

# Bethel Bible Series

## A Light in the Darkness

### NT Study 7

Christianity must have come from God because man could not come up with the concept of **GRACE**. - PK

Welcome

Opening - How do you explain the good news of Jesus Christ to others?  
Prayer Requests and Opening Prayer

## Review of Last Week - *Jesus the Savior*

Jesus the Savior

Did God send Jesus to save the Jews?

Isaiah 49:6

Are all of God's people going to join Him in heaven?

Matthew 7:13-14

What is this narrow road, the only true way to eternal life in heaven?

John 14:6

Picture Concepts

*Great Waterfall*

*Broken Boats*

*Person Clinging to Cross*

*Large Pointed Rock*

*Second Pointed Rock*

*Third Pointed Rock*

*First Grave*

*Second Grave*

*Third Grave*

*Cross Spanning Chasm*

*Ascending Stairway*

*Pathway to Placid Lake Scene*

## Lesson - *A Light in the Darkness*

Purpose of the Gospels

Were the gospels intended to tell the complete history of Jesus?

John 21:25

Why were the gospels written?

John 20:30-31

Luke 1:1-4

Mark 1:1

Matthew 28:19-20

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#### Mark (John Mark)

First and shortest of the four Gospels

Mark was Peter's "interpreter" and wrote down what Peter said about Jesus

Christians gathered in Mark's home for prayer while Peter was in prison (Acts 12:12)

Peter called Mark his "son" (1 Peter 5:13) and went to Mark's home when freed from prison

Mark joined Paul and cousin Barnabas on Paul's first journey as far as Perga (Acts 13:5, 13)

With Barnabas on second journey (Acts 15:36-40); Worked with Timothy (2 Tim 4:11)

With Paul, and later Peter, in Rome (Colossians 4:10)

Written to Gentiles while Mark was in Rome

Hebrew expressions and Jewish customs are explained

Uses Latin and Roman terms when Greek might be unfamiliar or confusing

A Gospel of Action

Emphasizes Jesus' deeds rather than words

Includes few parables but most of Jesus' miracles

Uses the word "immediately" 41 times

Uses "and" frequently to keep stories moving

(29 of the 35 verses in the Greek of Chapter 3 begin with "and")

Records Jesus' Actions (*Crossways 42*)

Ministry took place in and around Galilee, Jerusalem only at end of ministry

Anointed at baptism as the Messianic King in the form of a Servant

Miracles fall into four groups:

Isaianic signs (fulfillment of Isaiah prophesy - healing)

Miracles over nature

Miracles over the demonic realm

Miracles over the power of death

#### Matthew (Levi)

Tax collector under Herod Antipas of Galilee (Matthew 9:9)

Only apostle called individually (statement to Christ's grace)

Tax collectors were despised and rejected by the Jews

Education and intelligence were required for tax collectors

Written for Jewish Christians

Serves as a bridge between the Old Testament and the New Testament

Demonstrates that Jesus is the promised Messiah

Focuses on Jesus as fulfillment of Old Testament prophesy

Quotes 50 times from OT, alludes to OT passages 70 more times

Presents Jesus as the New Israel (*Crossways 44*)

Taken into Egypt,

Anointed at baptism,

Tempted 40 days in wilderness,

Gave God's Law in Sermon on the Mount,

Lived role of Davidic King in the form of a Servant,

Exiled for sins of the world through death on the cross,

Returned from exile in the resurrection,

Promised His presence and His return in glory.

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Luke

The longest and most literary of the four Gospels

Combined with Acts, accounts for 25% of the NT, more than Paul's letters

The only Gentile to write a New Testament book

Paul's "beloved physician" and companion on his journeys (Acts 16:10; 20:5-6; 27:1)

Contracted by Theophilus to write a full and orderly account (Luke 1:1-4; Acts 1:1)

Written in a polished Greek style, translates Aramaic and Latin words to Greek

Gospel of Contrasts

the rich man and Lazarus

the Pharisee and the publican

the prodigal and the elder brother

Mary and Martha

the penitent and the impenitent thieves on the cross

the Messiah of the Jews and the Savior of all mankind

Comparison with Matthew and Mark (*Crossways 45*)

