



BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **7th Grade | Unit 7**

BIBLE 707

The Life Of Christ: Part I

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Authors:

Daniel W. Hill, Ph.D.
Lawrence W. Stanfield, M.S.

Editors:

Maynard C. Mostrom, B.A., M.Div., S.T.M.
Jennifer L. Davis, B.S.
Dawn M. Tessier, B.A.
Tricia A. Haley, B.A.

Biblical Illustrations:

Greg Osborne, A.A.
Grant C. Lounsbury, B.A.

Westover Studios Design Team:

Phillip Pettet, Creative Lead
Teresa Davis, DTP Lead
Nick Castro
Andi Graham
Jerry Wingo



**804 N. 2nd Ave. E.
Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759**

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The Life Of Christ: Part I

Introduction

No occurrence in the annals of man has so affected life in the world as the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. His story has been the subject of libraries full of books and articles. Every word and deed of the Savior as recorded in the Scriptures has been inquired into by those who know Him as Lord. The earthly life of Jesus Christ is deeply rooted in the civilized world. Our literature, music, and works of art reflect the importance of Jesus, our God and Savior.

His life and ministry was unique. Jesus was fully God and fully man. As God He agreed with the Father and the Spirit to come to earth, to be the divine Person who would take on human form. As man (John 1:14) He "...dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory..." In the gospel record of His earthly ministry, we find divine examples of what the Christian life can be. Through His death we can have life, won by Him in His victory over death and now offered to those who would believe on His name.

In this LIFE PAC® you will begin a study of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Three LIFE PACs will be devoted to this most important study. In this LIFE PAC you will study the early period of Christ's unique mission. You will begin with the study of His pre-existence, investigate His birth and early childhood, observe the inauguration of His public ministry, and study the Sermon on the Mount.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC. When you have finished this LIFE PAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe the Lord's pre-existence.
2. Outline important events regarding Christ's birth.
3. Relate the events of Christ's youth in Bethlehem, Egypt, and Nazareth.
4. Explain the baptism of Jesus.
5. Compare the temptations withstood by Jesus.
6. Describe how Christ gathered His first disciples.
7. Identify the Lord's disciples.
8. Explain the reason Jesus cleansed the Temple.
9. Describe the new birth taught by Jesus.
10. Compare certain miracles performed by Christ.
11. Summarize the continual attacks upon Christ by the religious leaders of His day.
12. Categorize the messages of Christ's Sermon on the Mount.

1. THE EARLY LIFE OF CHRIST

The major portions of the four Gospels consider the life of Christ following the inauguration of His public ministry. Because the emphasis is rightly placed on His ministry and work, Christians often fail to realize that Jesus, because He is God, is eternal. He lived before His birth. The childhood of Christ, although little is recorded of it, is also an important area of study. When we think of Christ as eternally existent, we are reminded that He is God. When

we remember Him as a baby in a manger, as a child, and as a young man, we are reminded of His humanity.

In this section of the LIFE PAC, you will investigate Christ's deity and humanity by studying His **pre-existence**, His birth, and His childhood. Through this study you will be learning about a unique person, a unique life, a unique ministry, and a unique, life-giving work. The life of Jesus Christ is like no other.

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe the Lord's pre-existence.
2. Outline important events regarding Christ's birth.
3. Relate the events of Christ's youth in Bethlehem, Egypt, and Nazareth.

Vocabulary

Study these words. Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFE PAC.

assume (ə sūm´). To take for granted; to accept without question.

attest (ə test´). To give proof of; to confirm the truth of a thing or person.

betrothed (bi trōʔhd´). Engaged to be married.

decree (di krē´). An order or statement made by one in authority.

drastic (dras´ tik). Extreme; vigorous.

frankincense (frang´ kin sens). A gum resin which gives off a sweet smell when burned.

