12. Conception

Scriptures:	Matthew 1-26; Mark 1-14; Luke 1-22; John 1-18
Focal Point:	Birth and life of Christ
Principal Characters:	Joseph, Mary, Jesus, and the apostles
Primary Events:	● Gabriel appears to Joseph and Mary
	● Jesus is born of a virgin
	● Jesus lives a perfect, sinless life, fulfilling all of the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah

Introduction:

1. After 400 silent years since the close of the Old Testament Scriptures, we see the New Testament Scriptures commence with the announcement of the birth of Jesus, who will "*save His people from their sins.*"

2. Jesus came as the fulfillment of the many prophecies that foretold a Messiah would one day come to Israel.

3. During the 400-year period between the testaments, _____ ruled the world for a time, and brought a common language to the civilized world.

4. After this, _____ emerged as the world superpower, and with its great technological advancement, built roads that connected the world physically in a way that Greece had culturally.

5. This was the *"fulness of the time"* for God's Messiah to be born. The message of Christ could be spread rapidly and in a _____ language.

There are four gospels, each having its own distinctive viewpoint and presentation of Christ as "the anointed One."

- Matthew - _____
- Mark - _____
- Luke - _____
- John - _____

**The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus was born of a _____.
Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38**

- The virgin birth must be accepted by _____, not by reason.
  Luke 1:34-35, 37
- When Jesus entered this world, it was _____ becoming man. Matthew 1:23;
  John 1:1, 14; I Timothy 3:16

Of our Lord's infancy, only four events are recorded in the gospels.

- The circumcision, eight days after His _____ - Luke 2:21
- The presentation in the _____ - Luke 2:22-24
- The visit of the _____ men - Matthew 2:1-12
- The _____ into Egypt - Matthew 2:13-15

**There is only one event recorded concerning the _____ of
Jesus. Luke 2:39-52**

**The next 18 years of Jesus' life are passed in holy _____ until His
baptism by John. Matthew 3:13-17**

**Jesus' earthly ministry began in John 2:1-12 with the miracle at the
marriage in Cana of Galilee. It was followed by:**

- The _____ of the sick
- The calling of His disciples
- _____ the multitudes
- His parables and discourses
- His demonstration of _____ over nature, demons, and death

**Jesus Christ showed Himself as a spotless, _____ example in
every way. 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; I Peter 2:22; I John 3:5**

In Conclusion:

1.	It is crucial that you rightly divide God's Word when reading and studying the four gospels.
	•	Reading of Christ's earthly life and ministry is a tremendous blessing, but we must remember the _____ of Christ's earthly ministry.
	•	Jesus came to minister to His people, Israel (Matthew 15:24) and to save His people from their sins. Matthew 1:21
	•	During the gospels, there was still *"the middle wall of partition"* between Israel and gentiles, with Israel enjoying great spiritual privilege.
	•	Matthew through John is not the _____ dispensation that we live in today. The law of Moses was still in effect (Matthew 5:17-19), therefore they were still operating under the Old Testament law. The New Testament could not take effect until _____ the blood was shed by Christ. Hebrews 9:15-16

2.	Three important things are happening simultaneously in the gospels:
	•	Christ is calling His people, Israel, to _____.
	•	Christ is preparing the *"little flock"* of believing Israel for the future time of _____ and their coming _____ to earth.
	•	Christ is preparing to offer Himself as a sacrifice for _____.

3.	Of course, hidden in God was a _____ that God would eventually reveal, years later, to the apostle Paul. This mystery that God revealed involved a time of unprecedented grace for the world in which God would offer salvation and grace to all people on an absolutely _____ basis.