

Life of Jesus
NT Survey/Introduction

Chronological Questions

- Introduction
- Birth of Jesus
 - Death of Herod as *Terminus ad quem*
 - Census of Quirinius as *Terminus a quo*

Chronological Questions

- Death of Herod
 - Matt 2:1; Luke 1:5
 - Josephus *Ant* 17.8.1; *War* 1.33.8 – Herod died in the 34th year of his reign
 - Proclaimed King of Judah in 40BCE, reigned as King 37BCE
 - *Ant* 17.6.4 - Died shortly after an eclipse of the moon (March 12/13, 4BCE); after his death, Passover celebrated on April 11, 4BCE

Chronological Questions

- Death of Herod
 - Anytime between March-April 4BC
 - Matt 2:16 - killing of children below age 2

Chronological Questions

- Census
 - Luke 2:1-5
 - Augustus reigned from 44BCE-14CE
 - Problematic passage:
 - No Roman historian specifically recorded this census
 - Reference to Quirinius in *Jos Ant* 17.13.5 and 18.1.1 being the governor of Syria in 6CE
 - Could Luke be WRONG?

Chronological Questions

- Census
 - Could Luke be WRONG?
 - How to reconcile?
- Possible date of Jesus's birth: 4-6BCE

Chronological Questions

- Commencement of the ministry of Jesus
 - 2 dates:
 - The commencement of the ministry of John the Baptist: Luke 3:1-3 → 15th year of Tiberius
 - 28-29CE
 - The first passover of Jesus' ministry
 - John 2:20 → 46 years. See *Jos Ant* 15.11.1 – Temple construction began in Herod's 18th year coinciding with the arrival of Augustus in Syria (15.10.3) → 20-19BCE

Chronological Questions

- Commencement of the ministry of Jesus
 - Possible dates: 29/30CE → about 32-33 years old. See Luke 3:23 – “about 30 years old”

Chronological Questions

- Length of Jesus' Ministry
 - Mark → seems to suggest a few months
 - John → 3 Passovers mentioned (2:13; 6:4; 11:55); could be more if 5:1 taken into account

Chronological Questions

- Death of Jesus
 - Passover – Nisan 14
 - Passover celebrated on Thursday, and Jesus died on Friday → hence possible dates of Passover would be 27, 30, 33 or 36. 27 and 36 would be too early and late respectively.
 - Did Jesus die on 30 or 33?

Chronological Questions

- Death of Jesus
 - Officers on trial:
 - Caiaphas the high priest (Matt 26:3, 57; John 11:49-53; 18:13-14) – began office on 18CE and disposed on 37CE (Jos Ant 18.2.2)
 - Pontius Pilate (Matt 27:2-26; Mark 15:1-15; Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28-19:16) – 26-36CE. Josephus accounts show him to be greedy, inflexible and cruel (Ant 18.3.1; War 2.9.2-4; 167-77). But during Jesus' time, he is submissive to the religious leaders. Why?

Chronological Questions

- Death of Jesus
 - Officers on trial:
 - Pontius Pilate – Story of Sejanus (Philo *Flass* 1; *Leg Gai* 159-61) → Sejanus disposed and executed on Oct 18, 31 after which Pilate had no more protection in Rome. Herod Antipas (reigned from 4BCE-39CE) reported Pilate caused a riot in 32CE during the feast of Tabernacles (Philo *Leg. Gai* 299-305). Hence Pilate was eager to allow Herod Antipas to try Jesus (Luke 23:5-12) → hence both become friends (Luke 23:12)

Chronological Questions

- Death of Jesus
 - Hence 33CE makes better sense.

Chronological Questions: Summary

Date	Event	Major Data
4-6BCE	Birth of Jesus	Death of Herod the Great (4BC); Matt 2:13-20
28-29	Beginning of John the Baptist's ministry	15 th year of Tiberius' rule (Luke 3:1)
29	Beginning of Jesus' ministry	46 years since the completion of the temple (John 2:20)
33	Death of Jesus	Nissan 14 on Thursday

Events in the Life of Jesus

- Birth
- Baptism
- Temptation
- Transfiguration
- Passion Week
- Death
- Resurrection

The Birth of Christ

- The question of the virgin birth in recent scholarship – the denial of virgin birth, and virgin birth as a theological construct (note some statement of faiths: change from virgin(adjective) Mary to Virgin Mary (title)
- Some difficult texts
 - Matt 2:16-18
 - Luke 2:7 – no room in the inn? Christmas story correct?
 - Luke 2:8-20; Matt 2:1-12 – Visit of Shepherds and wise men

Baptism

- Recorded in all 4 gospels
- The voice of the father
 - Allusion to Ps 2 or Isa 42:1

Temptation

- The nature of the temptation
- The order of the temptation account in Matthew and Luke
- The significance of the temptation in light of Jesus' messianic call

The Calling of the Disciples

- See Mark 3:13-19; Matt 10:1-4; Luke 6:12-16

Transfiguration

- The Background: The Event at Caesarea Philippi
- “some will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power...”
- “talking about his exodus (departure)” (Luke 9:30-31)
- The significance of the transfiguration in light of Jesus’ messianic call

The Passion Week

- Palm Sunday – entry to Jerusalem
- Monday – cleansing of the temple
- Tuesday – teaching in the temple
- Wednesday - ?

The Passion Week

- Thursday, after sundown – last supper, prayer in Gethsemane, Betrayal and Arrest
- Thursday-Friday, night time – Custody, hearing before Annas, Trial before Caiaphas, Peter’s denial
- Friday, early morning: Sanhedrin completes deliberations, Jesus sent to Pilate, hearing before Pilate, Jesus sent to Herod Antipas, Return to Pilate
- Friday, late morning, noon – Crucifixion
- Friday, mid afternoon – Jesus dies
- Friday, near sundown – Jesus buried
- Saturday – in the tomb
- Sunday - resurrection

Issue of Dating of the Last Supper

- Contradiction in John’s and the Synoptic Gospels’ account?

The Last Supper

- How to reconcile in Luke there seems to be 2 cups being mentioned, while in other gospels, only 1 cup is mentioned?

The Last Supper: Elements

- Passover lamb – angel of death kept from visiting first born of Israel
- Unleavened bread – swiftness of God’s deliverance
- Salt water – tears shed in their captivity and crossing of Red Sea
- Bitter herbs – bitterness of slavery
- Harosheth – fruit puree, clay used to make bricks
- 4 cups of wine – promises of Ex 6:6-7

The Ceremony: Exodus 6:6-7a; Mishnah *Pesachim* 10

- A blessing
- First cup of wine
– *I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians.*
- The serving of the meal: unleavened bread, bitter herbs, salt water, stewed fruit, and roast lamb

- The youngest son asks, “Why is this night different from other nights?”
- The father/host retells the story of the Passover
- Hallel praise - Psalm 113-115 sung
- Second cup of wine
– *I will free you from being slaves to them*
- Breaking of bread and the eating of the meal

- Third cup of wine at end of meal
 - *I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment*
- Hallel praise - Psalms 116-118 sung
- Fourth cup of wine
 - *I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God*

- Passover**
- Which cup did the gospels refer to?
 - What is the significance that after the third cup, and singing of hymn, the Evangelists portray Jesus leaving immediately....what happen to the 4th cup? Did Jesus deliberately end the Passover meal prematurely?

- The Significance of the Cross**
- The significance of the cross for Jesus
