

Who is Jesus?

According to Christians, Jesus Christ is the **Messiah** (the Anointed One), and the son of God. Consequently, he is the central figure of Christianity. It is believed that the Old Testament prophesied Jesus' life and death.

Most of our information about Jesus comes from the New Testament of the Bible. Most important to the study of Jesus' life are the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

According to Christians, the Virgin Mary gave birth to Jesus about 4 BCE in Bethlehem .

What did Jesus Do?

Jesus taught lessons to those who would listen.

- There is only one God alone who is responsible for our life and death.
- God will provide eternal salvation for those who follow him.
- Treat friends and enemies the same way.

Jesus was not welcomed by all:

- religious authorities, or
- Roman rulers (ex. Jewish Sanhedrin).

However, he offered hope for those outcasts in society at the time by:

- healing the sick;
- saving people from desperate situations;
- performing "miracles"; and
- offering hope to those to whom society gave very little.

Jesus lived two thousand years ago in the land we now call Israel. At the time of Jesus, it was ruled by the Romans. Life in Jesus' time was different from our lives today. Most people lived in small villages or on farms. While the Gospels don't describe in detail the living conditions of the time, we can come to an understanding of what life was like in Jesus' time through a careful examination of the Bible.