Infancy narrative - Matthew and Luke

Passion Predictions - Each has three (*numbers indicate chapters*)

Post-resurrection appearances - Galilee in Matthew and Mark, Jerusalem in Matthew and Luke

Ascension - Only Luke

Synoptic (*seen together, with the same eyes*)

Similar structure, same geography and time plan, same passion histories

John (Son of Zebedee)

Last written and most theological of the four Gospels

John was "the disciple whom Jesus loved" (John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20)

Wrote Gospel in old age, before writing Revelations

Written around themes, not chronological (A spiral, not a straight line)

92% of its material is unique, not included in the synoptic gospels

Most of Jesus' time is spent around Jerusalem

20% of its material is devoted to the upper room scene

39% of its verses recount lengthy sermons

Written to strengthen Christians, not as a missionary appeal

John displays Jesus' humanity, and reports unmistakable claims of His deity

The language is richly symbolic

Common words are given deep theological meaning and used repeatedly

The Identity of Jesus (*Crossways 46*)

Important titles are given to Jesus already in Chapter 1

Jesus replaced the "foundation stone" of the temple where God and man meet

Jesus' titles climax with Thomas' confession that Jesus is Lord and God

The first 12 chapters show that Jesus replaces Jewish institutions and feasts

Jews said that resurrection, judgment and eternal life come at the end of time

Jesus said the believer can possess them here and now in this life

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### *A Light in the Darkness*

#### *Dark Clouds Over Earth*

Isaiah 8:20-22

#### *Manger Scene*

Isaiah 9:1-2, 6 (next verses)

