

Jesus: The Complete Story DVD

Birth of Jesus

- I. What's up with the Star of Bethlehem?
 - a. In Dead Sea Scrolls → astrological signs are found
 - b. Astrologers tracked Jupiter (the king of planets)
 - c. King of Judea was symbolized by the sign of Aries
 - i. So astrologers were watching what was going on this sign.
 - d. What was going on in the sky 2000 years ago?
 - i. Remember, present calendar is @ 6 year off because 6th cen. Dennis the Little (6th cen) added up the reign of the kings incorrectly
 - ii. Saturn came into Aries, the moon eclipsed and Jupiter appeared as a morning star.
 - iii. These events could have suggested the coming a king
- II. What about the Magi? Who were these guys?
 - a. They may have been astrologers traveling from the East
 - b. Babylon and Persia = places where astrology flourished.
 - c. What about the gifts of gold frankincense and myrrh?
 - i. Gifts not all that available in the first century: hard to find.
 - ii. Frankincense and myrrh were found in southern Arabia.
 - iii. So perhaps the magi stopped by the ancient city of Petra.
 1. Frankincense and myrrh are popular here.
- III. Did Jesus know he was "special?"
 - a. What about birth outside of marriage?
 - i. Shameful, now and shameful in first century.
 - ii. Honor killings were backed by the law → scandal/dishonor
 - iii. Joseph to the rescue.
 - b. What about the virgin birth?
 - i. No scientific evidence
 - ii. Out of wedlock birth would have made Christianity a laughing stock.
 - iii. Virgin birth is not something highly thought of – so why make it up?
 - c. Nazareth.
 - i. gospels agree on this place of Jesus growing life.
- IV. Jesus in the Temple
 - a. What does archaeology tells us about the Temple?
 - i. Robinson's arch; staircase: Discovered in 1839! Shows us how immense the Temple was.
 - ii. Brain child of Herod the Great
 - iii. Headquarters of the Jewish faith.
 - b. Would Jesus have been shocked by the wealth of the Temple?
 - c. Jesus' first political experience
 - i. Jesus "lost" in Jerusalem
 - ii. Rabbis were like the gatekeepers to the Temple
 - iii. Education of Jesus
 1. Zapped?
 2. Reading/studying/thinking/discussing
 3. Carpentry
 4. Was Jesus immune to turmoil?

5. Sepphoris.....capital of Galilee Hours walk from Nazereth, built during Jesus' life time
 - a. Could this town have had an impact on Jesus?
 - b. Seeing the royalty: :
 - c. Baths: Ritual baths
 - d. Would Jesus have been affected by seeing such wealth?
 - e. Uprising in Sepphoris
 - i. Romans burned it to the ground

V. Politics and Religion of Galilee == hotbed.

- a. Cliffs and caves.
- b. Rebellion not new
- c. Hopes pinned on a savior → messiah → the anointed → Christ.
- d. Jesus fits into a time that is a powder keg

VI. Jesus @ 30

- a. Baptism of Jesus → turning point in Jesus' life.
 - i. Baptismal site : between Mt. Nebo and Jericho 1994 after 7 years found baptismal evidence!
- b. God given task?
- c. Desert temptation. Symbolize Jesus' dilemma: What kind of Messiah to be?
Food/Wealth/Glory = temptation of power
 - i. Did he think he was supposed to be a military messiah?
 - ii. His decision put Jesus on a collision course with death.

VII. The Mission

- a. People losing land / losing hope / thinking of who will come to their aid
- b. God is going to have to help
- c. High hopes of a Messiah....God coming soon!
 - i. Jesus not the first messiah
 - ii. Others were more like military leaders
 - iii. Jesus' plan was very revolutionary
 1. Jesus picks unlikely characters.
 - a. What were fishermen like?
 - i. How could they afford a boat?
 2. Jesus lived out in the open
 3. Jesus included women in his group
 4. Jesus was not targeting the Romans
 - a. 12 apostles – 12 tribes
 - i. a recall to Israel's beginnings
 - ii. God of Justice/Peace/Mercy
 5. Jesus on collision Course with Jewish authorities.
- d. Temple:
 - i. Center for religions and economics and politics; abuse of power.
 - ii. Religious Leaders: Jesus became a harsh critic, but not alone
 - iii. Essenes in Qumran: protest against the priest (JB may have been one.)
 1. Criticized the priests: misspent their \$ big time!
 2. 1967! Lavish lifestyle of the priests
 - a. large houses/fine styles/big ritual baths (private!)
 - b. priests made of point of not mingling with common people / special bridge
 - c. manipulating purity laws: keep undesirables DOWN!

