

# The Life of Christ A-Z

Letter Q: The Ultimate Question Everyone Must Answer (Matthew 16:13-20)

## ANGELS ANNOUNCE (The Pregnancy)

Luke 1:26-38/Matthew 1:18-25

## BIRTH in BETHLEHEM (ala Micah 5:2)

Luke 2:1-7

## CARPENTRY CAREER (in Nazareth)

Matthew 2:23/Mark 6:3

## DOVE DESCENDS (The Baptism)

Matthew 3:1-17/Luke 3:21-23

## ENEMY ENTICES (The Temptation)

Matthew 4:1-11/Luke 4:1-13

## FIRST FOLLOWERS ("Japan")

John 1:35-51

## GREAT GUESTS (1st Miracle: Water to Wine)

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## HARSH HOUSECLEANING (of the Temple)

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## INCREDIBLE INTERVIEW (w/Nicodemus)

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## JIVE at JACOB'S WELL (w/Samaritan Woman)

John 4:1-42

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## LOCATION LATERALED (to Capernaum)

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## MARVELLOUS MESSAGE (Sermon on

Matthew 5:1-7:29 the Mount)

## NATURE NEUTRALIZED ("Sign" Miracles)

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## OPPOSITION OFFERED (No More "Signs")

Matthew 12:14-45/Mark 3:22-30

## PARABLES PROPHECY (InterAdvent Period)

Matthew 13:1-52

## QUIZICAL QUESTIONS (Who Am I?)

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## REALITY REVEALED (The Transfiguration)

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## STONING STOPPED (Jesus Claims Deity)

John 10:22-42

## TOMB TRAUMATIZED (Raising of Lazarus)

John 11:1-53

## UNDERSTANDABLE UPSET (of t/Temple)

Matthew 21:12-17/Mark 11:2-18

## VISION OF VICTORY (Olivet Discourse)

Matthew 24:1-25:46

## WASHING and WISDOM (Upper Room

John 13:1-17:26 Discourse)

## eXPIATORY eXECUTION (The Atonement)

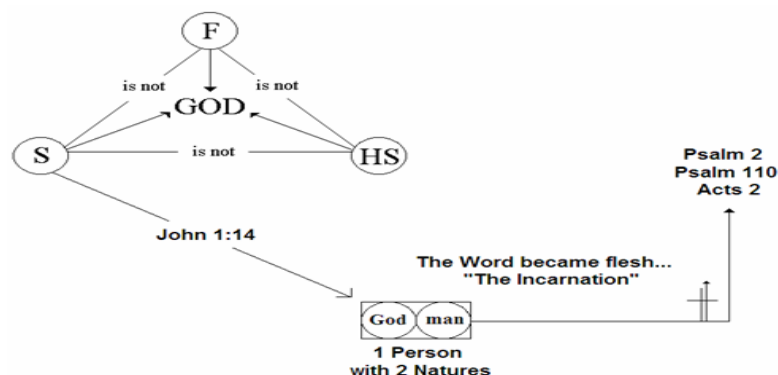
Matthew 27:27-66/John 19:17-42

## YES! YEAH! (The Resurrection)

Matthew 28:1-15/John 20:1-21:25

## ZAPPED from ZION (The Ascension)

Luke 24:50-53/Acts 1:6-11



In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.....the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. John 1:1 and 1:14

# **Matthew 16:13-20**

## **The Ultimate Question Everyone Must Answer**

### **The Setting 16:13a**

#### **The Setting in Space/Place**

Caesarea Philippi-north of Jewish territory, was a center of pagan worship. It was originally named Panias (for the Greek/Roman god Pan) and today it is called Banias. It was renovated by Herod Philip. He then renamed the city in honor of the Roman Emperor and for himself. It was located near (SW of the base of) Mount Hermon-a 9200' tall slab of limestone that is the source of the Jordan River. CP was a good place for Jesus/the 12 to go for a "retreat" away from the rigors of intense people ministry.

