

ABOV- Session 7: Jesus' Early Years
Script Facilitator

Slide: A Bible Overview Session 7- Jesus' Early Years

Slide: Summary: Sessions 1,2,3

- God eternally exists
- God **created** the universe earth & universe (good)
- God made humans in His image, male & female (good)
- God gave humans dominion over creation
- Humans disobeyed God (not good)

Slide: Summary Sessions 1,2,3 continued

- Each **human heart** has a sin nature that is full of evil (rebellious & selfish)
 - Each human needs rescue from God's righteous **judgment** (death)
 - No human can fix the situation
- God promises a coming rescuer (**Redeemer**)
- Each human is in a battle against Satan, internal desires and the surrounding world (**spiritual conflict**)

Slide: Summary Sessions 1,2,3 continued

- Not **obeying** God (sin) has consequences- Cain, Flood, Babel
- God's **Covenant** with Noah (sign is bow in clouds)
 - Never again will all life or the earth be destroyed by flood waters
- God's **Covenant** with Abram promised:
 - Land, Nation, Blessing

Slide: Summary: Sessions 1,2,3 continued

- Israelites to Egypt (70 people) (12 tribes of Israel)
- Pharaoh enslaves Israelites
- Pharaoh releases Israelites after Passover (last plague on Egypt)
- God leads Israelites out of Egypt (approx. 2.4 million people)

Slide: Summary Sessions 4,5,6

- God provided all Israelite's needs and made His presence known (**grace**)
- People constantly complained
- Mosaic **Covenant** established: moral, civil, and ceremonial Law- need to **obey**
- Tabernacle built: Ark of the **Covenant**; Day of Atonement: **blood sacrifice** & scapegoat
- Golden calf incident & consequences

Slide: Summary Sessions 4,5,6 continued

- Israelites finally entered the Promised Land
- 300-year "sin cycle" & God sent "judges"

ABOV- Session 7: Jesus' Early Years
Script Facilitator

- God sent Prophets to speak for Him to the people
- United Kingdom: 3 Kings: Saul, David, Solomon
- Divided Kingdom: Israel: falls to Assyrians & Judah: falls to Babylonians
- Cyrus: allows Jews to return to Jerusalem; Temple & walls built
- 400 years of silence between Old and New Testaments

Start Video- SR-07A Jesus' Early Yearly

Welcome to session 7 of A Bible OverView called: Jesus' Early Years

We have finished the highlights of the Old Testament and learned that there were 400 years between then and the New Testament. The following verses, from a letter in the New Testament, will introduce this session: **Hebrews 1:1-2- ***

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.

The NT is divided into four main sections: (see slide)

1. The Gospels, are the history of Jesus' life.
 2. Acts, is the history book. It gives a historical account of the beginnings of the Christian church.
 3. The letters, also called "Epistles, were written to the early churches to encourage them and build them up in their faith.
 4. Revelation, is the one prophecy book and is about future events.
- Like the Old Testament, these 27 books are not listed in the order they were written but are grouped for convenience. In this session, we'll be focused in the Gospels.

The word "Gospel" means: "Good News." The Gospels are about who Jesus Christ is, what He taught and did, how He died and then rose from the dead, and what He expects of His followers.

Let's do a brief comparison of the four gospels. They were written by four men: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John and each wrote their Gospel for different reasons.

The first 3 are called "synoptic" gospels. It comes from the Latin words syn- "SYN"- which means "together with" and optic= which means "seeing." Thus, synoptic means "seeing together."

Matthew, Mark, and Luke wrote chronologically about the events in Jesus' life.

- Matthew was one of Jesus' chosen 12 disciples and was Jewish. Because he was a tax collector before becoming a disciple, his own people despised him.
 - His main audience was Jews so he often referred to Old Testament prophecies to prove that Jesus was the promised **Redeemer**, also known as the Messiah

ABOV- Session 7: Jesus' Early Years
Script Facilitator

- Mark, though not one of Jesus' 12 disciples, was a friend of Peter who was one of Jesus' 12 disciples. Mark received his information from Peter.
 - He emphasized how Jesus came as a servant and didn't come to be served. Since the Jews expected the Messiah to be a kingly ruler who would free them from Roman rule and restore Israel to its former greatness, they didn't understand the **Redeemer** would be a servant.
 - Mark's main audience was Romans who knew nothing about the Old Testament and who liked to be entertained. Mark got their attention through telling short action stories about what Jesus did and telling about His miracles. He included more miracles than the other writers.
- Luke was a Gentile, which means he was not Jewish. He was a physician and a historian. He received his information from Jesus' mother, from the disciples who knew Jesus intimately, from Paul, and from other people who knew Jesus.
 - He wrote in a very organized, detailed way. He wanted to give an accurate account of the life of Christ.
 - Because he was a Gentile, his audience was general. He presented Christ as the perfect human and used the term "son of man."

