

## 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, **Greece** ruled the world for a time, and brought a common language to the civilized world.
4. After this, **Rome** 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 **common** language.

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

- Matthew - ***The Jews***
- Mark - ***The Romans***
- Luke - ***The Greeks***
- John - ***The world as a whole***

**The Bible clearly teaches that Jesus was born of a *virgin*.**

**Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38**

- The virgin birth must be accepted by ***faith***, not by reason.  
Luke 1:34-35, 37
- When Jesus entered this world, it was ***God*** 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 ***birth*** - Luke 2:21
- The presentation in the ***temple*** - Luke 2:22-24
- The visit of the ***wise*** men - Matthew 2:1-12
- The ***flight*** 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.