Jehovah (ji hō´ və). An Old Testament name for God; equivalent to Yahweh.

myrrh (mēr). A bitter tasting, fragrant gum.

pre-existence (prē ig zis´ təns). Previous existence.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFE PAC appear in boldface print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, Īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʔh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

The Pre-Existence of Christ

When we think of a birth, we often think of a beginning. However, Christ is the Son of God and He lived before His birth. His divine existence prior to His incarnation is called Christ's **pre-existence** or His eternal existence. The emphasis is properly placed upon His deity when considering His eternal existence. An ancient Latin inscription which parallels what Jesus might have said about Himself states:

I am what I was—God,

I was not what I now am—man,

I am now both—the God-man.

Hebrews 10:5 declares of Christ that His birth was not His beginning: "...when he cometh into the world, he saith, ...a body hast thou prepared me." God the Son, the eternal person, took on human form at His birth.

You will study the pre-existence of Christ by examining His eternal person prior to His birth.



Read John 1:1–18.



First, you will study His deity and how His deity demands eternal existence. Second, you will investigate direct claims found in the Bible which **attest** to Christ's pre-existence. Third, you will observe some of the indirect evidences of Christ's existence prior to His earthly birth.

Deity and Eternal Existence. The Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man. As God, He shares a place in the Trinity equal to the Father and the Spirit. Christ is neither less nor more deity than the other members of the Trinity. The perfect essence of God is the essence of the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. One of the attributes of God is eternal existence. Each member of the Godhead is eternal.

The very first verse of the Bible (Genesis 1:1) **assumes** the eternal existence of God. The Bible does not try to prove God's existence because God is God. When we use the title God, we speak of the Godhead, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit. In Genesis 1:1, and throughout



| The Lord Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man.

the entire Bible, the eternal deity of God is an understood fact. Since Jesus Christ is God, His eternal existence is also an understood fact. The Gospel of John begins, for example, by declaring the eternal existence of our Savior. No human author of the Scriptures even questioned the reality of Christ's eternal existence. They knew He was God.

Only those who try to make God into the image of man dare to deny Christ's eternal existence.

While Jesus walked among mankind, many denied that He was God. However, those who knew Him as their Lord and Savior declared (Matthew 16:16) that He was "...the Christ, the Son of the living God." Our faith that brings personal salvation is belief in Christ, the God-man. When we believe in Christ and receive Him as our Savior, we are attesting to His deity and to His eternal existence.



Answer these questions with complete sentences.

1.1 What can we learn when we examine the earthly life of Christ? _____

1.2 What can we learn when we study the death of Christ? _____

1.3 Why is Jesus Christ unique, like no other? _____

1.4 Why is Christ's deity a proof of His eternal existence? _____

1.5 Why was Christ's birth not His beginning? _____

Direct Evidences of Eternal Existence. The major passage in the Bible that teaches Christ’s pre-existence is John 1:1–18. The Gospel of John begins by stating (John 1:1), “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” As John unfolded the story of the Savior, he explained that the Word was the Lord Jesus Christ. As God, Christ is not bound by time. Indeed, He created time by setting the sun and moon in the heavens (Genesis 1:3, 16). Man is bound by time, and he has difficulty understanding the One who knows no limitation of time. Even when we speak of time before Creation, we must use the word “time.” If we consider Christ in His eternal existence, we think in our terms of time, dates, and places; but as God, Christ is not limited to these things. Jesus Christ in His deity was with God in the beginning of time and existed prior to the existence of time.

In John 8 Jesus was in the Temple, and He was being questioned by the Pharisees. They tried to compare Him to Abraham, but He answered (John 8:58), “...Before Abraham was, I am.” Christ had said that before to Moses (Exodus 3:14), “...I AM THAT I AM....” Jesus Christ is who He is. Our Lord said *I am*, not *I was* nor *I will be*, but *I am*. Abraham had lived over two thousand years prior to that time in the Temple; even then, Christ existed in an ever-present, eternal state of being.

In John 10:30 the apostle recorded Christ’s declaration: “I and my Father are one.” The author of the Epistle to the Hebrews wrote of the Father’s saying to Christ (Hebrews 1:8), “...Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever....” Both of these passages demonstrate the deity of Christ. As God, He has eternal existence. As Christ, the Messiah was revealed to believers in Old Testament times, His existence was also mentioned.

