

MOMENTUM

“Keep the main thing the main thing”

John 1:1-14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.² He was with God in the beginning.³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

I WANT TO TELL YOU THE STORY OF JESUS!

-Please don't get caught up on the details.....catch the BIG PICTURE!

-Not an expert or theologian!

-Just a pastor who took a pilgrimage to the Holy Land!

At the core **“WORD BECAME FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US”**

-Who has done Ancestor.com?

THE STORY STARTS IN GENESIS 1:

-ADAM & EVE

-Sin entered the world

-10 generations of SIN & SELFISHNESS!

-NOAH Shem, Hem & Japheth

-10 generations to Abraham

-ABRAHAM

-Left his home in Southern Iraq and headed to the land of Canaan

-GOD SHOWED HIM “THE PROMISED LAND”

-God promised him a son at age 75

-Abraham & Sarah could not have a baby!

-Hagar a maidservant had ISHMAEL

-TOOK THINGS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS!

THEN- Sarah had ISAAC

-Abraham asked to Sacrifice Isaac at Mt Moriah (in Jerusalem)

-ISAAC

-married Rebecca

-Had twin boys ESAU & JACOB!

-JACOB

-Married LEAH & RACHEL - 7 YEARS X 2

-They had 12 sons, but JOSEPH was the favorite!!

-Joseph saved them all from famine in Egypt!

-Jacob's name was changed to ISRAEL!

-12 SONS: BECAME THE 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL!

- 10 sons
- 2 grandsons
- LEVITES
- ALL LIVING IN EGYPT

-MOSES:

- 4 generations from Jacobs son LEVI (line of priests)
- Pharaoh intimidated by Jews.Kill all boys 2 and under!
- Moses spared and actually raised by Pharaoh in the palace!
- Moses led the Israelites through the Red Sea out of slavery!

-MOSAIC LAW:

- The TORAHTHE LAW
- Jewish foundation to this day!

JOSHUA- Lead the people into The Promised Land!

- They conquered the land battle by battle!

-SET UP JUDGES IN THE LAND LIKE MOSES TOLD THEM

- THEN THE PEOPLE WANTED A KING!

-DAVID- 14 generations from Abraham to David (1000 YEARS OF HISTORY)

- Jesus was prophesied to come from the line of David!

-SOLOMON-

-BUILT THE FIRST TEMPLE!

-The wisest man ever.....the kingdom splits!

-Northern 2 tribes: ISRAEL

-Southern 10 tribes: JUDAH

-By 586 BC the Babylonians destroyed the Temple

NOW ENTER HEROD THE GREAT!

-Time of the ROMAN EMPIRE!

-Herod was a puppet leader over the Jewish people

-Not born a Jew, but his father converted and was raised as a Jew!

ROMAN CULTURE: THE BIGGEST AND BEST! NOTHING LESS!

-Continually has to prove extravagant dominance to keep power!

HEROD BUILT: -Built 7 HUGE palaces!

-Caesarea- Sea Port/Palace/Theater & Hippodrome

-REBUILT the temple! (LUKE 2)

-When they would uprising he looked weak!

*Herod allowed Jewish Religious leaders to rule over the people!

-Pharisees -Devout followers of the LAW

-Sadducees -Blended, Kissed up to Romans

-Again: keeping the Jews quiet made Herod look dominant!

NOW JESUS! 42 generations from Abraham to Jesus!

-MARY lived in NAZARETH

-small village 18 miles WEST of the Sea of Galilee

-Betrothed (engaged) to Joseph

-Angel appeared to her and said she would have a son!

-Herod was King and the Roman Empire was doing a Census

-Joseph had to go to Bethlehem because he was a descendant of David

-JESUS WAS BORN IN BETHLEHEM!

-Our Christmas story is in ONE night.....actually about 2 years!

-Magi reported to Herod a new king that was born!

-Herod was paranoid

-Killed his wife and 7 of 10 sons

-Killed all Jewish baby boys 2 and under!

-Joseph warned to flee in a dream to Egypt!

THEN HEROD DIED!

-Kingdom divided by 3 sons.

-Joseph and Mary returned to Nazareth

-Jesus raised there from age 4-30

AGE 30 JESUS STARTS HIS MINISTRY

-LUKE 3.....Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist

-LUKE 4.....Jesus went into the wilderness and fasted and prayed for 40 days!

-Jesus started his ministry by the Sea of Galilee!

Luke 4:14-21 Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. ¹⁵ He was teaching in their synagogues, and

everyone praised him. ¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” ²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

-THE TRIED TO THROW HIM OFF THE HILL! HE WALKED AWAY!

-THERE WERE Thousands of SELF PROCLAIMED messiahs in that day!

-People through all history showed their God was real through Miracles!

Prophet Isaiah said the Messiah would:

-PROCLAIM GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR

-PROCLAIM FREEDOM FOR THE PRISONERS

-RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND

-SET THE OPPRESSED FREE

-PROCLAIM THE YEAR OF THE LORD’S FAVOR

JESUS HEALED 3 BLIND PEOPLE! Jericho, Bethsaida & Siloam

-NOTICE: No other healings of blind people in all of scripture!

Matthew 15:30-31 Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them. ³¹ The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.

-Great miracles would be the sign of the Messiah!

THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS HATED JESUS!

-Jesus had gained a HUGE following
John 10:30-33 I and the Father are one.”³¹ **Again his Jewish opponents picked up stones to stone him,**³² **but Jesus said to them, “I have shown you many good works from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?”**³³ **“We are not stoning you for any good work,” they replied, “but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God.”**

Jesus and His disciples would go 77 miles to Jerusalem for the 3 pilgrimage celebrations.

Passover, Pentecost & Tabernacles!

-THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS PROBABLY KNEW WHO JESUS WAS!

-THEY DESPISED HIM!

NOW.....Jesus and his disciples were coming to Jerusalem to celebrate THE PASSOVER!

-Only this time was different.....JESUS WAS THE PASSOVER LAMB!

-Hebrews says “One sacrifice ONCE AND FOR ALL”

-Romans let the Jews Crucify Jesus!

-He died and then rose again!

JESUS FULFILLED THE ENTIRE LAW OF MOSES!

All Other religions: People try to get TO their god

Christianity is the only religion that God reaches to US!

BIG PICTURE: 2000 years of history from ABRAHAM to JESUS!

-Ups and downs! HUGE MISTAKES

-FOLLOW GOD.....EXPERIENCE HIS POWER & BLESSING!

-DO IT ON YOUR OWN.....FEEL THE CONSEQUENCES!

DON'T MISS THE LIFE CHANGING STORY OF JESUS!!

John 1:9-14 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

DON'T MISS THE SIMPLICITY.....STAY CLOSE TO JESUS!

- 1) You need to STAY CLOSE to Jesus?
- 2) You need to TRUST His plan!
- 3) You need to MEET Jesus!

NUMBERS 6:24-26

May The Lord bless you and keep you;

**May The Lord make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;**

**May The Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.**

SO WHAT DID JESUS SAY ABOUT HIMSELF?

John 6:35 “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never go hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.”

John 14:6 Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

John 4:13-14 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

John 10:9-10 I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.^[a] They will come in and go out, and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

John 8:36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

Matthew 11:28-30 “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Matthew 10:40 “Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me, and anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.

John 10:30 “I and the Father are one.”

John 14:9 Jesus answered: “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father.

Luke 5:20 When Jesus saw their faith, he said, “Friend, your sins are forgiven.”