

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? = Jesus came to save all people, Jews were just vehicle
Isaiah 49:6 = Too small a thing ... to restore ... Israel .. salvation to the ends of the earth
Are all of God's people going to join Him in heaven?
Matthew 7:13-14 = No, the road is narrow, only a few find it
What is this narrow road, the only true way to eternal life in heaven?
John 14:6 = Jesus is *the way* ... *No one comes to the Father except through Me*

Picture Concepts

Great Waterfall = The human predicament of eternal death resulting from sin
Broken Boats = Man's attempts to save himself are inadequate
Person Clinging to Cross = God's saving act in Christ solved human predicament
Large Pointed Rock = Jesus saves from God-imposed and Self-imposed Separation
Second Pointed Rock = Jesus saves from guilt and from a "sense of guilt"
Third Pointed Rock = Jesus saves from the threat and power of evil (God's armor)

First Grave = Jesus saves from spiritual death
Second Grave = Jesus saves from temporal death (dead lives)
Third Grave = Jesus saves from eternal death

Cross Spanning Chasm = Jesus brings man to God and the blessings of His plan
Ascending Stairway = Jesus cross gives a pathway to God's eternal mansion
Pathway to Placid Lake Scene = God's salvation includes redemption of creation

Lesson - *A Light in the Darkness*

Purpose of the Gospels

Were the gospels intended to tell the complete history of Jesus?
John 21:25 = No, they barely touch on what Jesus did
Why were the gospels written?
John 20:30-31 = *That you may believe that Jesus is the Christ ... and may have life*
Luke 1:1-4 = *So you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught*
Mark 1:1 = To tell *the beginning of the gospel* (good news) *about Jesus Christ*
Matthew 28:19-20 = To preserve Jesus' story to fulfill His Great Commission

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Mark (John Mark) = Mark is Roman name, John is Jewish name

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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Dark Clouds Over Earth = Evil covered God's earth in darkness

Isaiah 8:20-22 = *No light of dawn...only distress, darkness, gloom...utter darkness*

Manger Scene = Into this darkness the Redeemer came as an innocent child

Isaiah 9:1-2, 6 (next verses) = *People in darkness have seen a great light...to us a child is born*

Light Surrounding the Christ Child = The Messiah brought God's light into the dark world

John 12:46 = *Jesus came as a light so no believer should stay in darkness*

John 1:4-9 = *The light shines in darkness, but the darkness has not understood*

Cross and Thorns = Men loved the darkness and crucified the source of light

John 3:19-21 = *Men loved darkness...evil hates the light...won't come into light*

John 12:35-36a = *Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you*

Mark 15:33 = *Darkness came over the whole land*

White Clouds and Beam of Light = God turned this evil deed into a victory

Genesis 50:20 = *You intended to harm...but God intended it for good...save lives*

Colossians 1:12-14 = *God rescued us from darkness into His kingdom of light*

Infant Hands and Crucified Hands = Baby's hands reached and took world's sins to a cross

Luke 23:33 = *there they crucified Him*

Golden Crown = Christ's eternal kingdom was ushered in by His death

Luke 23:42-43 = *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom...*

2 Peter 1:11 = *... into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*

Ring of Light Encircling Globe = Jesus is the Light of the World

John 8:12 = *I am the light of the world...Whoever follows Me...will have the light of life*