In both Micah 5:2 and Isaiah 9:6, the Messiah, Jesus Christ, is said to be from *everlasting*. He is from everlasting because He has no beginning.

Indirect Evidences of Eternal Existence. Any biblical reference to the Trinity—the unity of God as the Father, Son, and Spirit—is also a reference to the eternal existence of each person of the Godhead. In the New Testament the Trinity is taught in such passages as John 10:30 and Matthew 3:16–17. Even in the Old Testament the existence of God in three persons is mentioned. Genesis 1:26 states, “And God said, Let us make man....” In that divine decree, the members of the Godhead agreed to create Adam.

Only in the Old Testament do we find the angel of **Jehovah**. In Genesis 16:13 the “angel of the LORD” is identified as Jehovah, but in Genesis 24:7 the angel of the Lord is distinct from Jehovah. This distinction is evident when we realize that this angel of Jehovah was a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus Christ, who is God in nature, yet distinct from His Father in person. The angel of Jehovah is not mentioned in the New Testament because Christ had come to earth to dwell among men.

Additional proof of Christ’s pre-existence can be found in the Bible’s reference to His work preceding His earthly birth. In John 1:3 we find that “all things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.” Christ was the creator of heaven and earth, and now all things are sustained by Him. Paul stated that Christ was in the beginning and (Colossians 1:16) “...by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth....”

Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, lived before His birth. He exists throughout all eternity. He has neither beginning nor end. He is not limited by time. He is the eternal Christ.



Write true or false.

- 1.6 _____ Christ is not bound by time.
- 1.7 _____ Jesus told the Pharisees that He existed even before Abraham.
- 1.8 _____ Christ was not revealed in the Old Testament.
- 1.9 _____ The apostle John recorded that Christ's throne would be forever and ever.
- 1.10 _____ The angel of the LORD is the Lord Jesus Christ.

Complete these statements.

- 1.11 The major passage that teaches Christ's eternal existence is _____ .
- 1.12 The apostle John called Jesus Christ the _____ .
- 1.13 All things in heaven and earth were made by _____ .
- 1.14 Jesus' divine existence prior to His incarnation is called His _____
_____ .
- 1.15 Jesus Christ is not limited by time as is _____ .

The Birth of Christ

In the history of mankind, the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ is second in importance only to the death and resurrection of Christ. Indeed, in Christ's humble birth was the destiny of the cross. In the miracle of His birth the eternal Son of God came to earth to live among men and to die for their sins. His birthday foreshadowed His death day.

The Old Testament prophets revealed many things about the Messiah. Miracles occurred at Christ's birth which further confirmed the uniqueness of this event. The manner of His birth, in a manger in Bethlehem, was a humble entrance for the Son of God who chose to come and die on behalf of men.

Prophecy of Christ's Birth. The first prophecy of Christ in the Old Testament (Genesis 3:15) was also a prophecy of His birth. God told Adam and the woman that their deliverer, Christ, would come through the human race and be from the seed of the woman. Genesis 12:2 refers to the blessing that would come from Abraham and the nation that would come from him. No greater blessing could be given to mankind than the Son of God Himself. This blessing, the Lord Jesus Christ, would come from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10) and would be called the Lion of the tribe of Judah (Revelation 5:5).

Many specific details are also found in the Old Testament regarding Jesus' humble birth. The prophet Micah foretold that Bethlehem would be the place of the Savior's birth (Micah 5:2). Over seven hundred years before Christ, Isaiah wrote that Christ's birth would be unique (Isaiah 7:14), "...Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Christ would not come from the family of Adam. His Father was God. His mother, Mary, qualified Christ as fully man. Through the virgin birth the God-man, Jesus Christ, was born into the human race and yet was forever without sin.