The 4th gospel is John. He was one of Jesus' chosen 12 disciples and was Jewish.

- His main audience was general.
- He focused on the deity of Christ, that Jesus claimed to be God, and that all who had **faith** in Him would have eternal life.

Let's begin by looking at the genealogy of Jesus and how He came from the Line of Promise. His lineage was recorded in Matthew and Luke. **Matthew 1:1-2** begins this way-

*1 This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:
2 Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,
Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ...*

- As the genealogy progresses, the names of David & Solomon are in **verse 6**:

6...and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon....

- In **verse 16** is the last listed name-

16...and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

- So Matthew starts by listing Abraham and working forward to end with Jesus.

ABOV- Session 7: Jesus' Early Years
Script Facilitator

In contrast, **Luke** starts his genealogy with Jesus in **chapter 3, verse 23-**

23...Now Jesus...was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, ...

In **verses 31 and 32** we read these familiar names amidst the lineage-

31 ...the son of David, 32 the son of Jesse...

And last in the list at **verse 38** is-

38...the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

The reason Matthew went only as far back as Abraham was because He was writing to Jews showing them Jesus was related to all Jews.

In contrast, Luke was a Gentile writing to all people so he wanted to show that Jesus was related to all humans and went back to the beginning, to Adam.

- **Remember**, God's Old Testament **Covenant** promise was that the **Redeemer** would be from the line of Abraham, the tribe of Judah, and the house of David. Jesus was from this lineage.

End Video **SR-07A**- (6:06). (info above: 4 Gospels explained, genealogies)

Slide: Jesus' Lineage

- What is the importance of emphasizing that Jesus was "the son of David"?
 - Prophecy fulfilled of Messiah/Redeemer
- What is the importance of the gospel writers saying Jesus is both "son of man" and "son of God"?
 - As "son of man" Jesus is fully human and relates to us in our human condition
 - As "son of God" Jesus is fully divine; being perfect He could become the blood sacrifice for our sins, becoming our Redeemer

Start Video- **SR-07B Jesus' Birth**

Now we'll read about the birth of Jesus and some fulfilled prophecies due to the **sovereignty of God**. We'll look first at **Luke's account in 1:26-35-**

26 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

ABOV- Session 7: Jesus' Early Years
Script Facilitator

34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

- **Note verse 32:** that Jesus would be a descendant of King David.
- **Note verse 33:** His kingdom would never end.
- **Note verses 27 and 35:** His mother would be a virgin who would become pregnant by the Holy Spirit.

Now we'll read additional information from **Matthew's account chapter 1:18 through chapter 2:6-**

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

2 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

*6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."*

- **Note:** Joseph was from the line of David when it says in **1:20** "...Joseph son of David."

ABOV- Session 7: Jesus' Early Years
Script Facilitator

- **Note: the quote in 1:23** is from **Isaiah 7:14** when that Old Testament prophet says:

23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

- **Note: the quote in 2:6** is from Micah 5:2 when that Old testament prophet says 700 years before Jesus was born:

6 “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

- Just a note regarding verse 19 when it says Joseph had in mind to divorce Mary. In Jewish culture, being engaged was like being married except that the marriage wasn't consummated with intercourse until the marriage ceremony took place.

Let's go back to Luke's account to understand why Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem. **Luke 2:1-7** says-

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Jesus had a humble birth. He didn't come to be an earthly, political king. He came to serve, not to be served. Because He wanted to relate to all people, He had a humble birth.

End Video **SR-07B** (12:11) (info above: Mary, Joseph, Birth of Jesus, from David's line, prophecies fulfilled, humble birth in Bethlehem)

Slide: Sovereignty of God

The angel announced to Mary: *32 “...He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”* Luke 1:32,33

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). Matthew 1:22,23

- What do these passages tell us about God?
 - He is **sovereign**; Jesus is “God with us” and fulfills the prophecy that the Redeemer will come from the house of David; His kingdom will never end

ABOV- Session 7: Jesus' Early Years
Script Facilitator

- Why was it important for Mary to know these details?
 - Like all Jews, she expected the Messiah to be from the house of David. She may have known the prophecy that a virgin would give him birth. That his throne would never end would encourage her to accept God's calling.
- What do the fulfilled prophecies say about the **sovereignty of God**?
 - He has a plan and makes events happen to fulfill them.

Slide: Humble birth

“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.” Micah 5:2

- What do you like or find significant about Jesus' birth?
 - He didn't come to be an earthly, political king. He came to serve, not to be served. In humility, He can relate to all people.