Ephesians 5:8-14 = *Live as children of light...expose the deeds of darkness*

1 Peter 2:9 = *Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light*

Closing Prayer

Summary = Go back over picture concepts

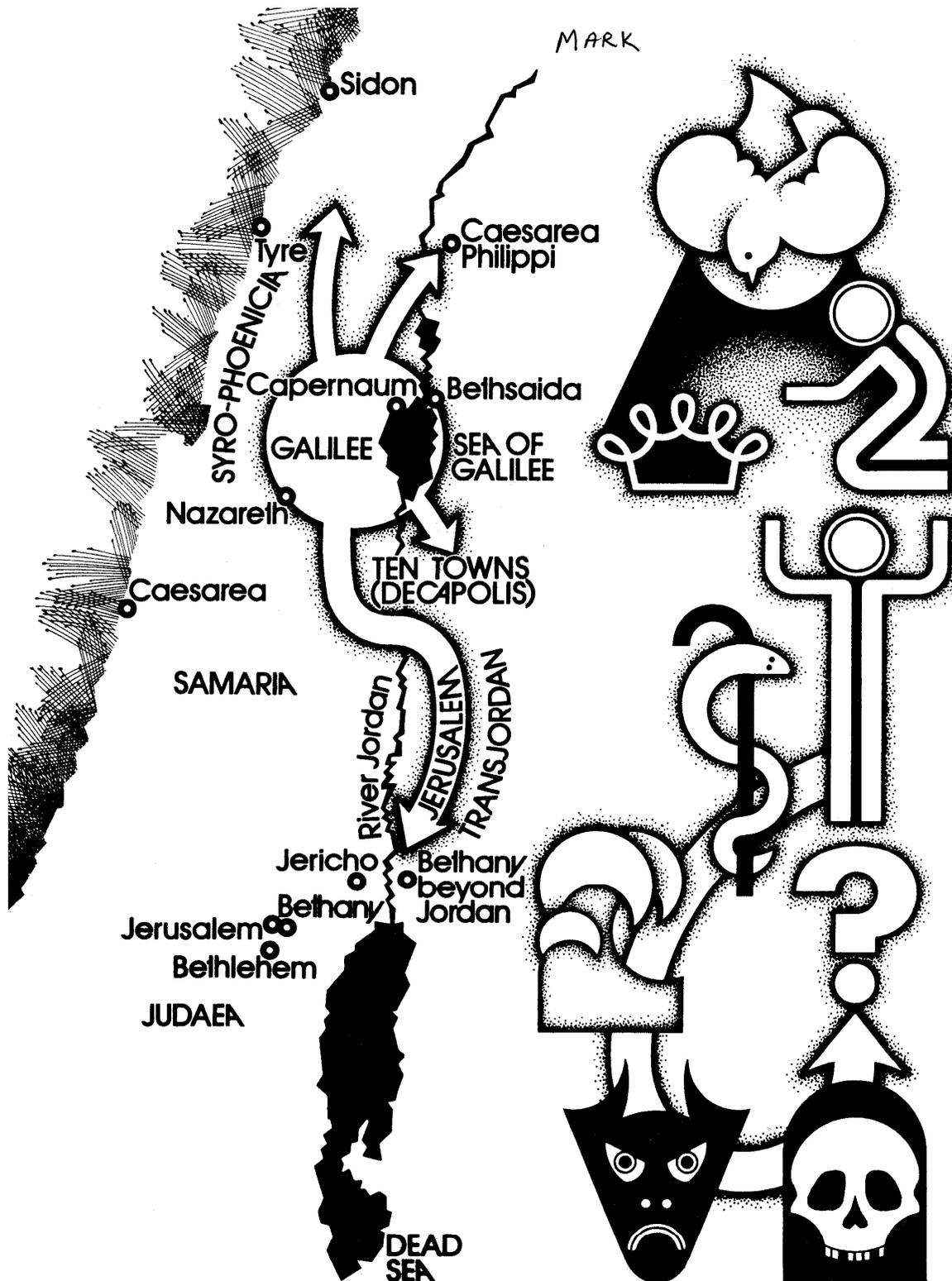
Distribute Materials = Hand out Study 7 and Assignment 8