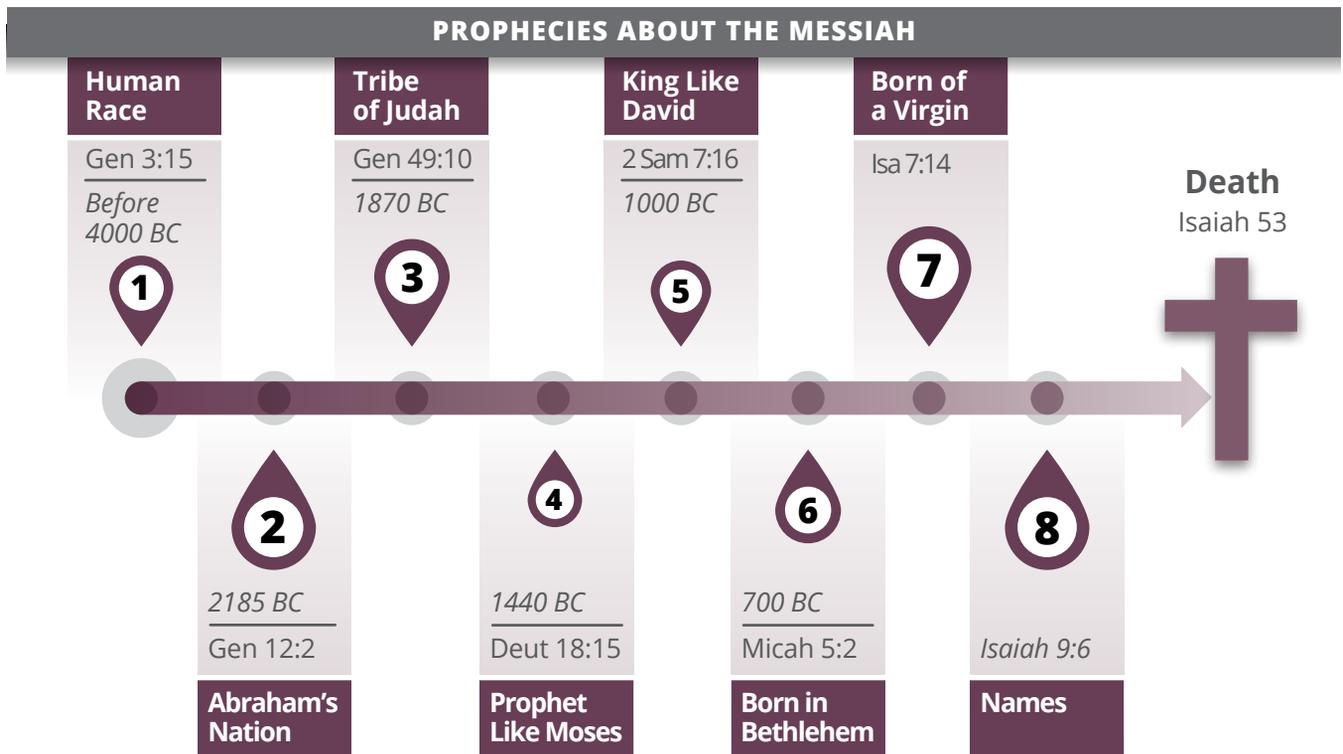
Luke chapters 1 and 2.



Additional names of Christ our Lord were also given in the Old Testament Scriptures. Isaiah 9:6 states, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." All of these names referred to Jesus, and His birth brought Him to fallen mankind.

Such prophecies found in the Old Testament concerning Christ's birth relate to His pre-existence. The prophecies also validate the divine purpose of Jesus' birth. As we study the New Testament account of Christ's birth, we can observe the grand fulfillment of the prophetic promises.

Miracles of Christ's Birth. The first miracle attending the birth of Christ occurred prior to Mary's conversation with the angel Gabriel. Elisabeth, Mary's cousin (Luke 1:36), had no children. Elisabeth's husband, Zacharias, was visited in the Temple by an angel who announced to him that they would have a child. Although Elisabeth and Zacharias were old, they would have a son who would be named



| Prophecies About the Messiah

John and would become the herald of Jesus Christ. Six months after Elisabeth conceived (Luke 1:24–27), the angel Gabriel visited Mary in Nazareth.

