



**Walking With Jesus Through the Gospels, A Harmony of
the Gospels based on A. T. Robertson's *Harmony of the
Gospels***

September, 2024

Outline Key:

I Major Section Divisions are in Bold with Roman Numeral

A. Minor Section Divisions are in Orange with Capitol Letter

b. Minor Subheadings are in Green with small Letter

1. Sections are in Blue with Number

The Stage is Set: Section 0

(Read Mal. 2:17; 3:1; 4:5-6 Hebrews 1:1-2 Galatians 4:4)

0.5 The Silence

It usually takes us many years.....decades even.....to learn the power and value of silence. God has known it all along. Ecclesiastes 3:7 says there is “*a time to be silent and a time to speak.*”

We don't think often enough about silence. God has woven silence into all of creation for a variety purposes.....and for us it provides calm and opportunity for reflection. It can be a powerful stress reliever and centering, and importantly, it can draw us into His presence in worship and praise and prayer.

And it can also be a powerful addition to theater and musical productions because it makes us take a breath and it prepares the observant to understand that something big and important follows.

So we shouldn't be surprised then that God entered a period of silence of over 400 years. He created both sound and silence and knows the perfect timing for both.

0.75 The Stage

He set the stage, prepared the audience, then at the perfect time He raises the curtain and reveals the most important event unfolding in human history.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

What events in world history did God cause/use to set the stage for the coming of Jesus?

Some important related terms and people:

Pleroma: Completeness, fulness, a fulfilling.

Septuagint: The Greek translation of the Old Testament

Alexander the Great: Son of Philip of Macedon who was the king of Macedonia. Philip put Alexander under the tutelage of the great teacher Aristotle. Alexander was perhaps the greatest military leader of any age; he defeated Darius of Persia, bringing Greek rule to the world; as conqueror he required that Greek culture be promoted in every land that he conquered.

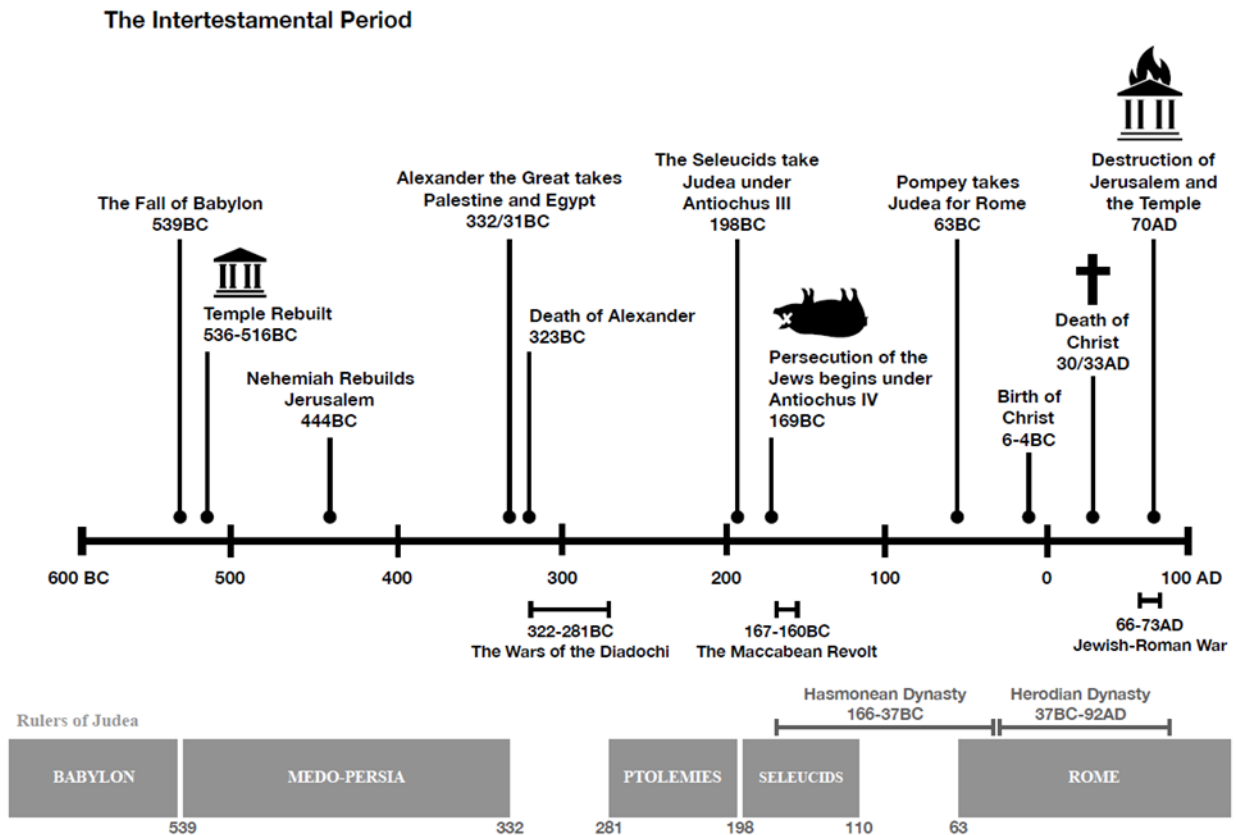
Hellenization: The adoption of Greek culture, religion, language, and identity by non-Greeks.