- i. purity had become an obsession/ like a mania (mestruual woman, touching a bed would make bed impure!)
 - ii. Lame, blind = excluded!
 - iii. These were the people Jesus wanted to reach!
 - e. How did Jesus challenge the system? (not the call of arms many expected!)
 - i. Cured the sick and infirmed : pool of Bethsaida, stirred waters = healing
 - ii. Reached out to those the religious leaders kept out!
 - 1. Paralyzed man/prostitutes/tax collectors
 - iii. What is up with Jesus' healing and how could this have helped his cause?
 - 1. There is proof that health was a concern
 - a. 50% died before 18 / most died in their 30's!
 - b. big portion of population was sick or infirmed.
 - 2. Pool of Bethsaida: the outcasts "bathed" separate for the "clean people"
 - 3. Evidence of other healers at the time of Jesus
 - 4. But Jesus was different → he was executed
 - a. He used his gift of healing to defy the Temple system.
 - i. Told a leper to go to the priest (connection of sin/sickness)
 - b. Jesus brought people BACK into Society! WOW!
- f. Why was Jesus killed? He must have done something more
 - i. Tax system was a huge burden.
 - ii. Tax collectors did the Roman's dirty work and kept "a cut" for themselves! UGH!
 - 1. Jesus welcomed the tax collectors
 - 2. Jesus welcomes the sinner!!!! What is Jesus doing with a harlot? Seen with unimportant people.
 - 3. Jesus ate with undesirables! Yuck!
 - iii. Sinners: Only God could forgive them? Jesus took matters into his own hands.
 - 1. Only priest could forgive them
 - 2. Jesus challenged that – he's upstaging the Temple.
 - 3. Presuming he is speaking for God: He is by passing the system, like issuing a passport
 - a. Loving neighbor as himself: Jesus believed this was following the LAW!
 - iv. Jesus rattled the priesthood / and overturning the social structures
 - 1. Therefore he is seen as a dangerous character.
 - v. Parables: unsettling stories.
 - 1. Good Samaritan
 - 2. Meaning of the parable. Samaritans were neighbors Loving your neighbor meant loving your enemy. Not about helping the stranger!
 - 3. Breaking barriers.....run risk of being destroyed by the collapse of the barrier.
 - vi. Sermon on the Mount
 - 1. Beatitudes: edited and shaped ideas that may have been said at different times.
 - 2. Lord's prayer. Themes of Jesus.
 - a. Aramaic still spoken in parts of Syria.
 - 3. Use of violence → uncompromisingly NO: puzzling sayings in the Sermon on the Mount
 - a. Turn other cheek reaffirms one's dignity.
 - b. Rules out path of violence that was used before.
 - c. Fighting evil with evil → evil wins. Different way to fight evil!
 - vii. Message to the Gentiles: this causes outrage.

1. Jesus overturns the expectations. / BREAKING BARRIERS.
2. Was Jesus only sent to heal the Jews: Seems as though the answer is NO!
- viii. Jesus makes a stand right away, the time is urgent.
 1. Decides not to stay in Galilee but to go to Jerusalem!
 2. Galilee to Jerusalem to confront the Temple Priests.
 3. Jesus used Symbolic power of healings and parables in Galilee, now what about in Jerusalem?
 4. Under the noses of the priests.
 - a. Priests knew about the arrival of a messiah! “knew what it would look like”
 - b. Prophet Zechariah – riding in on a donkey, a man of peace
 - c. Making a grand entrance: thus challenging the priests head on.
 - d. Seems to be DELIBERATELY acting on the prophecies
 - e. Consciously acting out God’s judgment on the Temple
 - f. Priests would have been OUTRAGED
- ix. In Jerusalem during Passover. A dangerous week to enter this city.
 1. Passover, celebration of the freedom of the Exodus.
 2. Jammed packed --- a “tinder box” one spark...oh no!
 3. Pontius Pilate would have had to leave his cozy quarters to make the journey to Jerusalem.
 4. Huge concern that riots would erupt.
 5. Therefore the Romans would have been on guard.
 6. So, did Jesus plan it this way?
- x. Jesus in the Temple
 1. Confrontation with the money changers.
 2. Saw the evils he denounced earlier!
 3. Impure coins had to be exchanged for “pure” coins
 4. The impure people were kept OUT!
 5. Jesus NOT happy with the exclusion!
 6. Overturn of money changers.....as if Jesus is “burning the flag” This was a huge statement on the part of Jesus! OH NO.
 7. No longer could Jesus be ignored!
 8. Everything done earlier would have given him support and get him into trouble!
 9. The outcome would decide the fate of his mission.