Mary had been **betrothed** to Joseph. In ancient times the betrothal was the final event prior to the marriage itself. Gabriel told Mary that she would miraculously conceive a son (Luke 1:31), "...and [thou] shalt call his name Jesus." Although Mary had many questions, she accepted this experience as a privilege in the will of God and said (Luke 1:38), "...Be it unto me according to thy word..." Later, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. Joseph also had many questions, but the Scriptures state (Matthew 1:24) that Joseph "...did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him..."

Through the **decree** of Caesar Augustus requiring all citizens to return to their native cities for taxation purposes, Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem. While in Bethlehem, Mary brought forth God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 2:7), "...and [she] wrapped him in swaddling clothes,

and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

Surrounding Bethlehem that eventful night were shepherds caring for their flocks. As these shepherds gathered in the still of night, an angel of the Lord came to them.

While the glory of the Lord shone round about, the angel announced (Luke 2:11), "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." The shepherds left their sheep to seek the one who was their Shepherd and their Savior in a manger in Bethlehem.

Following the circumcision of Jesus, which identified Him with the nation of Abraham, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem. Old Testament Law prescribed a sacrifice to be made unto the Lord when a child was born (Exodus 13:2 and Leviticus 12:1–8). During the Temple visit, which occurred forty-one days after Jesus' birth, two individuals testified of the God-man, Jesus. A righteous and devout man named Simeon was led by the Spirit to Jesus



in the Temple. He took Jesus into his arms and said to all of Israel (Luke 2:30), "...Mine eyes have seen thy salvation." Looking at Jesus, Simeon knew that this baby was the Savior of the world. A prophetess named Anna, who was faithful in her worship at the Temple (Luke 2:38), also "...gave thanks likewise unto the Lord and spake of him [Jesus] to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem." After they left the Temple, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Nazareth, their own city (Luke 2:39).

Wise men from the East also sought out the Lord Jesus after His birth (Matthew 2:1-12). When they came to Jerusalem, their search brought them before Herod. Learning that a king had been born to the Jews, Herod calculated when he would have been born. Herod attempted to have the wise men help him in his plan to destroy the King of Kings. However, the wise men worshipped Jesus when they found Him in Nazareth and gave gifts of gold, **frankincense**, and **myrrh** to their Lord. Being warned by God, the wise men did not report back to Herod but departed immediately for their own country.

Manner of Christ's Birth. John 3:16 states that "...God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son..." The miracle of the virgin birth of Christ brought the Savior to live among men and to redeem those who would believe in Him. Yet even when the Savior "...was in the world, ... the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John 1:10-11).

At the first Advent, the birth of Christ, Jesus came as the Lamb of God to offer Himself as a sacrifice for man's sins. When Jesus comes again, will see Him as the Lion of God who will judge the nations and will establish His eternal reign. Many of those who lived during the time of Jesus' birth knew their Messiah was to come to redeem them. However, they sought a Lion who would deliver them from earthly rulers as well as spiritual forces of darkness. Jesus' birth in a lowly manger was not understood by those who sought the Lion and not the Lamb.

The unbelievers of Jesus' day were not aware of the real enemy of mankind. Satan has his grip on the world and influences all members of the human race. Sin had blossomed and caused man to be separated from God, his Creator, but

Christ would come as the only begotten of God to win victory over Satan and over sin. The simplicity of His birth was a prelude to His victory on the cross.

Jesus' birth may have been humble in the eyes of man, but God made the greatest sacrifice of all by sending Jesus, whom He loved, to earth. Paul mentioned the importance of Jesus' birth in Galatians 4:4-5: "But when the fullness of the

time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law."

Paul further stated (Philippians 2:6-7) that Christ, "...being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men."



Match these items.

