

# THAT I MAY KNOW HIM

by  
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Spiritual "equipment" for the contest of life.

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# Introduction

**Jesus.** Do you know Him? Please read the following passage of Scripture written by Paul:

*“Yet indeed I also count all things loss **for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; **that I may know Him** and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead”* (Philippians 3:8-11).

Paul’s lifelong mission was to “know” Jesus; in fact, he gave up all his past accomplishments and position among the Jews in order to pursue the knowledge of Jesus. Not only that, he endured persecution, rejection, betrayal and ridicule for this cause. He came to a realization that he didn’t want to know anything except “Christ and Him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2). Paul was a Jewish scholar, a leader in the strictest sect of the Jews, a highly educated teacher of the Law of Moses, trained at the feet of Gamaliel, yet he regarded the knowledge of Christ Jesus to have a certain “excellence” or superiority. The knowledge of Jesus, according to Paul, had power: (1) power because of the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, (2) power to take a person with his own righteousness and inflated self-importance and transform him into one who had God’s righteousness, and (3) power to save souls. For the excellence of the knowledge of Christ, Paul would willingly lay down his life, but he did so with full confidence that he “would attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

**Do you truly know Jesus?** Do you value the knowledge of Jesus as far superior to any knowledge you have ever gained? What does it mean to “know” Jesus? It is more than learning facts. Seek to be transformed.

## Helpful info about this workbook:

- ❖ **Harmony** – These lessons are designed to take you through all 4 Gospels chronologically, based primarily upon Luke for the timeline and arrangement of events. Approximate dates and periods are given to help keep a mental timeline.
- ❖ **One Sheet Lessons** – Each lesson can be taught in one class or two, depending upon how much material you cover. (Of course, one sentence uttered by Jesus is enough for a lifetime of study!)
- ❖ **What does the Scripture say?** Each lesson (except 1-2) has a section where you will answer a few questions drawn from the text you read.
- ❖ **Further Study** – In every lesson there is a section devoted to those who would like to dig even further. Most likely, there will not be enough time in a class setting to cover every question.
- ❖ **Chart Section** – In the back of the book, charts are provided to give you valuable information about the life of Jesus, and should serve you well as a resource.

A special word of thanks to Mark Elliott, who worked diligently in preparing a *Harmonic Reading of the Gospel Record of Jesus Christ*, upon which I relied heavily for this workbook.

# Lesson 1 | All Things Must Be Fulfilled

## The Old Testament: Looking forward to Jesus!

- ▶ Roughly 300 prophecies about the coming “Messiah” can be found in the Old Testament. What did Jesus say about these prophecies?
  - Luke 24:44-48
  - John 5:45-47
- ▶ Jesus’ followers (disciples) made bold claims about Him.
  - What did the apostles Peter and Paul claim about the prophecies (1 Pet. 1:10-11; 1 Cor. 15:3-4)?
  - Explain this phrase, “the testimony of Jesus is the **spirit** of prophecy” (Rev. 19:10).

**Messiah  
(Hebrew) and  
Christ (Greek)  
both mean  
“anointed one”  
or “king.”**

## The Old Testament: It’s all about Jesus!

- ▶ From Genesis to Malachi, God points forward to Jesus.
  - **Eve (Gen. 3:15, approx. 4000 BC)** – What would the “seed of woman” do to Satan? (Also see Hebrews 2:14-15)
  - **Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3, approx. 2000 BC)** – God chose Abraham to be the one through whose family Jesus would be born. God promised Abraham that his family would have:
    - A **LAND**, which was **Canaan** (Genesis 15:18).
    - A **NATION**, which was **Israel**. (This name came from Abraham’s grandson, Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, Genesis 32:28.)
    - A **SEED**, which is Jesus (Gen. 22:18). What would this “Seed” do for all nations?
  - **Jacob and Judah (Genesis 49:10, approx. 1850 BC)** – Jacob had 12 sons, one of which was Judah. Through Judah’s family line the King (or “Shiloh”) would come and reign.
  - **David (2 Sam. 7:12-16, approx. 1000 BC)** – David was a descendant of Judah, and he was promised by God that the Messiah would come through him and reign forever.
  - **Isaiah (Isaiah 53, approx. 700 BC)** – He prophesied the death of the Messiah. Jesus, like a sacrificial lamb, would take upon Himself the sins of all mankind.
  - **Daniel (Daniel 2:31-44, approx. 600 BC)** – Daniel prophesied that from his time until Jesus, there would be 4 kingdoms: Babylon, Persia, Greece, and Rome. During the Roman kingdom, Jesus would establish His kingdom and save mankind (Dan. 7:13-14).
  - **Malachi (Malachi 3:1-4; 4:5-6, approx. 450 BC)** – Malachi prophesied that Messiah would come and purify God’s people. Also Messiah’s coming would be announced by a “forerunner,” whom we know as John the Baptist (Matthew 17:10-13).