Start Video- SR-07C Simeon

The next recorded event is when Jesus was one month old. **Luke 2:21-35-**

21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived. 22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

- Apparently, Simeon had put all the Old Testament prophecies together and knew who to look for in the **Redeemer**. Simeon makes some important statements for us to notice:

ABOV- Session 7: Jesus' Early Years
Script Facilitator

First: in **verse 32** he is quoting from Isaiah 42:6 and personalizing that prophesy to Jesus who will be: *32 "...a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."*

- That Jesus would be a "*light for revelation to the Gentiles...*" makes us think of God's **covenant** with Abraham in Genesis 12:3 where God says the coming Redeemer will bless "*all peoples on earth.*"

Second: in **verse 34**, he prophesies that people would either fall or rise because of Jesus.

Next: in the **first part of verse 35**, he explains why people would fall.

"...the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed."

- So, it is a **heart** issue. Indeed, when Jesus is thirty years old He talks about this in **John 3:19-21**.

19 This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. 20 Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. 21 But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

Last: In the **last part of verse 35**, is a prophecy to Mary that something would happen to cause her great pain. This would be hard for her to understand since the Jews expected the Messiah to come as a conqueror and deliver them from the Romans. She couldn't comprehend that Jesus came as a servant and would eventually choose to be crucified to fulfill His mission as **Redeemer**.

End Video SR-07C. (info above: Simeon & prophecy & John 3:19-21)

Slide: Simeon's Prophecy

Simeon: *30 "For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."*
33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Luke 2:30-33

The Jews expected their Messiah to be a ruling King to conquer Rome for them.

- How does that help explain why Mary and Joseph marvel at what's prophesied in v 32?
 - The mention of Gentiles and all nations being connected to the Messiah was not understood

Slide: Simeon's Prophecy

34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." Luke 2:34,35

ABOV- Session 7: Jesus' Early Years
Script Facilitator

- What does this passage tell us about people?
 - They will reject Jesus because He will reveal their thoughts and hearts
 - Option: reread John 3:19-21
- What about Simeon's prophecy would cause Mary concern?
 - Sometime, a "sword" will pierce her soul, too. She had no idea what this dire prophecy could mean. It will mean Jesus' crucifixion.

Start Video SR-07D- To Egypt

The next recorded event is when Jesus is 1 year old. Notice the prophecies fulfilled within this story.
Matthew 2:13-23-

13 When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

14 So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, 15 where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. 17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

18 "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

19 After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt 20 and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

21 So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, 23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

The next recorded event is when Jesus is 12 yrs. old. The Bible does not record His early childhood, so other stories are myths or legends. **Luke 2:41-52-**

41 Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. 42 When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. 43 After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. 44 Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find

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Script Facilitator

him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

49 "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

50 But they did not understand what he was saying to them.

51 Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

- **Note: verse 41** says they were in "Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover." Remember: Passover was celebrated to **remember** the angel of death passing over the houses which had the blood on the doorposts when the Israelites were freed from Egypt.
- **Note: in verse 49** Jesus made a definite distinction between Joseph, his earthly father, and God, His Heavenly Father, when He tells His parents He had to be in His "Father's house."
 - This indicates Jesus has a spiritual **relationship with God** as His Father.
- **Note: when we read in verses 51-52** that Jesus went back home with His parents and "grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man," that is the only biblical information we have about Jesus from ages 12-30.

END Video SR-07D To Egypt (info above: to Egypt, Herod kills boys, Jesus in Temple age 12, # prophecies fulfilled)

Slide: Jesus from age 12-30

Jesus: "Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" Luke 2:49

And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:52

- What does Jesus know about Himself?
 - His Father is God the Father and He is the Son in His humanity to fulfill Scriptures.
- How much do we know about Jesus from age 12-30?
 - Only that He went back home with Mary and Joseph and continued to grow in wisdom, stature, and was in favor with God and man.
 - Any other stories about Jesus from age 12-30 are myths.

Slide: Texas slide with it points

Jesus Fulfills OT Prophecies

OT has over 300 prophecies regarding the **Redeemer**

- Jesus fulfills them all! (**sov. of God**)
- 30 happen on day Jesus is killed
- 60 are major prophecies (specific)
- Mathematical possibility of just 8 major prophecies fulfilled in 1 person is 10 to 17th power!* (ex: Texas filled with silver dollars stacked 7 high & "X" put on 1 dollar then thrown into stack, & blind man picks out that dollar)

Ex. of minor prophecies: Mt. 13:35; Mt. 21:42; Jn. 15:25

*probability taken from Peter Stoner in Science Speaks & quoted in Josh McDowell's The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict, Nelson Publishers, 1966, p. 193.



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ABOV Session 7
Jesus' Early Years

9

Start Video SR-07E End

As we've seen in this session, Old testament prophecies concerning the Redeemer are being fulfilled in Jesus and there are over three hundred of them. Sixty of those prophecies are major, meaning they are specific, like the ones we just read that the Redeemer would be born of a virgin and in Bethlehem.

In our next session, Jesus is 30 years old and begins His ministry.

Slide: A Bible Overview

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