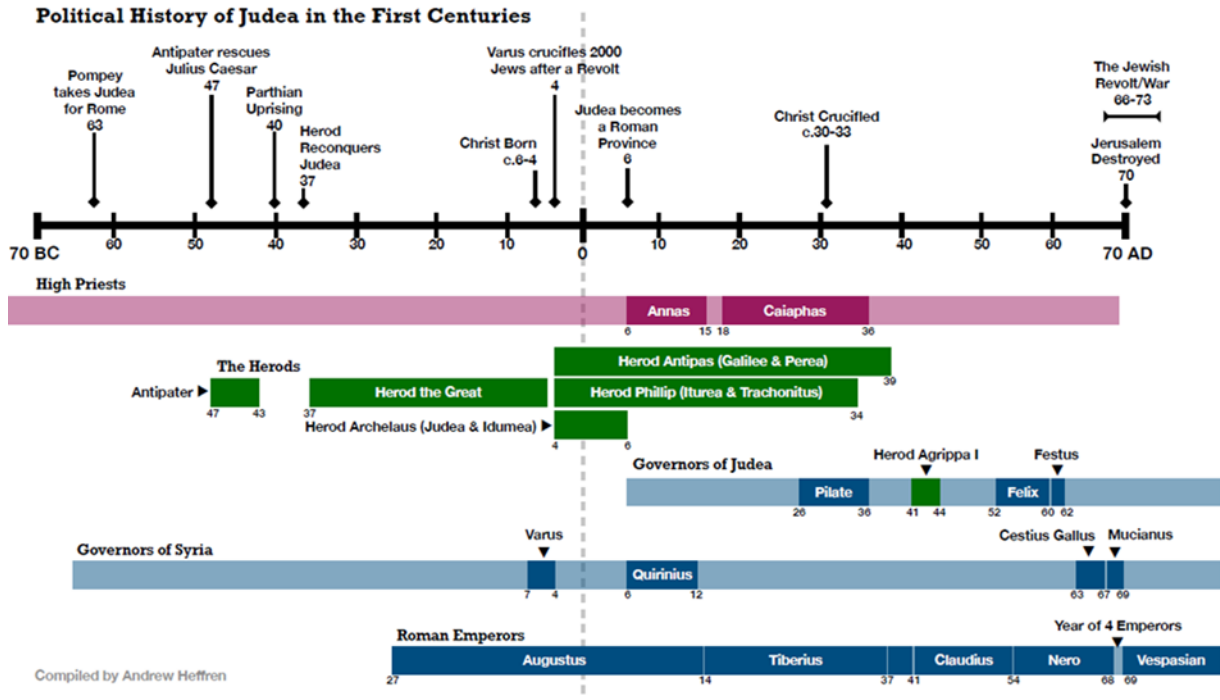
Antiochus Epiphanes: Was a Seleucid king and around 167 BC, he overthrew the rightful line of the priesthood and desecrated the temple, defiling it with unclean animals and a pagan altar

Maccabean Revolt: This desecration of the temple by Antiochus Epiphanes resulted in an uprising by Judas Maccabeus of the priestly line of Aaron, and in 165 B.C. the Jews recaptured Jerusalem and cleansed the temple.

Pompey: (106 BC-48 BC) Roman general who conquered Israel around 63 BC, putting all of Judea under control of the Caesars. This eventually led to Herod being made king of Judea by the Roman emperor and senate.

.9 The Scene.....The Inter-testament World





Prologue: Sections 1- 2

1. The Source of Knowledge (Luke's Prologue) Luke 1:1-4

Luke explains his method of research and order.