Next Week - *The Empty Tomb*

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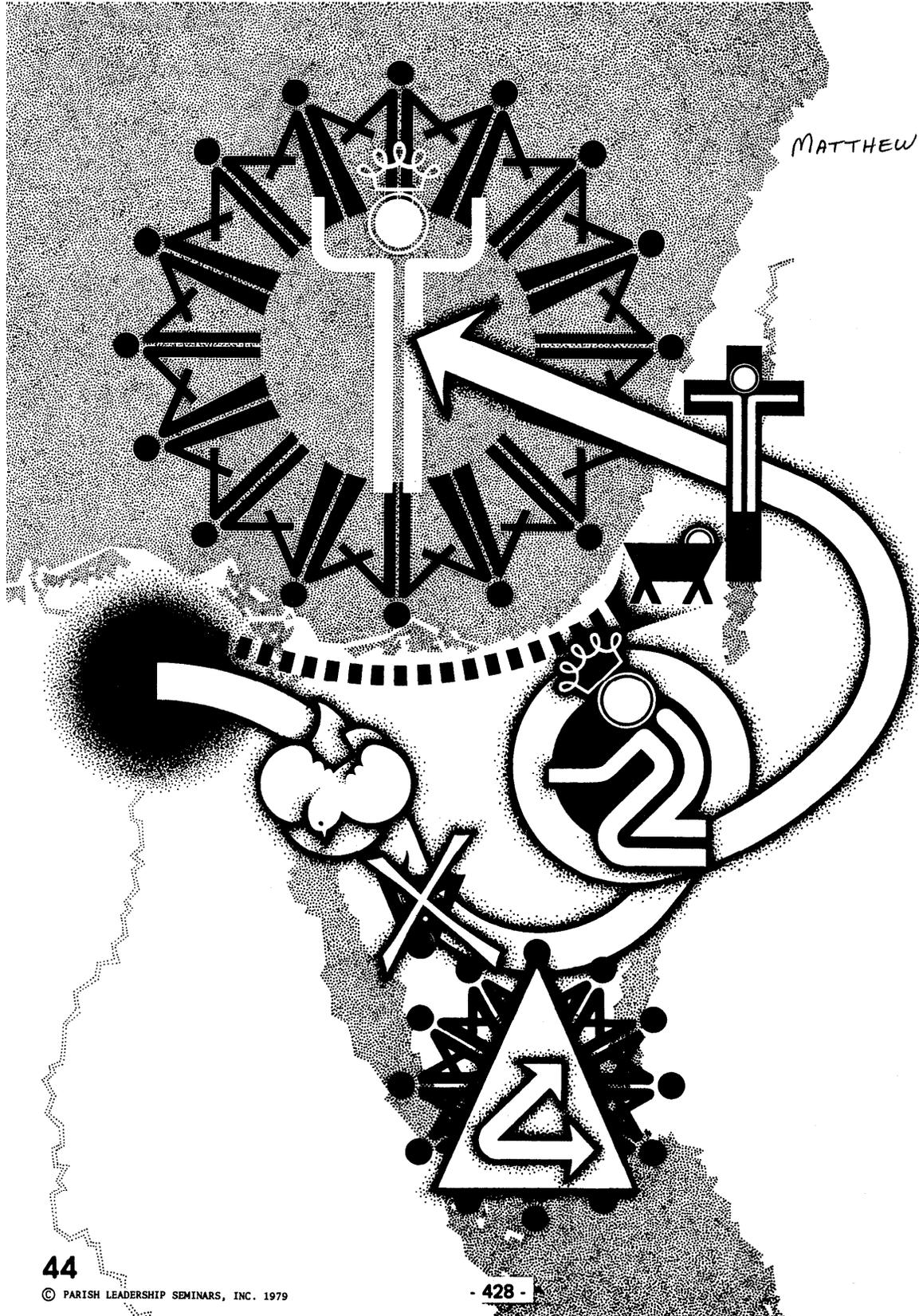
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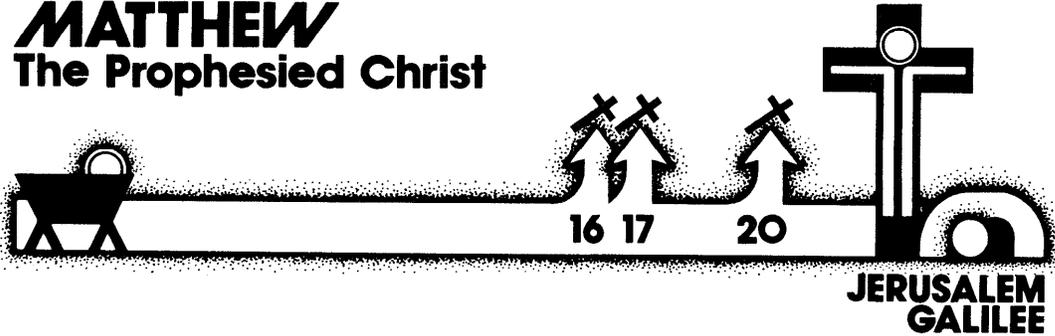
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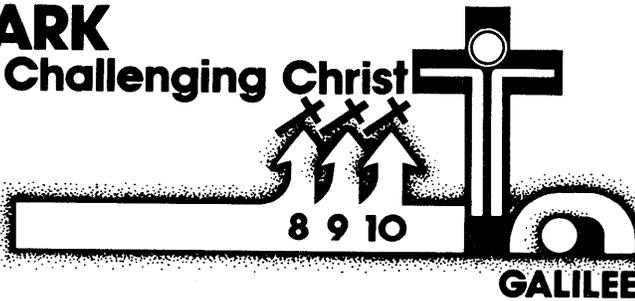
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LUKE