- | | | |
|------------|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1.16 _____ | Isaiah 7:14 | a. first prophecy about Christ |
| 1.17 _____ | Genesis 3:15 | b. Christ is of the tribe of Judah |
| 1.18 _____ | Isaiah 9:6 | c. Christ would be born in Bethlehem |
| 1.19 _____ | Micah 5:2 | d. Christ would be born of a virgin |
| 1.20 _____ | Genesis 49:10 | e. Christ would be a son of David |
| | | f. Christ will be the Prince of Peace |

Write the letter of the correct answer on the line.

- 1.21 Elisabeth and Mary were _____ .
 a. friends b. sisters c. not related d. cousins
- 1.22 Zacharias was Elisabeth's _____ .
 a. friend b. husband c. brother d. cousin
- 1.23 Zacharias was a _____ .
 a. priest b. prophet c. judge d. Pharisee
- 1.24 The angel Gabriel told Mary that Christ's name shall be _____ .
 a. Jesus b. Messiah
 c. Wonderful Counsellor d. Prince of Peace
- 1.25 The decree to tax the people of Palestine was given by _____ .
 a. Cyrenius b. Augustine c. Caesar Augustus d. Zacchaeus

SELF TEST 1

Match these items (each answer, 2 points).

- | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|------------------|----|---|
| 1.01 | _____ | angel of Jehovah | a. | Christ's existence prior to His incarnation |
| 1.02 | _____ | Isaiah | b. | when eternal God took on human form |
| 1.03 | _____ | Anna | c. | Christ in the Old Testament |
| 1.04 | _____ | Jerusalem | d. | an attribute of God |
| 1.05 | _____ | pre-existence | e. | foretold the virgin birth |
| 1.06 | _____ | Micah | f. | foretold Christ's place of birth |
| 1.07 | _____ | Jesus' birth | g. | Mary's sister |
| 1.08 | _____ | Bethlehem | h. | Zacharias' wife |
| 1.09 | _____ | Elisabeth | i. | city of David |
| 1.010 | _____ | eternal life | j. | location of the Temple |
| | | | k. | a prophetess |

Complete these statements (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.011** Christ's birthday foreshadowed His _____ day.
- 1.012** The first Old Testament prophecy about Christ is found in _____ .
- 1.013** The Lord Jesus came from the tribe of _____ .
- 1.014** Jesus' existence, life, and ministry are _____ .
- 1.015** Zacharias and Elisabeth were the parents of _____ .
- 1.016** Mary learned from _____ that she had been chosen to give birth to Jesus.
- 1.017** Joseph had to return to his hometown of _____ to pay Roman taxes.
- 1.018** When a child was born in Israel, a _____ was to be made to the Lord.
- 1.019** The king who sought to destroy Jesus was _____ .
- 1.020** The Jews living during Jesus' birth desired the Messiah to be a _____ of God, delivering them from earthly rulers.