Each gospel writer wrote according to a different theme; therefore, each looked at all of the events that transpired in Jesus' life and chose which events under the leadership and authority of the Holy Spirit best communicated that theme to their audience.

The Gospel of Matthew:

Theme:

Prime Audience:

Background and Emphasis:

The Gospel of Mark:

Theme:

Prime Audience:

Background and Emphasis:

The Gospel of Luke:

Theme:

Prime Audience:

Background and Emphasis:

The Gospel of John:

Theme:

Prime Audience:

Background and Emphasis:

2. The Pre-existence of the Messiah (John's Prologue) John 1:1-18

In his prologue Luke was concerned about the source of knowledge about the life of the Messiah. What was John's concern?

John reveals Jesus as the "Logos."

Extra Reading: Gen. 15:1; Psalm 33:4-6; Psalm 147:15; Is. 9:8; Is. 55:10-11; Is. 45:23; Ezek. 1:3; Hos. 1:7

I. The Introduction of the King, Sections 3-27

A. The Arrival and Advent of the King, Sections 3-19

3. The Genealogy of the King, Matt. 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-28

Two perspectives: Each of these two gospel accounts of the genealogy and birth of Jesus has its own perspective, different from the other.

Can you describe some of their differences?

1) In Matthew's gospel:

- a. Joseph plays the active role.
- b. Angels speak to Joseph, and
- c. we read about what Joseph is thinking.

2) In Luke's gospel:

- a. Mary plays the active role.
- b. Angels appear to Mary, and
- c. we read about what Mary is thinking.

What does that context or perspective reveal to us?

Why do we need these two genealogies?

Read Matt. 1:11 together with Jer. 22:24-30. Jeconiah=Coniah

Does Jesus meet the two requirements for Kingship? How? (Also see section 5)

Two requirements for kingship in the Old Testament:

- Membership of the house of David apart from Jeconiah.
- Divine appointment.

Read Matthew 1:1 and Luke 3:38.....What are the four titles of the Messiah found here?

These four titles portray Jesus as the Messiah, the Jewish God-Man, the King.

a. The Advent of the King, Sections 4-11

4. The Announcement of the birth of John to Zacharias, Luke 1:5-25

Names

There are two key individuals in this section: Zacharias, whose name means “God Remembers”, and Elizabeth, which means “the oath of God”.

Their names together emphasize that “God remembers His oath”, and when we get to section 8, the birth of John, we will see a play on the names of these two people.

Believers

We see from verse 6 that Zacharias and Elizabeth were part of the believing remnant of the day. They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking in the commandments and requirements of the Lord.

You can read 1 Chron. Chpt. 24 to go along with this; King David divided the tribe of Levi into 24 courses or divisions.

There was:

- 1 High Priest
- 24 Chief Priests
- 24 Divisions of common priests

5. The Announcement of the birth of Jesus to Mary, Luke 1:26-38

Summary of the angel's message to Mary

- The Incarnation would be a man
- His name was to be Yeshua, or Jesus
- He would be great
- He would be the Son of God, which means He would be God
- He would fulfil the Davidic Covenant.

The Davidic Covenant promised four eternal things, all of which will be fulfilled by Jesus according to the angel:

- An eternal throne
- An eternal house or dynasty
- An eternal kingdom
- An eternal descendant

The first three are guaranteed because of the fourth: the seed of David culminates in a Person who is himself eternal.

Note again that the angel's announcement that the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David means that Jesus fulfils the second Old Testament requirement for kingship: divine appointment.

6. The Visit of Mary to Elizabeth, Luke 1:15; 39-45

What happened when Mary greeted Elizabeth?

What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

7. The Song of Mary, Luke 1:46-56 Also read 1 Samuel 2:1-10

What does Mary's song reveal about her?

What two main points does she make in her song?

8. John's Birth and Childhood Luke 1:57-80

A. The Birth of John

B. Zacharias' Prophecy

1. Regarding the Messiah (V.67-75)

(To go along with this, you can read 2 Sam. 7:11-16; 1 Chron. 17:10-14; Genesis 12:1-3, 7; 13:14-17; 15:1-21; 17:1-21; Jer. 31:31-34; Ezek. 28:25-26; 34:23-31)

2. Regarding John (V. 76-79)

a. First, he will be a prophet of God. John was the last of the Old Testament prophets.

b. Secondly, he was to go before the Lord, and in fulfilment of Malachi 3:1, he was the Messiah's forerunner and the herald of the King. Read Mal 3:1, 78, 2

Notice the change of pronouns in verse 79: **TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH**, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

Isaiah 9: 2 The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.