#### **The Setting in Time**

Shortly after the public indictment of Jesus by the leaders of Judaism as a satanically possessed false prophet (Matt 12:23-24; Mark 3:22-30). CP was a good place for Jesus to take the 12 to reflect and affirm their faith away from the reach of the critics.

### **A Preliminary Question/Answer 16:13b-14**

#### **A Preliminary Question by Jesus v13b**

Who do people (that is average/regular people) say about Me (now that the Religious Leaders have declared I am a satanically-possessed false prophet)?

#### **The Preliminary Answer by the Disciples v14**

Average people are still saying all kinds of positive/flattering things about Jesus but...

### **The Ultimate Question/Answer 16:15-20**

#### **The Ultimate Question by Jesus v15**

Who do YOU (the 11 believing Apostles) say that I am (now)?

#### **The Ultimate Answer by Peter for the Disciples v16**

Peter speaking for 11/12 of the Disciples:

You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God

## The Meaning and Importance of the Title “Christ”

“Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God” 1 John 5:1

1: The title "Christ" is equivalent to "Messiah/Savior" (John 1:41; 4:25, 29; and 7:41-42 and 1 John 5:1-5). The Old Testament predicted the Messiah would suffer like a Lamb for sins of His people (Isa 52:13-53:12). The Old Testament Prophets (see 1 Peter 1:11) and the New Testament Apostles (see Acts 3:18-20; 18:28; 26:23) affirmed as well.

2: “Christ” is an exclusive title for Jesus of Nazareth, who was/is "THE Christ." John the Baptist denied this title for Himself or to anyone else but Jesus (John 1:20, 25; 3:28).

3: Jesus Himself claims to be "the Christ." In John 10:24-30 our Lord affirms under direct questioning that He is "the Christ." Very interesting in this regard: see John 4:25-26; John 17:3 and Luke 24:26-27.

4: The truth that Jesus is the Christ is the essential content of saving faith (ART: active receptive trust not just mental assent John 1:12/Matthew 8:1-4). This is directly taught in John 20:31 and 1 John 5:1 (the converse is in 1 John 2:22). The purpose statement for the Gospel of John (20:30-31) states, "these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you will have life in His name." 1 John 5:1, "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God..." The Gospel call is in effect an exhortation for people to trust in Jesus as "the/their Christ." This is seen in apostolic appeals in Acts. Notice this consistent theme in the following verses:

**Acts 5:42** And every day in the Temple and from house to house, they kept right on teaching and preaching Jesus as **the Christ**.

**Acts 9:22** But Saul kept increasing in strength and confounding the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that this Jesus is **the Christ**.

**Acts 17:2-3** And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, this Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is **the Christ**.

**Acts 18:5** But when Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul began devoting himself completely to the word, solemnly testifying to the Jews that Jesus was **the Christ**.

**Acts 18:28** And he [Apollos] powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was **the Christ**.

"Christ" is not "the last name" of Jesus. It is a highly significant and unique title specifically identifying Jesus of Nazareth as the Savior of all who trust in Him. To believe in Jesus as "the Christ" involves supernatural enablement (Matthew 16:16-17) and appropriates the gift of everlasting life (zoe/spiritual not bios/physical; 1 John 5:1-5)

### **The Lord Jesus Commends and Reflects Upon the Ultimate Answer v17-19**

1: Receiving Jesus as the Christ involves supernatural divine enablement v17

2: The truth that Jesus is the Christ is the foundation of the NT Church v18

3: The NT C-Church (the pillar/the support of the truth 1 Tim 3:15) is the guardian and the distributor of the saving truth that Jesus is the Christ v19

### **The Lord Jesus Warns the Apostles NOT to Share This Truth (Quite Yet)!?! v20**

Right time/right place...no one but Christ Himself would proclaim the truth of His SAS death/LBSR until AFTER His resurrection (Matthew 28:19-20); now in 2018 it's our turn!

### **Two Especially Important Events Take Place Shortly After This (Letter "Q")**

The First DIRECT Prediction of the Cross by Jesus to the Apostles 16:21

Validation of the Faith of the Apostles (The Transfiguration Letter "R") 17:1-9

## **Take This To Heart**

**The Ultimate Question Everyone Must Answer is**

Who is Jesus?

