

# They met the Lord Jesus

Daily Bible readings  
introducing the Lord Jesus

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You will see from the above list that all readings are from the New Testament, which is the second part of the Bible.

## Foreword

Many people claim to believe in Jesus, but do not really know what he is like. When Christians think about Jesus, the word 'GREATNESS' often comes to mind. Why is Jesus so great?

The Lord Jesus is the greatest Prophet ever to have walked this earth, but he is more than a Prophet. He is the holy Son of God who took a human body when he came into the world. Many consider his claim to be God's Son as blasphemy because this is the same as saying that he is God. The Bible, which is God's holy word, clearly affirms that Jesus is God and that he has always existed (John chapter 1, verses 1 to 18; Philippians chapter 2, verses 5 to 8).

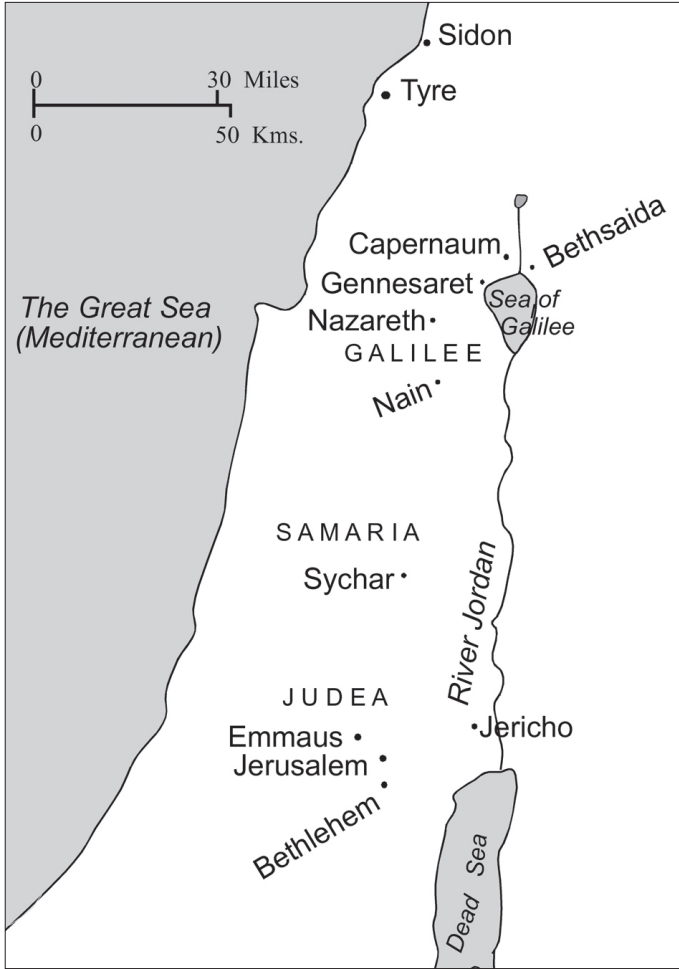
The Bible teaches us that Jesus created all things (Colossians 1, verses 15 and 16). He created the vast galaxies and the world in which we live. He is the God who designed the smallest atom and the many beautiful things around us. He has infinite wisdom and power! The angels worship him (Hebrews chapter 1, verses 1 to 12). No prophet has ever been like him.

The Gospels do not give us any detailed physical description of the Lord Jesus and we do not know what he looked like. We cannot see him and we cannot know him in the same way as those who met him when he lived on earth. Most of those who met him, however, were astonished at his teaching, his wisdom and his power to heal the sick and to raise the dead.

Jesus is wonderful in all his ways, but not everyone welcomed him when he lived on earth; some even hated him. He said that he would suffer and die at the hands

of wicked people and that he would rise from the dead. This happened just as he had prophesied. He appeared many times to his disciples over a period of forty days before he returned to heaven. We can know him as our Saviour, Lord and dearest Friend. This booklet has thirty-one undated Bible readings which introduce us to the Lord Jesus. I pray that all my readers will find it helpful.