What does verse 80 teach us summarizing John's development to be Jesus' forerunner?

9. Announcement of the Birth of Jesus to Joseph (Matt. 1:18-25; Is. 7:14)

What does Matthew emphasize here?

For Matthew of course, this is the solution to the problem of the Jeconiah curse (Jer. 22) raised by his genealogy in section 3.

Notice the phrase, "kept her a virgin" and the word "until" in V.25 (Read Matt. 13:55-56)

The Angelic Message (V. 20-23) to Joseph:

- He was to proceed with the wedding, even though she was pregnant.
- He was to believe Mary's story that the child has been conceived by the Holy Spirit, and not through an immoral relationship.
- He was told: "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

In other words, as Matthew emphasizes in verses 22 and 23, that what was happening was according to **God's plan** which he announced through the prophet Isaiah (7:14).

10. The Birth of the King, Luke 2:1-7 (Micah 5:2)

In what year or range of years was Jesus most likely born?

When Jesus was born, He was wrapped in swaddling clothes. This will prove to be something significant as we will see in the next section.

11. The Announcement to the Shepherds, Luke 2:8-20

Something very significant happened on the night when Jesus was born. What was it? (V.9)

If you have time, read Ezekiel chapters 8 – 11.

Verse 12 of Luke 2 says, “and this is the sign unto you”. What are the two elements to the sign?

Read John 12:27

Verse 19 says, “Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.” Luke is the one who recorded this, noticing the women’s side of things....but it was Mary who must have later revealed these things to him as he investigated the story of Jesus.

b. Jesus’ Infancy and Location, Sections 12-16

12. The Circumcision, Luke 2:21; Gen. 17:9-14

13. The Presentation, Luke 2:22-38; Leviticus 12; Exodus 2, 12

14. In Bethlehem, Matthew 2:1-12; Daniel 2; Daniel 9:24-25; Numbers 24:15-17; Isaiah 47:13; Micah 5:2

How do the Magi from the east (Mesopotamia or Babylon) know:

- A. About a king of the Jews?
- B. About the Jewish concept of the Messiah?
- C. Why do they want to worship a Jewish king?

Is this an ordinary star that is described?

- His Star

- Appears and Disappears
- Moves East
- Moves South
- Hovers over the House

They leave behind three types of gifts, each of which contains symbolic meaning.

1. Gold is a symbol of kingship. He is a king.
2. Frankincense is a symbol of deity. He is God.
3. Myrrh is a symbol of death and sacrifice.

The kingship is found in Daniel 2; the frankincense in Leviticus 2:2; 5:11; and the death and sacrifice in Mark 15:23; and John 19:39.

15. In Egypt, Matthew 2:13-18; Hosea 1:1; Jer. 31:15; Genesis 48:7

16. In Nazareth, Matthew 2:19-23; Luke 2:39

Four different ways to quote the Old Testament:

1. Literal prophecy plus Literal Fulfilment. (See Matt. 2:1-12; Micah 5:2)
2. Literal plus Typical. (See Matt. 2:15; Hosea 11:1)

Notice two things.

- a. Who is the son that God called out of Egypt? Israel.
- b. Is this a prophecy? No. He is referring to an event that took place in the past.

What is Hosea referring to in this verse? The Exodus, Read Exodus 4:22-23.

3. Literal plus Application. (See Matt. 2: 17-18; Jeremiah 31:15)

BTW, that is how the Joel 2 passage and the Acts 2 passage fit together. (Read Joel 2:28 – 32; Acts 2:16 – 21.)

4. Summation. (A summary of many prophecies plus a literal fulfilment.) (Matt. 2:23)

You can hunt through every single page, every single phrase in the Old Testament and you will not find this prophecy. So you have a situation where it says, “spoken by the prophets”, and you don’t have an exact quotation, it fits into this category where the writer is not trying to quote what a specific prophet said, he is simply summarizing what the prophet(s) had to say.

So again, he is not trying to quote a single prophet as he has up until now, he is simply summarizing what the prophets had to say.

