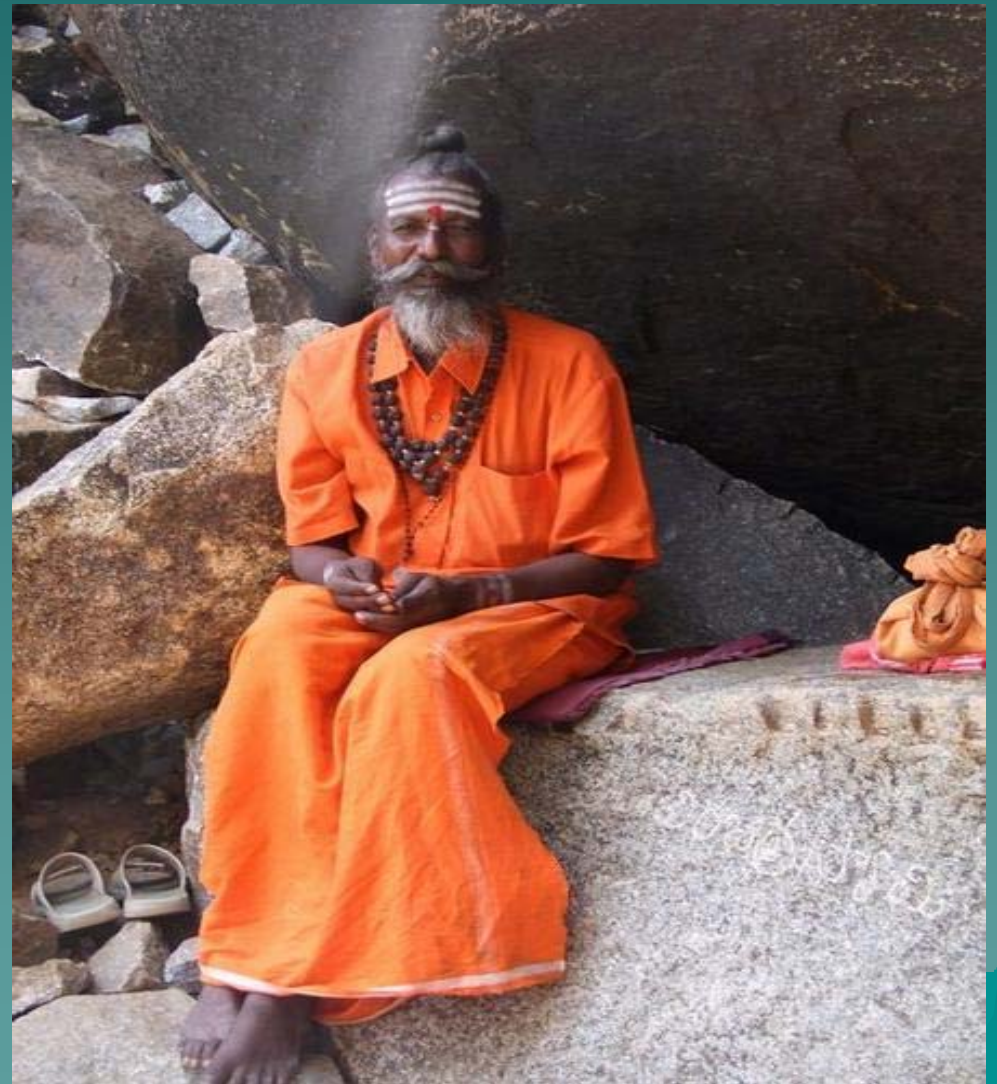
Lord

- ◆ Like sir when referring to someone who is a ruler or in power over you
- ◆ Term referring to authority and divinity
- ◆ Yahweh "I am"
- ◆ He is God
- ◆ Through miracles and resurrection Jesus proves his Divinity

Guru or Master

- ◆ Lord can also mean master or guru
- ◆ Disciple means learner, Jesus is the teacher or master as in martial arts
- ◆ Jesus is the master/guru/sensei of living
- ◆ **Guru** (Sanskrit: गुरु), is a term denoting a teacher or guide in the religious or spiritual sense
- ◆ The disciples believed that Jesus' way of living was higher and more brilliant than that of the other groups of their time so they felt lured to Jesus' way.

Jesus a Guru/Sensai?



Did He Really Exist?

- ◆ There are books written about him
- ◆ Some of these were written by non-believers like the Roman historian Tacitus or the Jewish historian Josephus
- ◆ Most of what we know about him comes from writings left by his followers in what we call the New Testament

The New Testament

- ◆ Jesus is the New Testament or New Covenant with all humanity.
- ◆ Jesus taught three main things using parables or short stories:
 1. God is Abba Father and longs to be close to us
 2. God's kingdom is in our midst
 3. That we should love our enemies

The Formation of the Gospels

- ◆ Gospel means “good news”
- ◆ There are 4 Gospels: Mt, Mk, Lk, Jn
- ◆ There were 3 stages of formation:
 1. The Historical Jesus: 4/6BC-30/33AD
 2. Oral Tradition: 30/33-50AD
 3. The New Testament Writings: 50-120 AD

What do they tell us?

