

### One Solitary Life

He was born in an obscure village, the son of a peasant woman.

He grew up in another village, where he worked in a carpenter's shop until he was thirty. Then for three years he became a wandering preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a house. He didn't go to college. He never visited a big city. He never travelled two hundred miles from the place where he was born. He did none of those things one usually associates with greatness. He had no credentials but himself.

He was only thirty-three when the tide of public opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to his enemies and went through a mockery of a trial. He was executed by the state. While he was dying, his executioners gambled for his clothing, the only property he had on earth. When he was dead he was laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race and the leader of mankind's progress. All the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that **One Solitary**

**C.S. Lewis** who wrote the Narnia Chronicles wrote this in his book "Mere Christianity"

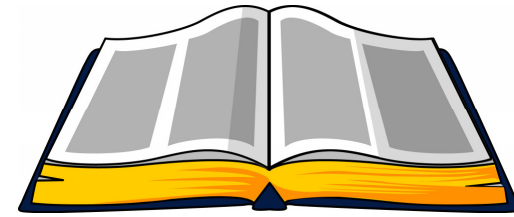
I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him:

"I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher,  
but I don't accept his  
claim to be God."

That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic — on the level with the man who says he is a poached egg — or else he would be the Devil of Hell.

You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God, or else a madman or something worse. You can shut him up for a fool, you can spit at him and kill him as a demon or you can fall at his feet and call him Lord and God, but let us not come with any patronising nonsense about his being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to. ...

Now it seems to me obvious that He was neither a lunatic nor a fiend: and consequently, however strange or terrifying or unlikely it may seem, I have to accept the view that He was and is God "



## A YEAR WITH THE BIBLE

Part  
**7**

# JESUS

There are 400 years of silence between the time of Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament and the birth of a baby boy in Bethlehem. Jerusalem has fallen to the Greeks under Alexander the Great and then the Romans who begrudgingly allow the local Jews to worship their own God but it is a very unhappy time. The people want a saviour, the people are praying for a saviour, the people need a saviour! But what appears is a man from "up t'north" who teaches the people in an amazing way, who performs miracles, who upsets the religious people and who tells the poor and the "sinners" that God wants to know them. There is a very real question which is asked again and again – who is this Jesus?

**J**ourney – look at the places he went, the things he did. His birth was in squalor as a refugee. He spent his time with the poor, the marginalised, the outcasts. He chose northern working men and women as his closest friends. He didn't seek fame and fortune but shunned it. He went into the desert alone to face temptation and didn't walk away when it got hard. The longest journey was to the hill of crucifixion and then into Hell itself to rescue us all from the power and consequences of our sin.

**E**xplanations – look at how he explained what God was like – a Father, a wise ruler, a Shepherd, someone who entrusts us with gifts and expects us to care for others. God is someone who cares about suffering and pain and wants to do something about it. he was not bringing another code for clever or learned people to use to exert their own power or authority. Jesus wanted every man, woman and child to understand a simple truth – God loves you, you have done things wrong, I will die in your place, will you follow me? "The kingdom of heaven is like..." is a phrase so often on Jesus' lips – he wants us to KNOW what God is like, what God is doing and what we need to do to follow him.

**S**aid – look at what he says "Come to me and I will refresh you", "I am the way and the truth and the life", "whoever comes to me I will NEVER turn away" "God so loved the world..." "your sins are forgiven", "Follow Me" Just read the words that come from his mouth.

