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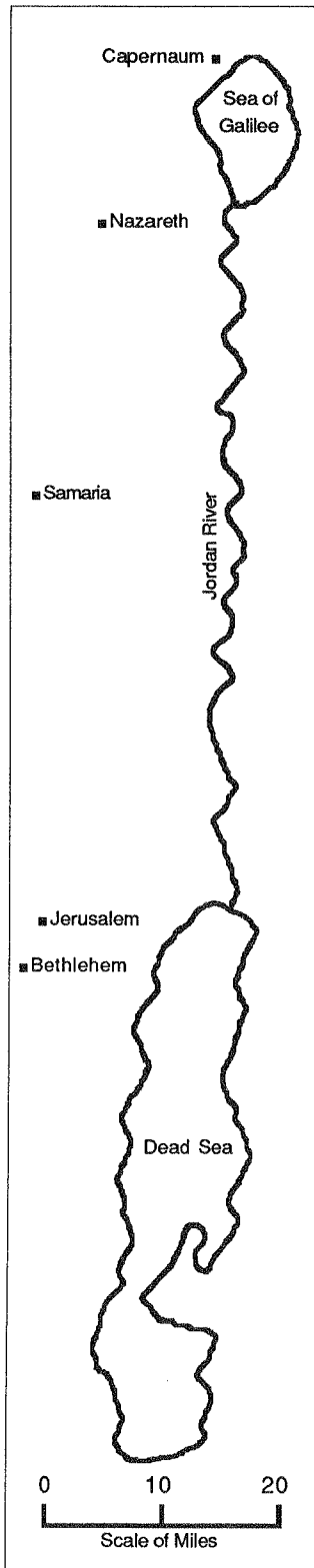
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Lesson #1

5 B.C.



Lesson Goal: To understand that the Messiah was foretold as the hope for His people.

Background Text: John 1:1-14.

Memory Verse: And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

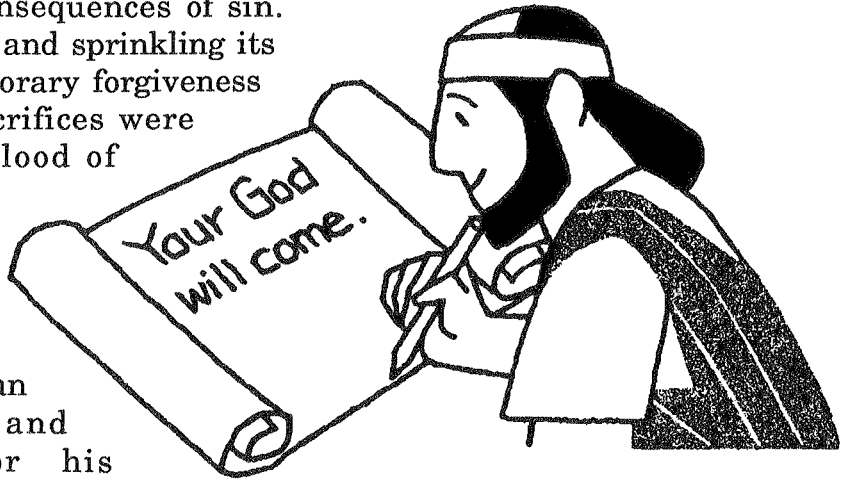
Approximately four hundred years had passed between the time when Malachi wrote to the nation of Israel, and when the angel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Messiah. During this period the nation of Israel experienced a great deal of conflict and was eventually taken over and ruled by the Romans. This was a discouraging time for the Jewish people because many felt that they were either forgotten or abandoned by God. Their hope rested in the anticipation of the coming of the new King of Israel, God's Messiah.

Centuries before the birth of Christ in Bethlehem, a promise was given to the people: The Messiah would come to earth and save them from their sins. Psalms 130:7-8 says, "Let Israel hope in the Lord for with the Lord there is mercy, and with Him is plenteous redemption. And He shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities." This became a source of hope and encouragement for the people in the midst of hard times. They believed that no matter how difficult things became, God would some day send a deliverer to save them.

In order to understand the purpose of Christ's coming, a knowledge of the atonement and the Old Testament sacrificial system is necessary. During the Old Testament period, the Israelites would seek forgiveness for their sins on the Day of Atonement. On that day, the High Priest would enter the Holy of Holies, in the temple, and sprinkle animal blood over the Ark of the Covenant. This was to cover the sins of the people for that year. This was only a temporary remedy for the problem of sin. Since the sins were only forgiven for a short time, the people did not experience total redemption. Redemption is the complete

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deliverance from the consequences of sin. By sacrificing an animal and sprinkling its blood over the ark, temporary forgiveness was given; however, sacrifices were still necessary. The blood of animals was not sufficient to take away man's sins (Hebrews 10:4). It was only when Christ came as the ultimate sacrifice that man experienced complete and total forgiveness for his transgressions.