- ◆ Jesus' Early Life (private life)
- ◆ Jesus' Public Life

Jesus' Early Life

- ◆ Jesus was born in poverty in a Bethlehem cave to a virgin
- ◆ He was circumcised according to Jewish law
- ◆ He escaped to Egypt with his parents to escape being slaughtered by King Herod
- ◆ His family later moved back to Nazareth where he grew up and learned carpentry
- ◆ He would make visits to the Temple in Jerusalem every year with his parents

Question:

- ◆ Did Jesus have brothers and sisters?
What do you think?
- ◆ See pg. 52

Apostles Creed

- ◆ ... He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified died and was buried. He descended to hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Jesus' Public Life

- ◆ Baptism in the Jordan River
- ◆ Temptations in the desert
- ◆ Proclamation of God's Kingdom
- ◆ Signs & Miracles
- ◆ Death
- ◆ Resurrection
- ◆ Ascension

Jesus' Public Life: Baptism

- ◆ Began at his baptism by John the Baptist
- ◆ Jesus launched his mission to be God's suffering servant
- ◆ John said, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"
- ◆ God said, "That's my boy!"

Jesus' Public Life: The Kingdom of God

- ◆ Is God's power and active presence, his saving activity on the earth
- ◆ Jesus' **miracles** of healing the spiritual, physical, and psychological illness are **signs** of his kingdom
- ◆ Jesus taught that one day his kingdom will slowly transform all of humanity
- ◆ A revolution of love
- ◆ Like a little bit of chocolate syrup in a glass of milk
- ◆ This began to spread with his first followers
- ◆ Clip from Jesus of Nazareth

Kingdom of God like syrup?!

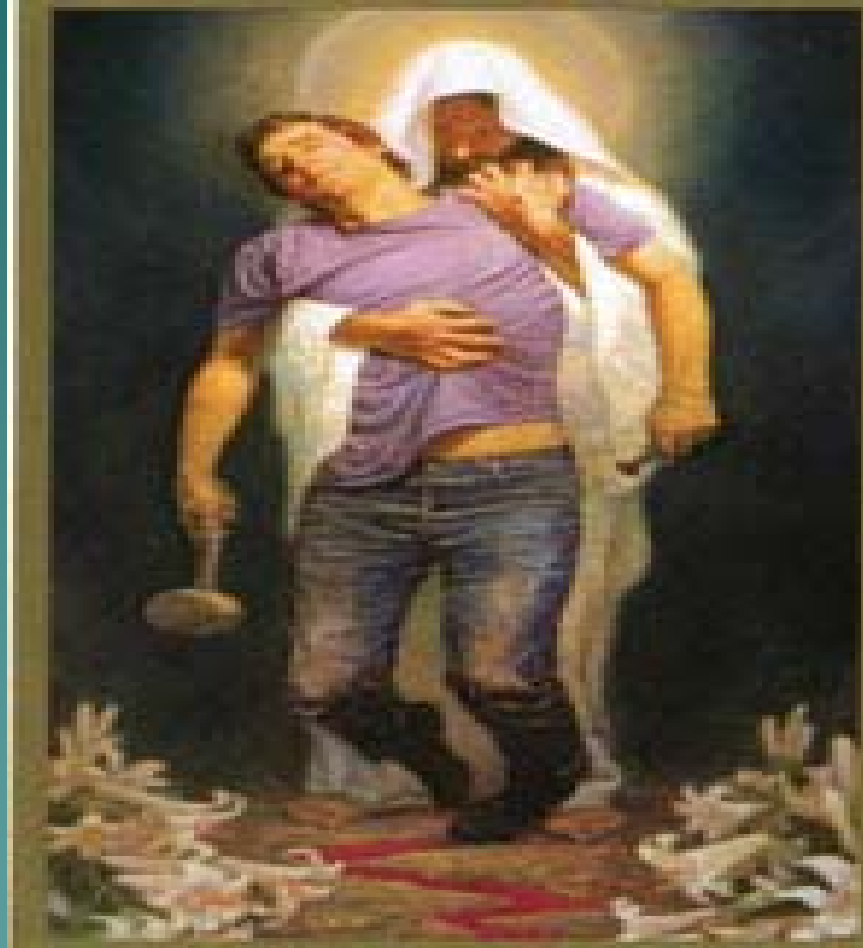


The First Followers of Jesus

- ◆ Andrew – follower of John the Baptist, Peter's brother
- ◆ Philip – follower of John the Baptist
- ◆ Matthew – tax collector
- ◆ Thomas – servant, known for doubting
- ◆ Peter – fishermen, Andrew's brother
- ◆ Judas – scholar, money keeper
- ◆ Mary – prostitute, business women
- ◆ Simon – Zealot, converted to Jesus' group
- ◆ Nicodemus – Pharisee, followed Jesus, secretly
- ◆ Joseph of Arimethea – Pharisee, followed Jesus secretly