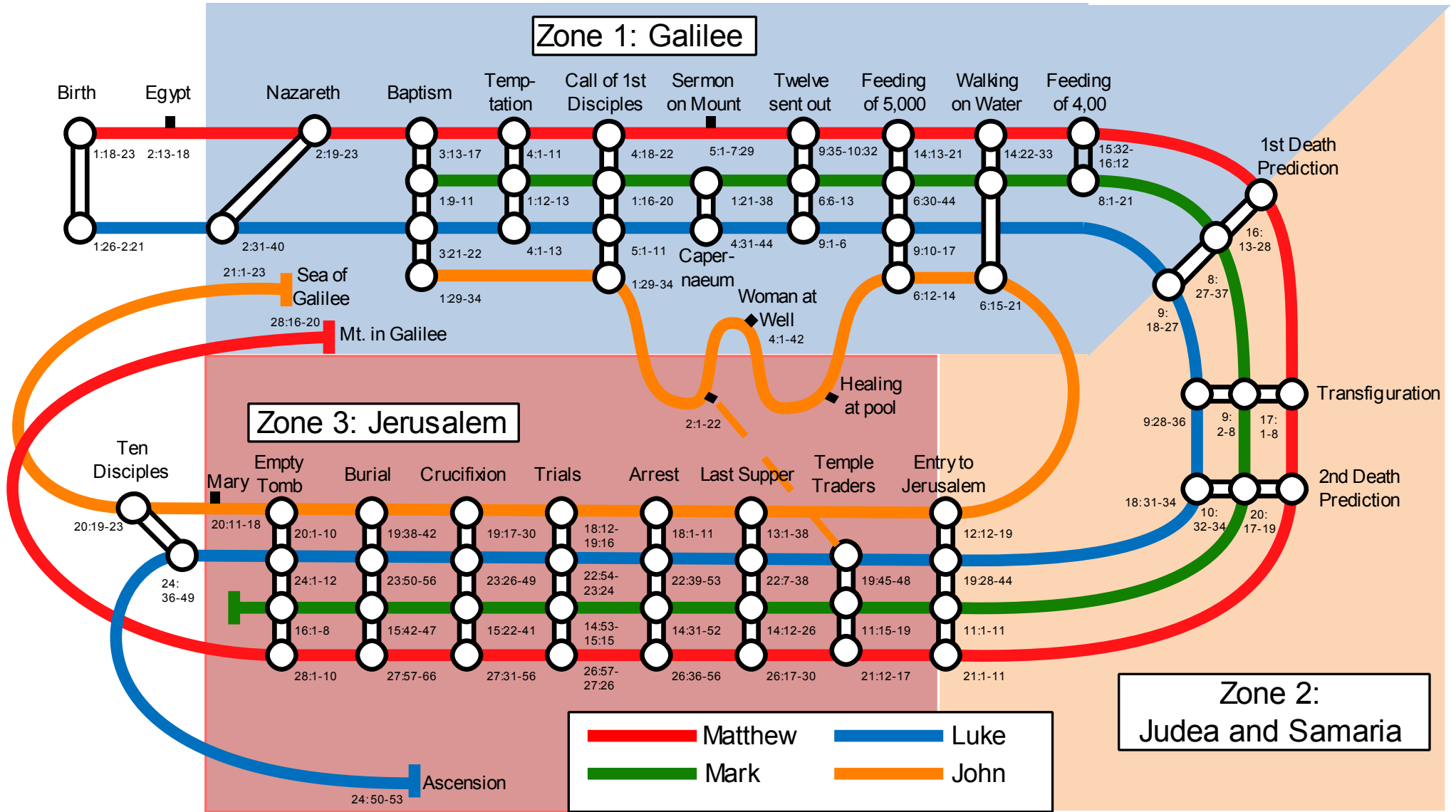
**U**nconditional – Jesus wanted us to know that God's love does not come with strings attached. We are loved. That is the amazing truth at the heart of the Good News.

**S**acrifice – The life of Jesus comes to a climax in his death and resurrection – one the cross the price is paid for our sin. Jesus takes our punishment and offers us life forever with God. On the cross Jesus shows us the full extent of God's love for us.

### Names of Jesus

lamb of God, mighty one of Jacob, Messiah, root of David, lion of the tribe of judah, everlasting Father, holy one, son of man, surety, brightness of the Father's glory, Israel, seed of the woman, rose of sharon, Lord from Heaven, redeemer, only begotten, our hope, physician, branch, most holy, daysman, Lord of Glory, sanctification, witness, vine, I AM, overseer, wonderful, day, man of sorrows, good shepherd, holy child, righteous servant, rabbi, rabbon, stone, priest, holy one, heir of all things, leader, light, God of the whole earth, seed of David, wisdom, eternal life, redemption, ransom, King of Glory, savior, nazarene, propitiation, the second man, living bread, rock of offense, last Adam, God with us, unspeakable gift, friend of sinners, foundation, image of God, king over all the earth, christ, shiloh, word of life, mighty in battle, messenger of the covenant, horn of salvation, forerunner, carpenter's son, your holy one, judge, teacher, son of joseph, word, God manifest in the flesh, gift of God, counselor, precious cornerstone, shepherd and overseer of souls, lord almighty, man christ Jesus, bright and morning star, captain of salvation, commander, most mighty, the angel of the Lord, bridegroom, first and last

# The Main Events of Jesus' Life



This chart is taken from "The Bible Book" by Nick Page.

It uses a "London Underground" style map to chart the main events of Jesus' life. The linked stations show where events appear in more than one Gospel and the zones show where events happened.