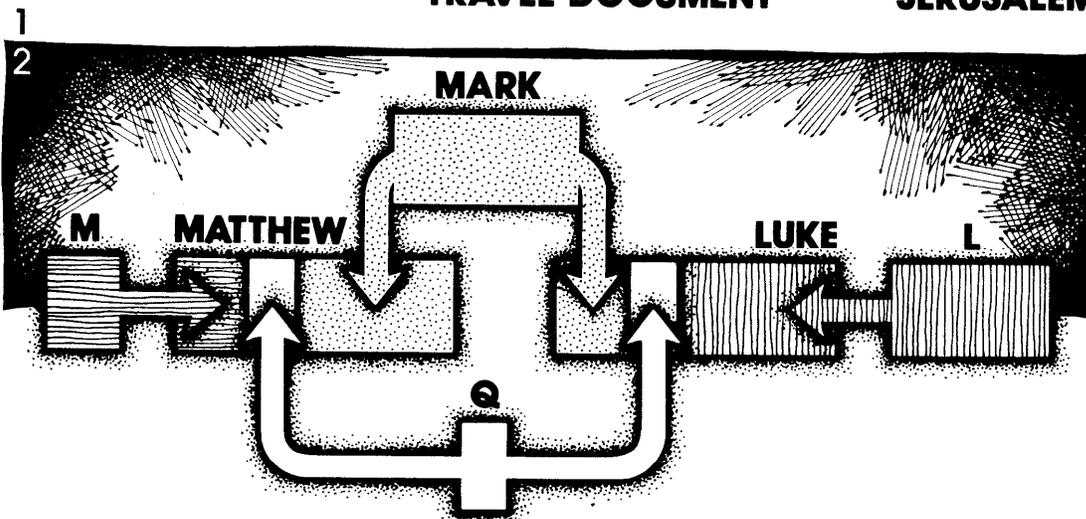
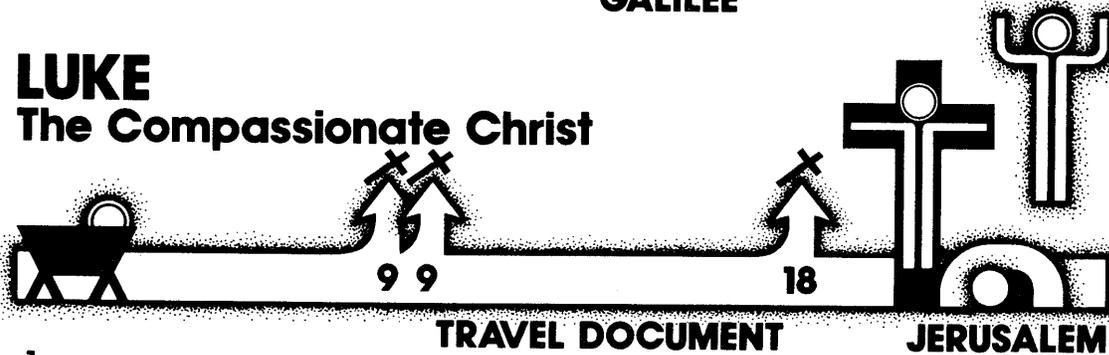
MATTHEW The Prophesied Christ