#### *Light Surrounding the Christ Child*

John 12:46

John 1:4-9

#### *Cross and Thorns*

John 3:19-21

John 12:35-36a

Mark 15:33

#### *White Clouds and Beam of Light*

Genesis 50:20

Colossians 1:12-14

#### *Infant Hands and Crucified Hands*

Luke 23:33

#### *Golden Crown*

Luke 23:42-43

2 Peter 1:11

#### *Ring of Light Encircling Globe*

John 8:12

Ephesians 5:8-14

1 Peter 2:9

Closing Prayer

Summary

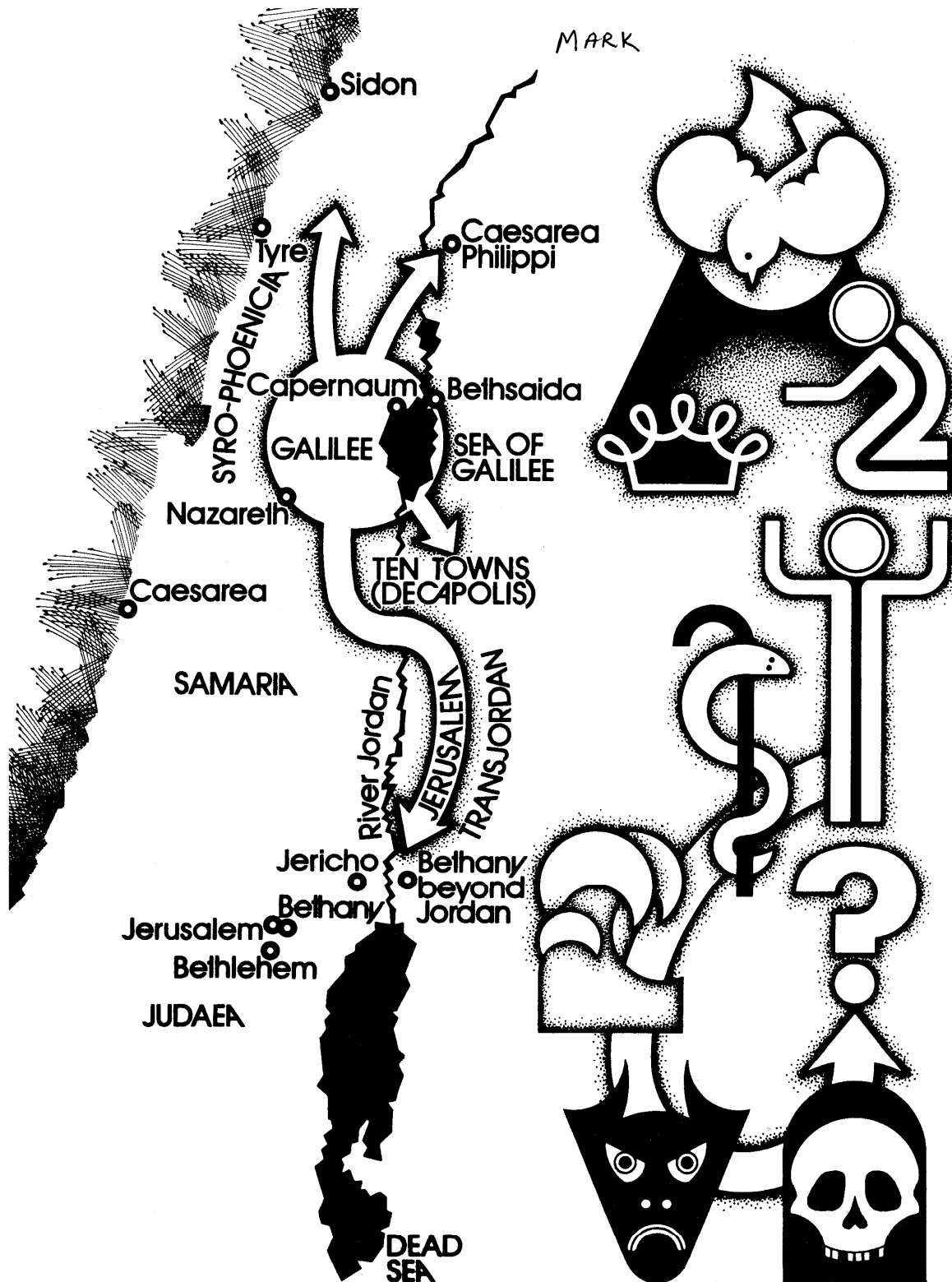
Distribute Materials

Next Week - *The Empty Tomb*

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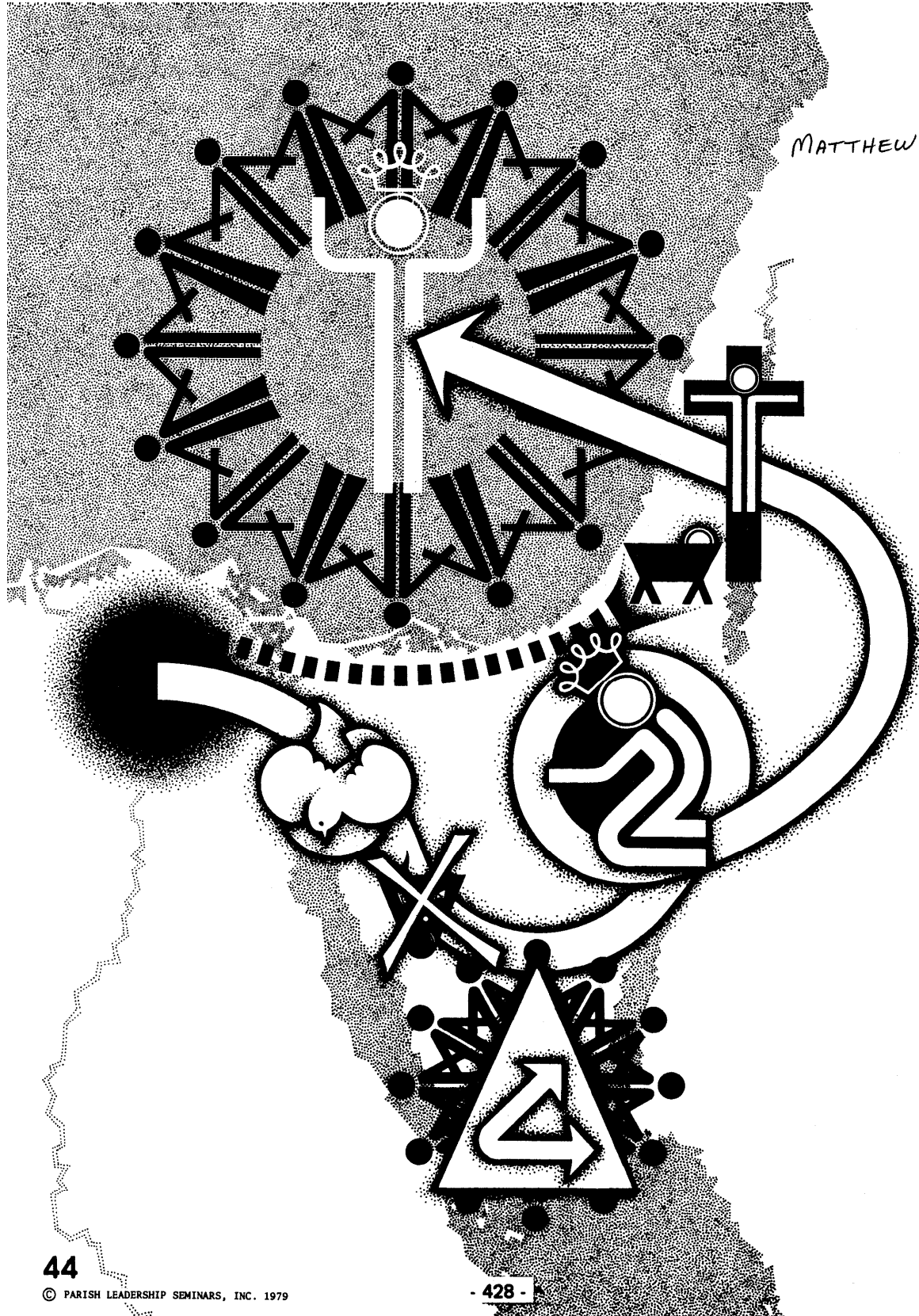
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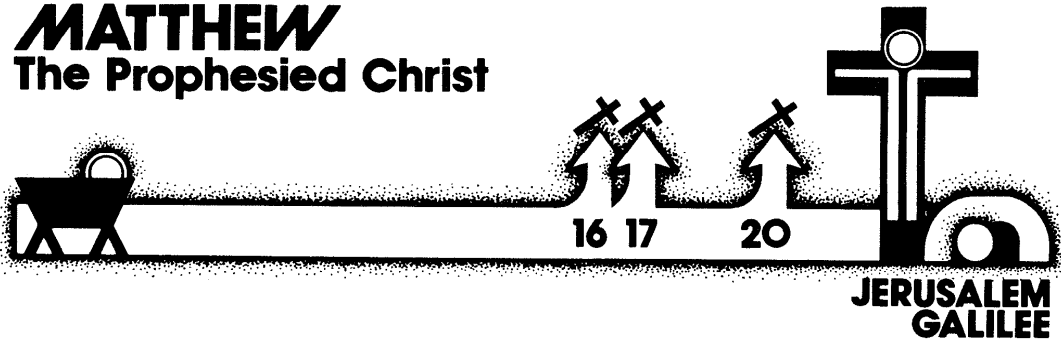
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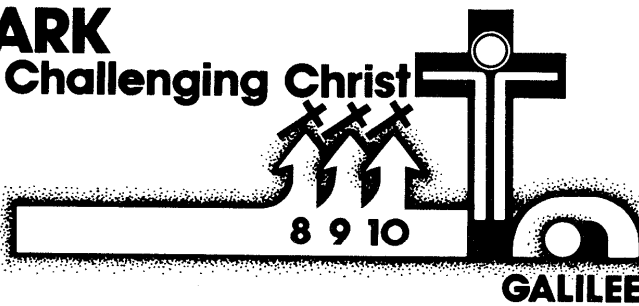
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LUKE