Jesus' Public Life: Death

- ◆ Jesus' death was a redemption, a ransom.
- ◆ He took on our guilt by substituting for us, by dying a death we deserve
- ◆ He did this to buy our freedom with his eternal, divine love
- ◆ This opened the whole world to God's presence (the tearing of the temple curtain)
- ◆ Story of the gang member and his brother
- ◆ Who killed Jesus?
- ◆ Story We Find Ourselves In ch.20 windows



Resurrection



Reflection...

- The whole world is upside down. The Jewish people, who should be the most prosperous and triumphant, are at the bottom of the heap, with the idolatrous and immoral Romans over them. And then Jesus, who seems so good and right and compassionate, promises a better way, but he gets betrayed and snuffed out. So the bad guys completely and utterly win. It's tragic. It's as if Jesus ignites this glimmer of hope of something up on that higher level and how the hope is smashed under the heel of Caesar's violence...

Reflection...

- And then comes the sign and wonder of the resurrection... And that would mean that even if the worst things happen, even if the worst people remain in power and the best people are killed, don't be afraid, because God is going to triumph; and Jesus' approach, his nonviolence, his compassion, his higher perspective—it's all validated after all. God's revolution can be resisted, but never defeated. (p.123)

Reflection...

- ◆ OK, Kerry, and if you believe that, then how are you going to live?
- ◆ Well, you'll want to do right, no matter what the odds, and you'll keep loving and refusing to hate. And you'll... you'll trust God no matter what happens, because even though God's power seems weak—weak enough to be betrayed and tortured and killed—it rises again and promises to win in the end. (p.124)

Jesus' Public Life: Resurrection

- ◆ The resurrection of Jesus was a real historical event
- ◆ His tomb was empty and he appeared to many of the disciples
- ◆ You can't find his grave today though some claim it is around along with many other claims since then (p59)
- ◆ He didn't really die, his body was stolen, it is a metaphor, etc.

Why is it Important?

- ◆ What do you think?
- ◆ It proves Jesus' divinity and that he is not a liar (he said he would rise)
- ◆ Jesus' resurrection proves that there is life after death and that we will get our bodies back
- ◆ Jesus is no longer limited to space and time and can meet us in prayer, in the Eucharist, and in the poor.
- ◆ Last point from reflection...

Religious Groups in Jesus' Time

- ◆ Sadducees
- ◆ Pharisees
- ◆ Essenes
- ◆ Zealots
- ◆ Story We Find Ourselves In ch. 22
"The Revolution of God"
- ◆ Story We Find Ourselves In ch. 23
"Beautiful Music" and ch. 24 "Sent
out to play"

Sadducees

- ◆ Were mostly priests who cared for Temple practices and worship
- ◆ Cooperated with the Romans
- ◆ Accepted only the Torah
- ◆ Died out after the destruction of the Jewish Temple in 70 AD

Pharisees

- ◆ Means “separated one”
- ◆ Were common men who believed in strict observance of the Law (10 C’s)
- ◆ Condemned to hell sinners such as prostitutes and tax collectors
- ◆ Accepted Prophets and Psalms, Proverbs as inspired
- ◆ Continued Judaism after destruction of the Jewish Temple in 70 AD

Essenes

- ◆ Were an apocalyptic group that believed that God would usher in his kingdom through a dramatic event
- ◆ They were celibates (unmarried) who thought the world was going to hell in a handbasket
- ◆ They abandoned society and lived in caves near the Dead Sea
- ◆ They wrote the Dead Sea Scrolls
- ◆ They disappeared from history after the destruction of the temple

Caves at Qumran



Zealots

- ◆ An organized revolutionary force which despised Roman rule and would use violent terrorism to overcome it
- ◆ Much like the Taliban of today against the US
- ◆ Led two revolts against the Romans the second of which ended in disaster and ended the Zealots forever.



Other People in the NT

- ◆ Tax Collectors
 - Jews who collected taxes for the Romans. Were perceived as cheaters and sinners by fellow Jews
- ◆ Gentiles
 - Non-Jews. Pious Jews avoided contact with them
 - Many Gentiles became Christians
 - As a result Christianity split from Judaism and the Church lost much of its Jewish influence (diet, circumcision)
- ◆ Women
 - Were considered inferior to men and as property
 - Had few political, religious, and marital rights
 - Main role was motherhood (childless women c/d)
 - Jesus elevated the role of women