**The Only Correct Answer**

Jesus is THE Christ! THE Issue/Issuer of Everlasting Life!

**All Other Answers (Even Seemingly Flattering Ones)**

Fall So Far Short of the Reality...They are Inherently Insulting and Blasphemous

All of this is true because our ultimate problem is the fact we have sinned and are spiritually estranged from God with an innate inability to save ourselves. And yet, "God demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." and "to the one who does not work, but who believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his (the ungodly person who believes in Jesus as the/their Christ) faith is reckoned (by God) as righteousness." Believers should reflect deeply about this truth/greatness of the Person and work of Jesus, live consistently with it, share it and defend it for His glory.

# Matthew

## 16:13-20

# Quizzical Questions

# Jesus

[illegible]

# A

**Z**





July 17, 2016

**Montrell  
Jackson,  
BRPD**

**Matthew  
Gerald,  
BRPD**

**Brad  
Garafola,  
EBRSO**

To Stimulate Our Capacity  
for Abstract Thought

How Many Mega-Churches  
Make Sure That EVERYONE  
Loves Their Pastor

PIK - A - PASTOR





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The Setting 16:13a

A Preliminary Q/A 16:13b-14

The Ultimate Q/A 16:15-20



# JESUS' MINISTRY



**O/P**

**REJECTION**

by the National Religious Leaders

**Q/R**

The Crowds  
Gather

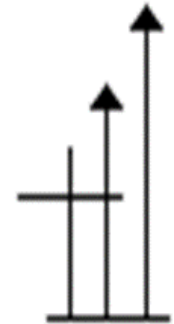
The Crowds  
Scatter

**A/B**

PROCLAMATION  
to the Nation Israel

PREPARATION  
of the Disciples for the World

**X Y Z**



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A person with long hair, seen from behind, stands on a dirt path in a mountainous area. The path is flanked by dry, golden-brown grass and some small shrubs. In the background, there are large, rugged mountains with patches of snow or light-colored rock. The sky is a pale, hazy blue. The overall mood is contemplative and inspiring.

There are far  
better things ahead  
than the ones we  
leave behind.

- C.S. Lewis

Κυριος

LORD

Title

Ιησους

Jesus

Name

Χριστος

Christ

Title

corresponds  
to the OT Word

יהוה

meaning  
"God"

corresponds  
to the OT Word

ישוע

meaning  
"God-Savior"

corresponds  
to the OT Word

משיח

meaning  
"Savior"

# The Bible

## A SYNTHETIC OVERVIEW



### **ONE MAJOR PREMISE:**

All Humans are Sinners/Die...

### **ONE MAJOR PROMISE:**

...the Savior is Coming!

### **ONE MAJOR PREMISE:**

Jesus of Nazareth is the Savior/Alive...

### **ONE MAJOR PROMISE:**

...the Savior is Coming Back!