**Alec Taylor**



Map covering places mentioned in these notes

## Key to notes

- All Scripture quotations are printed in italics.
- The number in brackets, e.g. (6) refers to the verse number in the passage that we are reading; (2:6) refers us to another chapter and verse in the book of the Bible we are reading. If we were reading from the Gospel of Matthew, this would be Matthew chapter 2, verse 6.
- Where verses from other books of the Bible are brought to our attention, the name of the book is also indicated in the brackets, e.g. (Psalm 19:1).
- Where I ask you to compare another verse of Scripture, I prefix the reference with cp. (e.g. cp. John 1:1). I prefer this to the more common abbreviation, cf., which relates to the obsolete word ‘confer’.



*Fearful shepherds*

The Old Testament Scriptures contain many prophecies about the coming of a Saviour. He is known to the Jews as ‘The Messiah’, which means ‘the anointed One’. In Israel kings and priests were anointed with oil when set apart for their important office. Another word for ‘Messiah’ is ‘Christ’. The Lord Jesus is the promised Saviour. He is God’s anointed One (cp. Psalm 2:2). The birth of the Messiah in Bethlehem was prophesied 600 years beforehand (Micah 5:2).

**The coming of the Lord Jesus into the world is one of the most important events in history!** God did not announce the birth of Christ to kings or religious leaders, but to humble shepherds who were guarding their flock at night. They experienced a sudden and unexpected visit from an angel, and were filled with fear at the dazzling sight. The angel reassured them, telling them not to fear because he was bringing them good news. *‘For there is born to you this day in the city of David [Bethlehem] a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord’* (8-11). A multitude of angels joined him in praising God.

Once the angels had gone away, the shepherds hurried to Bethlehem where they found the holy infant in a manger (an animal feeding-trough) as the angel had said. The baby they saw that day was no ordinary infant. He is indeed the Saviour of the world! The shepherds returned to their flock, *glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen* (20). **They would never forget that night when they saw angels and met the promised Saviour!** They had exciting news which they just had to share with others (17-18). The Christian message about the holy Son of God who came to earth to save sinners is wonderful and it is true. It is something to get excited about!

Note: The Holy Bible is divided into two sections: the Old Testament takes us from creation to just over four hundred years before the birth of Christ; the New Testament covers the coming of Christ into the world, his ministry and that of his apostles in the first century AD.

*A popular preacher*

Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, was a relative of Mary, the mother of Jesus (Luke 1:36). They lived in different parts of the country and we haven't any record which shows that John met the Lord Jesus in his early years. John's preaching attracted huge crowds and many people wondered if he were the Messiah (the Christ).

When a delegation of priests and Levites from Jerusalem asked John: '*Who are you?*' he told them that he was not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor '*the Prophet*' (19-21, 24). The Jews were expecting Elijah to return to earth (Malachi 4:5). '*The Prophet*' is another term for the Messiah (Deuteronomy 18:15-18). This great preacher was a very humble man who pointed men away from himself to Christ (15, 23, 26-27). When an eastern king visited one of his provinces, a herald would go ahead of him to give the people time to prepare for the coming of the king. John was the herald who called on the people to prepare for the coming of the Christ among them.

John baptized those who repented of their sins, dipping them in the River Jordan. This was a symbol of the washing away of their sins. Bethabara, where John was baptizing (28), was about thirteen miles south of the Sea of Galilee, on the east bank of the Jordan. The sinless Lord Jesus asked for baptism (Matthew 3:13-14) to show his identification with sinful mankind by his coming to earth as a man.

When Jesus came to be baptized, John pointed him out as '*the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world*' (29). John also testified that Jesus *is the Son of God* who baptizes all who come to him with the Holy Spirit (33-34). This title of Jesus is very significant, showing his equality with God the Father. The Jewish leaders recognized his claim to be equal with God and they hated him for it (5:18). **The almighty Son of God died as a sacrificial Lamb to save sinners. How wonderful! That was John's message and it is ours too!** We are all sinners and we need to be saved. The only Saviour is the Lord Jesus Christ.