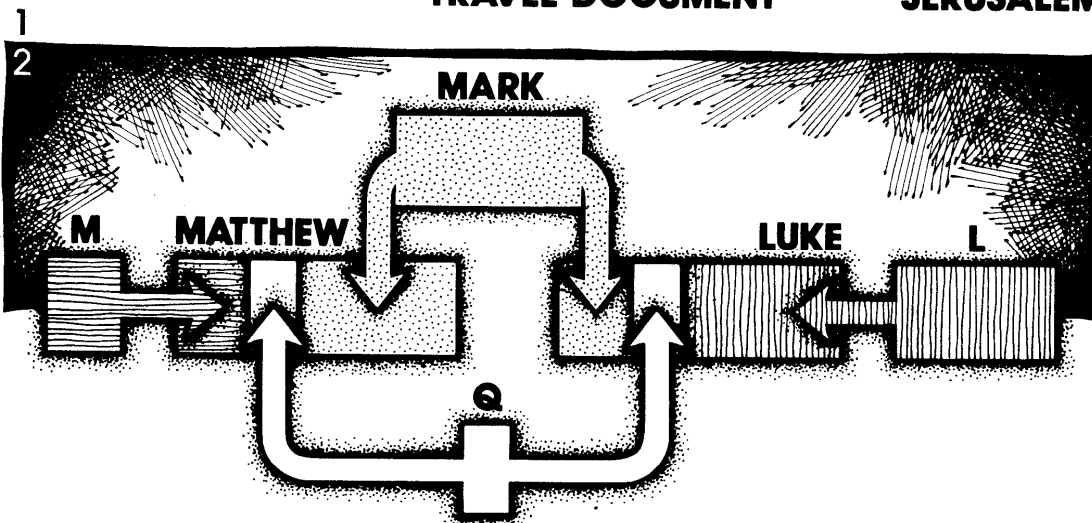
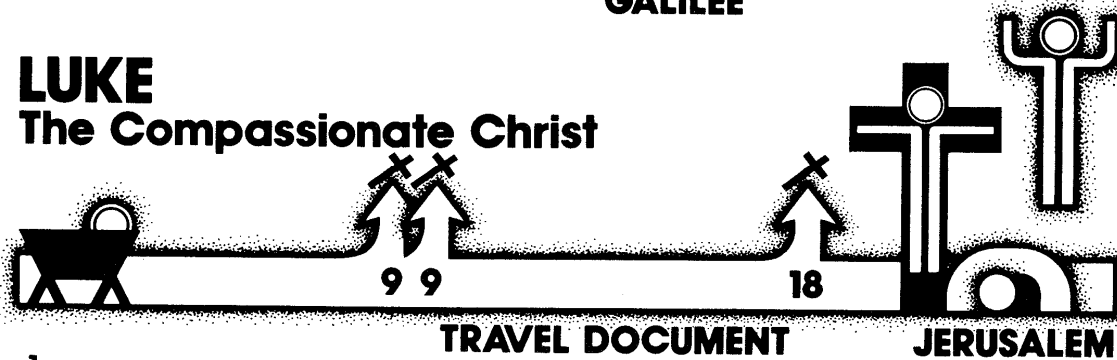
### **MATTHEW** The Prophesied Christ