The Cross

The Crown

Old Testament  
Prophets

Suffering Messiah  
LAMB

Sovereign Messiah  
LION

Who: Jesus of Nazareth

What: He will be slaughtered for sinners

When: 1st Century AD

Where: Arrive in Bethlehem

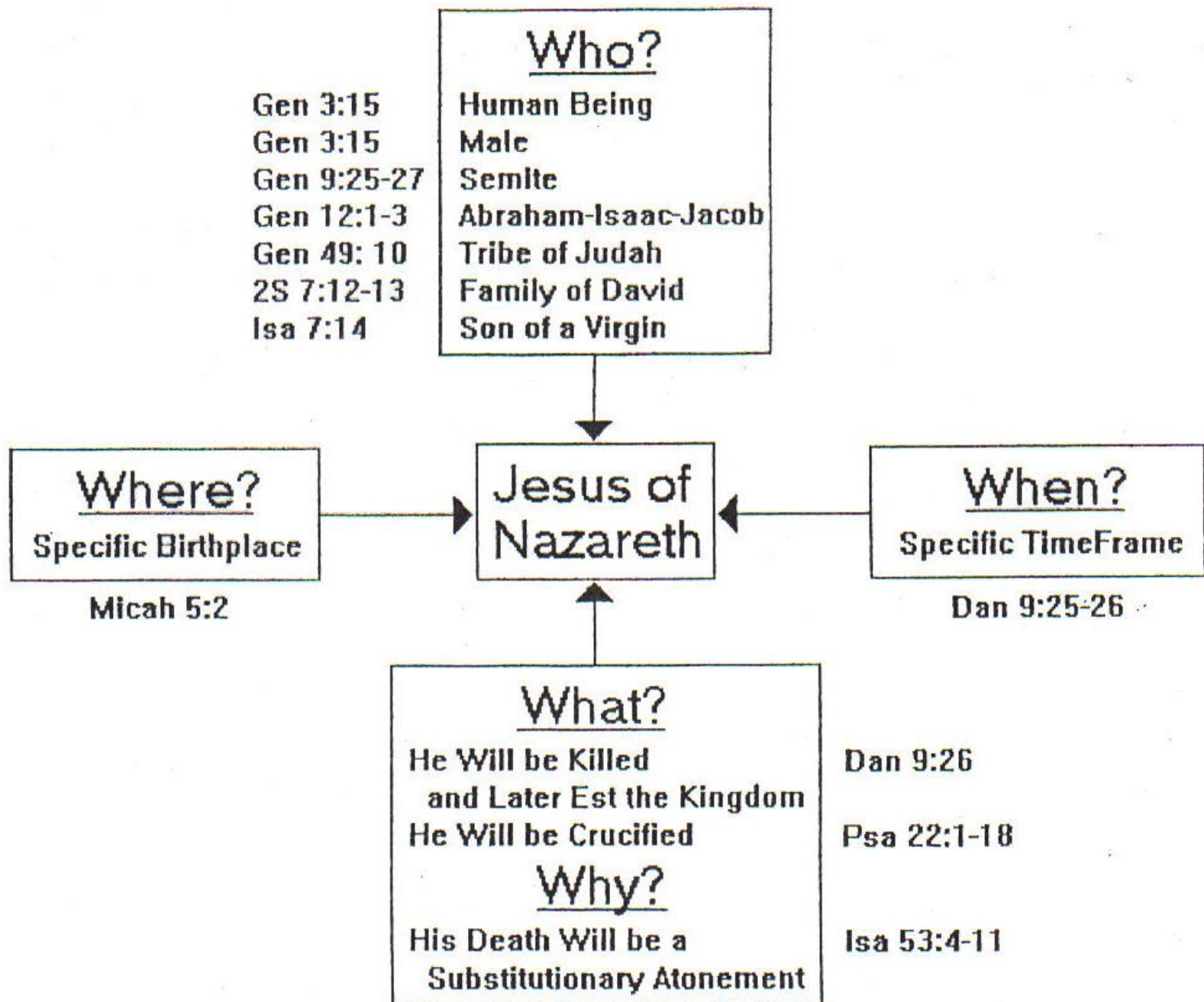
Who: This same Jesus

What: He will slaughter sinners

When: Last Days

Where: Arrive on Mount of Olives







**16:18 on this rock** The word for “Peter,” *Petros*, means a small stone (John 1:42). Jesus used a play on words here with *petra* which means a foundation boulder (cf. 7:24, 25). Since the NT makes it abundantly clear that Christ is both the foundation (Acts 4:11, 12; 1 Cor. 3:11) and the head (Eph. 5:23) of the church, it is a mistake to think that here He is giving either of those roles to Peter. There is a sense in which the apostles played a foundational role in the building of the church (Eph. 2:20), but the role of primacy is reserved for Christ alone, not assigned to Peter. So Jesus’ words here are best interpreted as a simple play on words in that a boulder-like truth came from the mouth of one who was called a small stone. Peter himself explains the imagery in his first epistle: the church is built of “living stones” (1 Pet. 2:5) who, like Peter, confess that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Christ Himself is the “chief cornerstone” (1 Pet. 2:6, 7).

# **Take This To Heart**

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Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.

(C. S. Lewis)