

# Listening Guide

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## **I. Introduction to the Life of Christ**

[1] What is important to keep in mind as we read an account from any one of the four gospels?

[2] But nevertheless in a survey series it is also helpful to...

[3] As you consider these two important points, which do you find easier to do? Why?

## **II. Chronological Overview**

[4] When was Jesus born?

[5] What year was that in Roman time?

[6] What was the point from which Roman time was calculated?

**A. Date of Christ's Birth**

[7] How did the Jews calculate time?

[8] What explains Dionysius's miscalculation of Jesus' birth date?

[9] Explain why – based on Josephus's writings – Jesus' birth date was calculated as early as 6 BC.

**B. Dating of Christ's Childhood and Ministry**

[10] What event is recorded about Jesus' childhood?

[11] According to Luke 3:1 how old was Jesus when he began His ministry?

[12] If we add the historical note recorded in John 2:20, what date do we place on the start of Jesus' ministry?

[13] What are the two primary ways we try to calculate the date of Jesus' crucifixion?

[14] What does John's Gospel add to the chronological mix?

[15] What way – other than chronology did the gospels group material?

### **C. Chronological Outline of Jesus' Ministry**

[16] What are the three major stages of Jesus' ministry and what is the approximate time of each stage?

### **III. Jesus' Birth and Childhood**

[17] Which two gospels describe Jesus' birth and childhood?

[18] Are they similar or dissimilar in their description?

[19] Describe in a couple of sentences how you feel about that discrepancy?

**A. Matthew and Luke: Two Different Genealogies**

[20] What two ways to scholars explain the differences in Matthew's and Luke's accounts?

a.

b.

[21] To tie Jesus in with the Old Testament and His Jewish heritage Matthew's choice of material in chapters 1 and 2 is concerned with what 2 emphases of Jesus' birth?

[22] What 2 Old Testament characters did Matthew relate Jesus to in chapter 1?

[23] What is significant about the prophecies presented in Matthew 2?

## **B. Matthew's Account**

**[24]** What two ways did Matthew present prophecy?

a.

b.

**[25]** Take note of Blomberg's illustration of the virgin in Isaiah's prophecy. Listen (or read) carefully to this explanation. It is an important point of how the New Testament writers sometimes use Old Testament references.

## **C. Luke's Account**

**[26]** What character did Luke tie very closely to Jesus in chapters 1 and 2?

**[27]** In this section, Blomberg discusses differences between Jesus and John. What is the most significant difference between them?

**[28]** What ceremony did Jesus fulfill at age 12 that Jewish boys still practice today?

## **D. Comparison of Matthew's and Luke's Accounts**

### **IV. John the Baptist**

**[29]** Who, after Jesus, is the most prominent character in all four Gospels?

**[30]** What did repentance mean in the Jewish context?

**[31]** Who were the last group of people to minister like John the Baptist ministered?

**[32]** Since Jesus was not being baptized because of some sin, why then was He baptized?

### **Reflection**

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson

## **Application**

John the Baptist was a distinctive character and was known for his unreserved commitment to the ministry God had given him. Have you considered how God has made you as a unique and distinctive character? What are your greatest interests? And Strengths? How can or does God use you in His service? How devoted are you to being your best as the specific person God created you to be? What do you want to be known for?