Although no one knew Who the Messiah would be, the prophecies, written hundreds of years earlier, told the people that the Messiah would be: out of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10), from the family of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1), from the lineage of David (II Chronicles 7:18), born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14), born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), and forced to flee to Egypt (Hosea 11:1; Matt. 2:15). Those who understood the teachings of Scripture knew that the prophecies would soon be fulfilled. This provided the nation of Israel with a sense of hope that it would soon be fully justified before the Lord.

Today as Christians, we have an eternal assurance that through the shed blood of Christ, our sins are completely forgiven. This forgiveness comes through the cross and our belief that Jesus Christ is God's Son and the Lord of our lives. Through Him we have salvation and the gift of everlasting life in heaven.

Questions: Multiple choice -- circle the correct answer for each question.

1. Who was the Word? (John 1:1)
 - *John
 - *Malachi
 - *God
 - *Israel
2. What did the Word create? (John 1:3)
 - *Animals
 - *All things
 - *Plants
 - *Birds
3. What was the Light of men? (John 1:4)
 - *God
 - *Death
 - *John
 - *Life

Studying God's Word Book G

4. Into what does the Light shine? (John 1:5)
 - *The hearts of men
 - *The darkness
 - *The heavens
 - *The land of Israel
5. Who was the witness sent from God? (John 1:6-7)
 - *Jesus
 - *John
 - *David
 - *Isaiah
6. What was the job the true Light had? (John 1:9)
 - *To overthrow the Roman empire
 - *To raise the dead
 - *To lighteth every man that cometh into the world
 - *To tell parables
7. What did the world do when it saw the Word? (John 1:10)
 - *Accepted Him
 - *Nothing, because it did not recognize Him
 - *Loved Him like a brother
 - *Treated Him like a friend
8. What did He give those that would receive Him? (John 1:12)
 - *He gave them power to become the sons of God.
 - *He gave them glory and honor.
 - *He gave them nothing.
 - *He gave them long life.
9. Of what are the children of God born? (John 1:13)
 - *Blood
 - *God
 - *Will of man
 - *Will of the flesh
10. When the Word was made flesh, what did the people behold? (John 1:14)
 - *Evil
 - *His weakness
 - *His glory
 - *His love for children

Thought Questions:

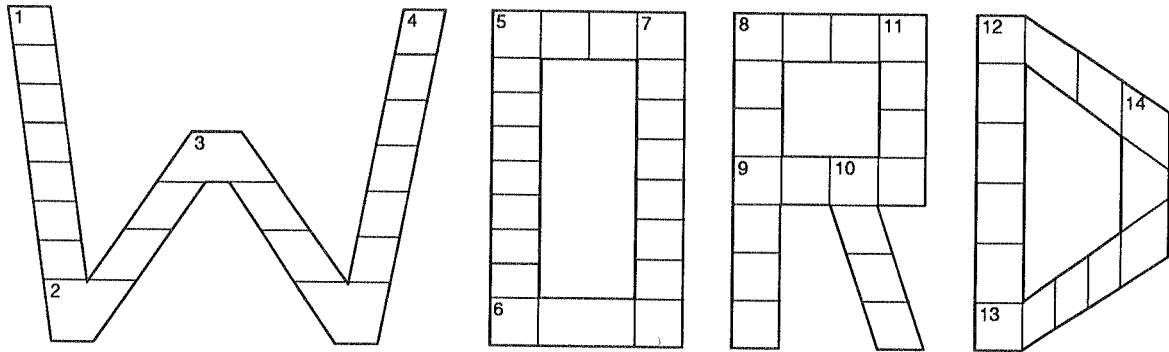
1. Why do you feel it was necessary for Christ to come to the earth? _____

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2. Do you feel that Christ's forgiveness allows you to do whatever you want?

Explain your answer. _____

Supplemental Exercise: Complete the crossword with the answers to the questions listed below.



- 1-D Where did the light shine? (John 1:5)
- 2-A There was a man _____ from God. (John 1:6)
- 3-A What kind of light lighteth every man? (John 1:9)
- 4-D To whom did He give power to become the sons of God? (John 1:12)
- 5-D When was the Word? (John 1:1)
- 5-A The same came for a witness to _____ witness of the light. (John 1:7)
- 6-A The Word was with whom? (John 1:1)
- 7-D He came unto his own, and his own _____ him not. (John 1:11)
- 8-D For what did John come? (John 1:7)
- 8-A Who were born, not of blood, nor of the _____ of the flesh. (John 1:13)
- 9-A There was a man sent from God, whose _____ was John. (John 1:6)
- 10-D All things were _____ by Him. (John 1:3)
- 11-D What was in Him? (John 1:4)
- 12-D What did He do with His glory? (John 1:14)
- 12-A Who were _____, not of blood. (John 1:13)
- 13-A What did the Word do among us? (John 1:14)
- 14-D And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it
 _____. (John 1:5)