*“Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days” (Acts 3:24).*

## Lesson 2 | In the Fullness of the Time

### At just the right time

- ▶ Jesus was born into the world at the exact time God designed. He prepared the world for this point in history.



“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law” (Gal. 4:4).

### When Jesus was born...

*Remember the letter “S”*

- ▶ **Scattered** – Jews were dispersed throughout the world (John 7:35; Acts 2:5) because of previous invasions by enemy nations like Assyria (722 BC) and Babylon (606-586 BC).
- ▶ **Synagogues** – Throughout the Roman Empire, Jews would assemble in buildings called synagogues (Greek for “bringing together”) every Sabbath.
- ▶ **Septuagint** – The Septuagint was a Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures. Since Greek had become a universal language, a translation of God’s word was needed in Greek.
- ▶ **Sects** – Various divisions had occurred within Israel, and two dominant sects emerged:
  - **Pharisees** – Ultra-conservative sect that hated Rome’s presence in Palestine. Pharisees were a sect among the Scribes (those who hand copied the Scriptures, and were also teachers of it). They strove to create a wall around the Law of Moses by making extra traditions and restrictions that would keep Jews from making the slightest deviation.
  - **Sadducees** – Liberal sect from among the priesthood that welcomed Rome’s presence and embraced the Hellenistic (Greek) culture which had spread throughout the world.
- ▶ **Sanhedrin** – This was the Jewish ruling council which consisted of Pharisees, scribes, elders, Sadducees and priests. They had limited political authority in Israel because of Rome, but they still exerted great power over the Jews, and in Jesus’ day were extremely corrupt.
- ▶ **Samaritans** – When the people of Israel were taken into captivity by Assyria (722 BC), the Assyrians transplanted people from other nations *into* the land of Israel. These foreigners, who worshipped various gods, intermarried with the remaining people from Israel, resulting in the people called the Samaritans (partially Jewish; partially kept the Law of Moses, see 2 Kings 17).

#### Questions:

What does Acts 13:27 and 15:21 say happened every Saturday in the synagogues?

The Pharisees specialized in every detail, but forgot what (Matthew 23:23-24)?

What was the Sadducees belief about the resurrection (Matthew 22:23)?

How did the Jews treat the Samaritans (John 4:9)?

### Further Study

- ▶ Why were the Jews spread out all over the world? Wasn’t Palestine their promised land?
- ▶ What was 1st century life like for Jesus? Research the living conditions at that time.

# Lesson 3 | Prepare the Way

## Text for this study:

- ▶ Statement of Luke's purpose (Luke 1:1-4)
- ▶ God's Word became flesh (John 1:1-18)
- ▶ Birth of John the Baptist foretold (Luke 1:5-25)
- ▶ Birth of Jesus foretold (Luke 1:26-38)
- ▶ Visit of Mary to Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56)
- ▶ Birth & naming of John the Baptist (Luke 1:57-66)
- ▶ Prophecy of Zacharias (Luke 1:67-80)

**PERIOD:** The Preparation Years  
(Approximately 4 BC)

*Luke wrote to "Theophilus," which in Greek means "lover of God." Luke was a physician, and he wrote a very careful, detailed, and chronological account of the life of Jesus. The book of Acts is also written by Luke to Theophilus.*

## "What does the Scripture say?"

- ▶ What do we learn about who Jesus is from John 1:1-18?  
Be ready to discuss how Jesus is the "Word," "God," "the Light," and "the Life."
- ▶ Which Old Testament prophets foretold the coming of John the Baptist? What was the mission of John the Baptist?
- ▶ Describe the character of Zacharias, Elizabeth, and Mary according to Luke 1.
- ▶ In what ways will Mary's faith be greatly challenged? What passages in Luke 1 show that her faith in God was extremely strong?
- ▶ What valuable faith lesson did Zacharias learn through these events?

## Further Study

- ▶ **Gabriel.** Why is it significant that Gabriel was the one sent to Zacharias and Mary to announce these miraculous events? Begin your research in Daniel.
- ▶ **Division of Abijah (Luke 1:5, 8-9).** Which king in the Bible organized the priesthood into 24 divisions?
- ▶ **Altar of incense.** Find a diagram of Herod's temple to get an idea of where Zacharias was standing when Gabriel appeared to him.
- ▶ **Nazirite vow.** Explain what this vow involved.
- ▶ **The Holy Spirit.** Find all the times He is mentioned in Luke 1-2. Consider His involvement in these events.

## Discipleship (Luke 6:40)

*Write down a lesson you learned that will help you to be more like Jesus.*