### **MARK** The Challenging Christ



### **LUKE** The Compassionate Christ

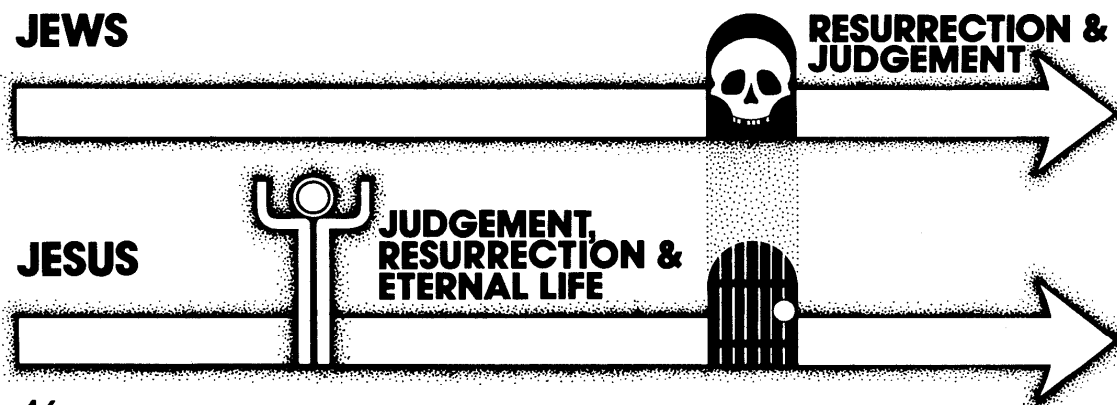
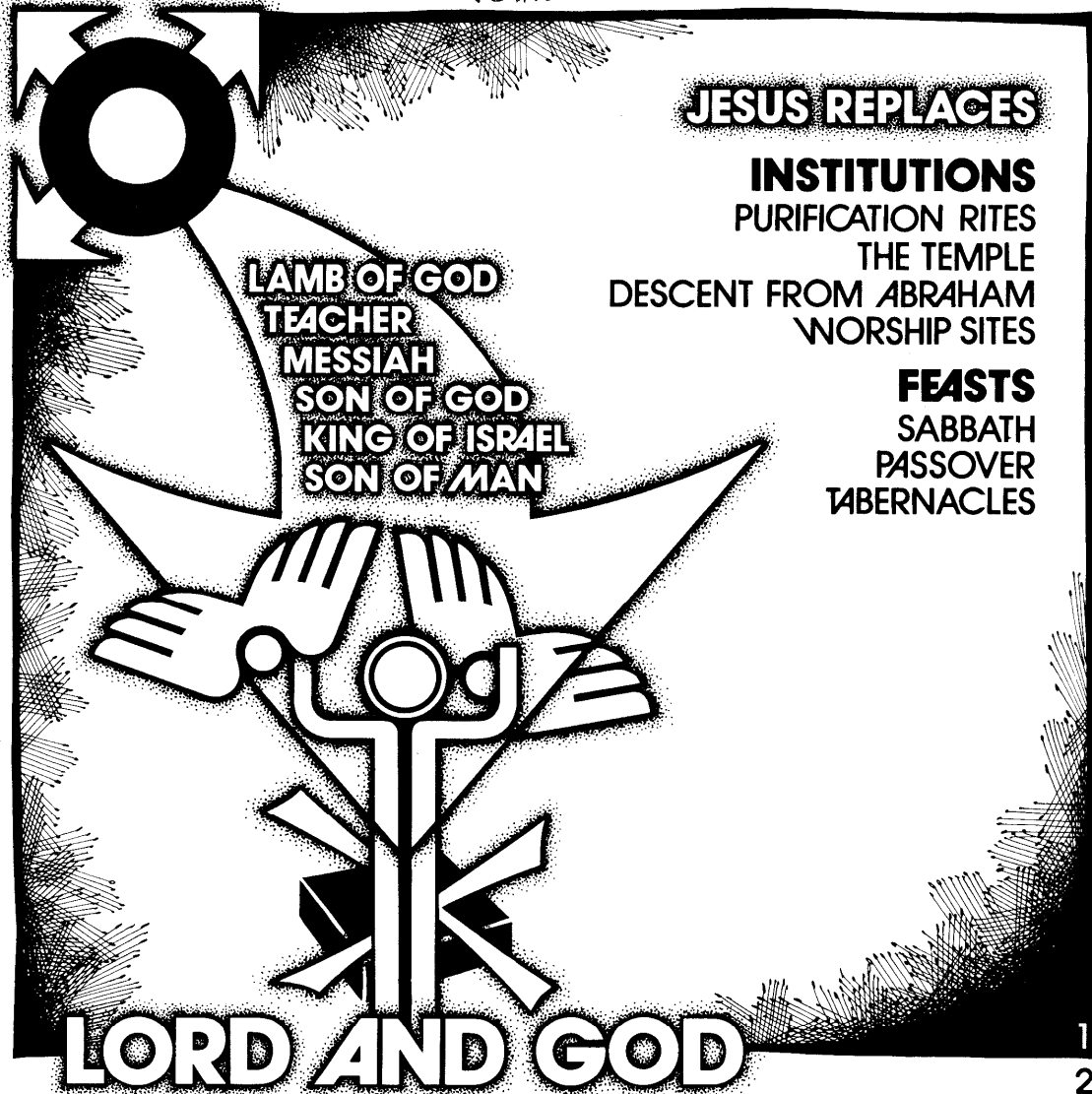


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JOHN



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