According to the prophets like Isaiah 53, 49; Psalm 22, among others, he was a despised rejected individual. And that is captured in the term “a Nazarene”.....And Jesus was just that.

c. Jesus’ Boyhood, sections 17-19

17. His Growth, Luke 2:40; Luke 50:4-9

18. The Visit to Jerusalem, Luke 2:41-50

Why were they amazed?

Where did Jesus get this understanding and His ability to ask good questions?

Read Isaiah 50:4–6

What two points does Jesus make as a 12 year old boy in verse 50?

19. His Development, Luke 2:51-52

Notice three things here.

1. Subjection is not a question of superiority or inferiority.....It is a matter of divine order.
2. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.
3. Notice in verse 52 he develops in the same four areas that all of us have to develop in as we grow up.
 - He develops mentally – he increased in wisdom.
 - He develops physically – he increased in stature.
 - He develops spiritually – he increased in favor with God.
 - He develops socially – He increased in favor with men.

B. The Herald of the King, Sections 20-23

20. The Message to John, Mark 1:1; Luke 3:1-2

If I said to you, “I have good news to tell you,” what would you be expecting me to tell you about? You wouldn’t have any idea, right? The content of the good news can only be determined from the context of the events surrounding it or as the person telling the news shares it.

That's why when Mark begins his gospel account we find out very quickly that the gospel, the "good news" is about a person.....it's about Jesus Christ.

In Luke 3:2, the text says that "The word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness."

The term used for "word" there is different from the term, "logos," that we saw earlier in John's prologue. The word he uses here is "rema," which is the spoken word.....John hears the spoken word of God telling him to begin the mission for which he was born.

21. John's Message of Repentance, Mark 1:2-6; Matthew 3:1-6; Luke 3:3-6

(Additionally you may choose to read Malachi 3:1; Isaiah 40:3; 2 Kings 1:8)

Recall Mark's theme from section 1 that Jesus is the Messiah, the Servant of Jehovah.

Mark makes reference to Isaiah, because that will be the background out of which he writes concerning Jesus, the ideal servant.

He quotes from both Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3 since both these prophecies are fulfilled by John. These are both literal prophecy plus literal fulfillment.

John's message: Read Matthew 3:2 and Mark 2:4.

The content of John's message is about three things.

1. Repentance – Repent in Matthew verse 2.

Repentance is _____.

2. The Kingdom.....they were to repent because kingdom of heaven is at hand. So the motivation for their repentance was the **nearness** of the kingdom of heaven.

What does he mean by the kingdom of heaven? How did his hearers interpret that term?

3. Those who respond to John's message undergo a baptism of repentance.

Exactly what baptism means in a Jewish context we will discuss when we get to section 24. Just keep in mind that baptism was a very common Jewish practice long before it became a church practice. Nor did it begin necessarily with John. It was a common Jewish practice for centuries before the time of John.

22. The Explanation by John, Matthew 3:7-10; Luke 3:7-14

What do you think of John's response to the Pharisees and Sadducees? Doesn't it look like a strange way to respond to someone who is coming for baptism?

This movement in the desert by John being about the kingdom and the Messiah is noteworthy and must be investigated by the Jewish religious leaders. The investigation that they begin was dictated by their rules and if it was found to be significant in the first, it would then result in a second stage.

1. Observation.
2. Interrogation.

When this group goes back to report to the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem, as we will see later, the movement of John the Baptist is considered significant.

At this point he underwent the stage of observation, and what happens to the herald will happen to the king.

23. [The Promise by John, Mark 1:7-8; Matthew 3:11-12; Luke 3:15-18](#)

Verse 16 says that John answered and said to them all.....Who was he answering and what was their question?

How would you summarize John's message in Luke 3?

C. The Approval of the King, Sections 24-27

Here we find three events that confirmed that Jesus was approved by God: His baptism, His temptation, and the testimony of His herald, John.

24. [Jesus Baptized by John, Mark 1:9-11; Matthew 3:13-17; Luke 3:21-23a](#)

The Key Words:

1. Mikvah – the place of immersion
2. Tvilah – immersion. This is the Hebrew word for baptism.
3. Bapto – to dip, to dye.
4. Baptozo – to immerse (the more intensive form). This is the Greek equivalent to the Hebrew "Tvilah."

The English word "baptize," is derived from a transliteration of the Greek word. The first translators of the Bible into English were reluctant to translate the word because the church already practiced sprinkling. So they transliterated the Greek word instead.

Immersion.....The meaning of the word in both Hebrew and Greek is immersion.

Identification.....The meaning of the act or ritual is identification.