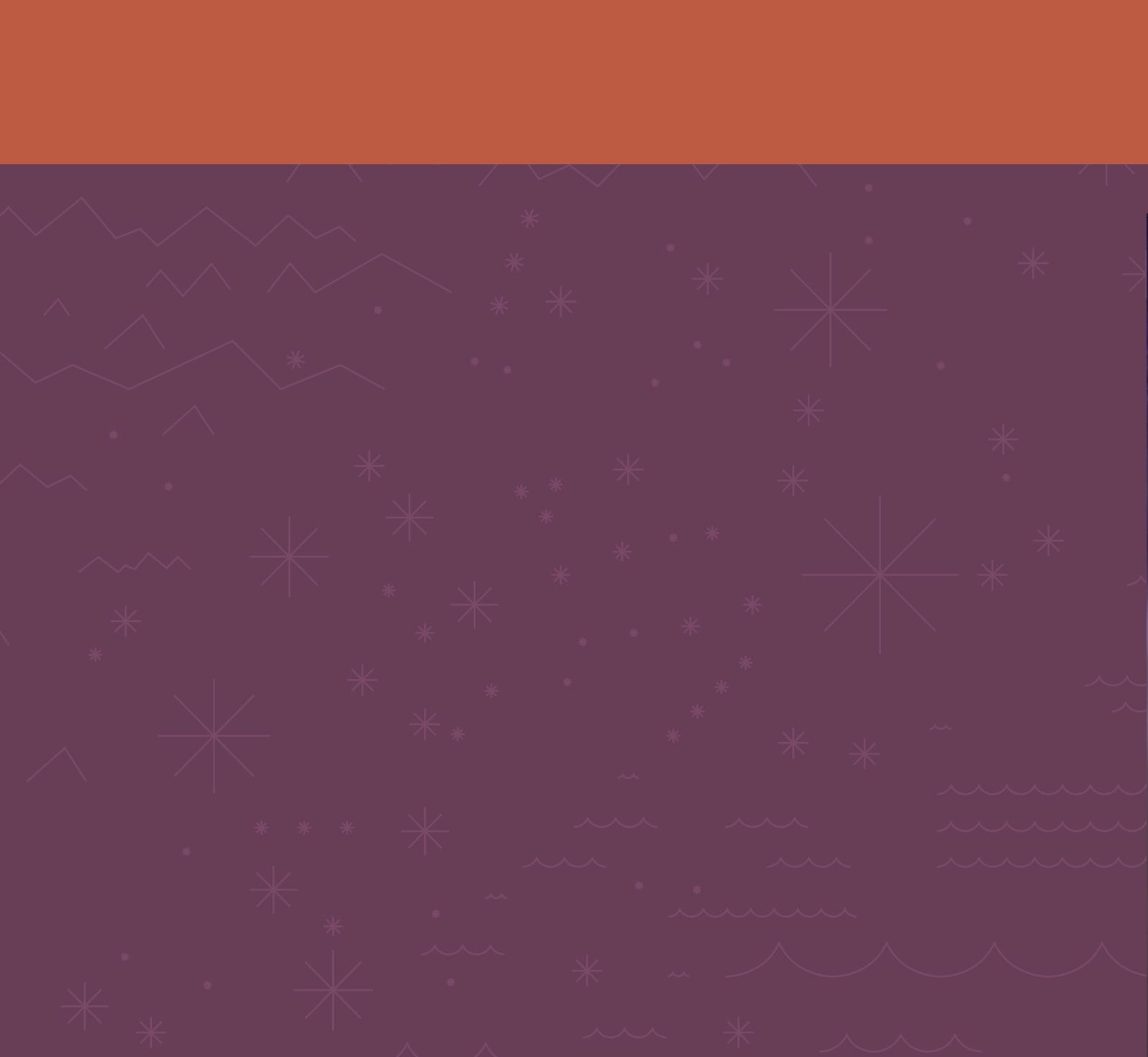
Write true or false (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.021 _____ Jesus' earthly life provides divine examples for Christian living.
- 1.022 _____ In Christ's resurrection He won victory over death and now offers life to mankind.
- 1.023 _____ Christ's deity is a proof of His eternal existence.
- 1.024 _____ Christ's birth was His beginning.
- 1.025 _____ One of the attributes of God is eternal life.
- 1.026 _____ The Lord is part God and part man.
- 1.027 _____ Christ is equal to the Father and the Spirit in His divine essence.
- 1.028 _____ John called the Lord Jesus "the Word."
- 1.029 _____ Mankind is bound by time, but God is not.
- 1.030 _____ Christ did not participate in the creation of Adam.

Complete these lists (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.031 List two groups of men who desired to worship Jesus either at His birth or soon after His birth.
a. _____ b. _____
- 1.032 List the two people who praised Jesus at the Temple.
a. _____ b. _____
- 1.033 List in their proper order the places Jesus lived as a child.
a. _____ b. _____
c. _____
- 1.034 List three of the names given to Christ in Isaiah 9:6.
a. _____ b. _____
c. _____

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804 N. 2nd Ave. E.
Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

800-622-3070
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