MARK The Challenging Christ



LUKE The Compassionate Christ



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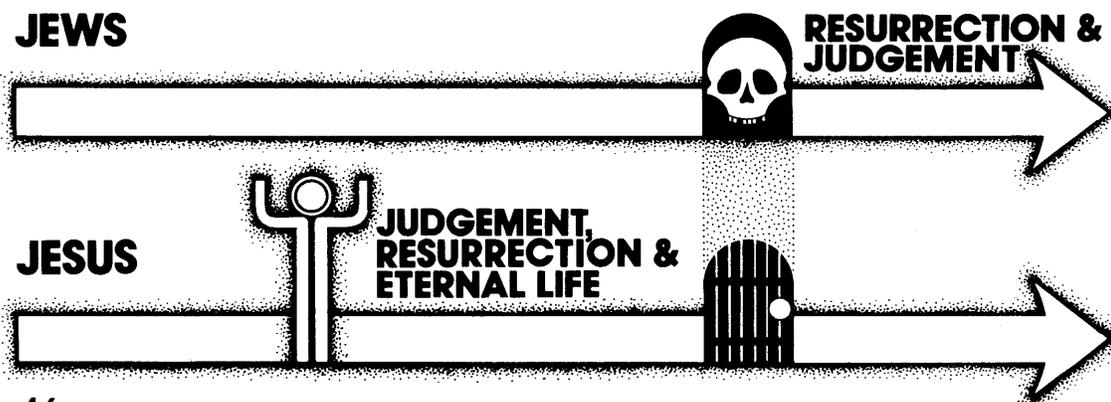
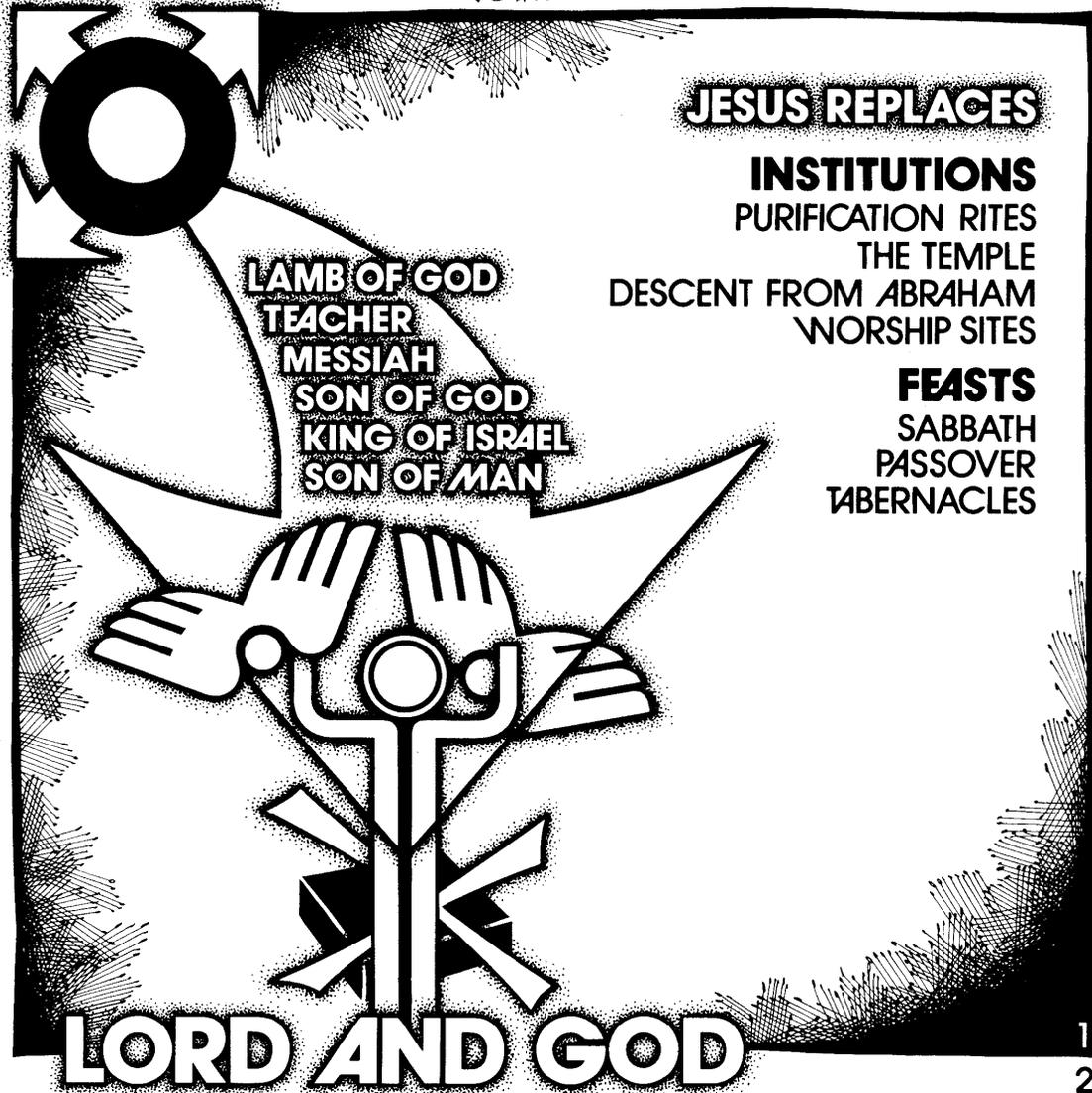
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JOHN



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