

A Chronology of the Life of Christ

by Steve Gregg

The Early Years

John 1:1-18	Before the incarnation
Matthew 1:1-17	The family tree
Luke 1:1-38	The angelic announcements
Luke 1:39-80	Until the birth of John
Matthew 1:18-25	How Joseph became a believer
Luke 2:1-21	The birth of Jesus, the shepherds
Matthew 2:1-18	The magi and Herod
Luke 2:22-38	At the temple: Simeon and Anna
Matthew 2:19-23	Jesus becomes a Nazarene
Luke 2:39-52	At age twelve: Passover

The Year of Obscurity

Luke 3:1-20	John's ministry	Matt.3:1-12/Mark 1:1-18
Matthew 3:13-17	The baptism of Jesus	Mark 1:9-11/Luke 3:21-23
Matthew 4:1-11	The temptation	Mark 1:12-13/Luke 4:1-13
John 1:19-51	Four days at Bethabara	
John 2:1-12	Wedding in Cana	
John 2:13-25	First Passover: Temple cleansing	
John 3:1-21	First Passover: Nicodemus interview	
John 3:22-36	John's reaction to Jesus' popularity	
Luke 3:19-20	John's arrest	
John 4:1-42	Ministry in Samaria	Matt.4:12 (possibly December-v.35)

The Year of Popularity

Jn.4:43-45/Mk.1:14f	Begins to preach in Galilee	Matt.4:17/ Luke 4:14-15
John 4:43-54	Second miracle in Cana	
Luke 4:16-30	A visit to the home town	
Matthew 4:13-16	Capernaum becomes home	
Luke 5:1-11	Jesus catches four fishermen	Matt.4:18-22/Mark 1:16-20

The first Sabbath in Capernaum

Mark 1:21-28	Synagogue deliverance	Luke 4:31-37
Mark 1:29-34	Peter's mother-in-law & crowd at sundown	Mt.8:14-17/ Lk 4:38-41

The first Galilean itinerary

Mark 1:35-38	Departure at sunrise	Luke 4:42-43
Matthew 4:23-25	Enormous popularity	Mark 1:39/Luke 4:44
Mark 1:40-45	The case of a leper	Matt.8:2-4/Luke 5:12-16

Matthew 12:22-45	The sin without forgiveness ^{1*}	Mark 3:20-30
Mark 3:31-35	Jesus denies his family an interview	
Matthew 13:1-52	The parables discourse	

Across the lake to Gerasa (or Gadara)

Matthew 8:18-22	Would-be disciples
Mark 4:35-41	The storm is stilled
Mark 5:1-20	The men of the tombs

Back in Capernaum...

Matthew 9:1-8	The paralyzed man borne of four
Matthew 9:9-13	Matthew the publican

Luke 6:12-16	Selection of the twelve	Mark 3:13-19
Matthew 5-7	Sermon on the Mount	Luke 6:17-49

Matthew 9:14-17	Why not fast?
Mark 5:21-43	Jairus' daughter & issue of blood (placed here by Matt.9:18)
Matthew 9:27-31	Two blind men healed
Matthew 9:32-34	Demonized mute

Not in Capernaum

Mark 6:1-6	Revisiting Nazareth & circuit
Matthew 12:1-8	Grainfield Sabbath controversy
Matthew 12:9-21	Withered hand Sabbath controversy

Jerusalem

John 5	Healing & controversy at a feast (Passover?)
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Returns to Capernaum for one day (Luke 7:1,11)

Luke 7:1-10	Centurion's servant
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Leaves Capernaum

Luke 7:11-17	Trip to Nain
Matthew 11:2-30	John's messengers (chronology determined by Luke 7:18)
Luke 7:36-50	Sinful woman in Pharisee's house
Matthew 9:35-10:42	Sending out the twelve
Matthew 11:1	Teaching itinerary
Mark 6:14-29	John's death
Mark 6:30-32	Return of the twelve
Matthew 14:13-21	Feeding of 5000 (also John 6:1-14)
Matthew 14:22-36	Walking on water (also John 6:15-21)
John 6:22-71	The Bread of Life discourse

The Year of Opposition (from Passover, 29 AD to Passover, 30 AD)

Mark 7:1-23	Real defilement
Matthew 15:21-28	The Syro-phoenecian woman
Mark 7:31-37	A deaf mute
Mark 8:1-10	Feeding 4000
Mark 8:11-21	Sign-seekers with bad leaven
Mark 8:22-26	Blind man at Bethsaida
Matthew 16:13-28	Caesarea Philippi, prediction of death
Matthew 17:1-13	Transfiguration
Mark 9:14-29	The boy demoniac
Mark 9:30-32	Second prediction of His death

Return to Capernaum

Matthew 18:1-5 (Mark 9:33-37)	The question of greatness
Mark 9:38-41 (Luke 9:49-50)	Forbidding outsiders to cast out demons
Matthew 18:6-14 (Mark 9:43-50)	Treatment of "little ones"
Matthew 18:15-20	Community discipline
Matthew 18:21-35	Forgiveness mandatory

The Feast of Tabernacles (September, Jerusalem)

John 7:2-9	The great day of the feast
Luke 9:51-56 (John 7:10)	Shall we call down fire from heaven?
John 7:11-52	Feast of Tabernacles
John 7:53 to 8:11	The adulteress
John 8:12-59	Controversy over pedigree
John 9	The blind man
John 10:1-21	The Good Shepherd

Parts unknown, probably Judea

Luke 10:1-24	The mission of the seventy
Luke 10:25-37	The Good Samaritan parable

Bethany

Luke 10:38-42	Hospitality of Mary and Martha
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Probably Judea or Perea

Luke 11:1-13	Teaching on prayer
Luke 12:1-12	Teaching about sincerity, courage & loyalty
Luke 12:13-21	Teaching on wealth and covetousness
Luke 12:22-34	Worry and priority of the kingdom
Luke 12:35-48	Need to remain alert
Luke 12:49-56 (cf., Matt 16:1-4)	The crisis of the hour
Luke 13:1-9	Teaching on imminent doom of Israel
Luke 13:10-17	Woman with spirit of infirmity
John 10:22-42	Confrontation at Feast of Dedication (Hannukah)
Luke 13:22-33	Journey toward Jerusalem
Luke 14:1-24	Teaching on occasion of a feast
Luke 14:25-35	Count the cost
Luke 15	Three parables about lost things found
Luke 16	The use of money: two parables
Luke 17:1-10	Offenses and the servant heart

The Feast of Dedication (December, Jerusalem)

John 10:22-39	Jesus accused of blasphemy
John 10:40-42	Withdrawal across Jordan

to Bethany, then Ephraim

John 11:1-44	The raising of Lazarus
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circuitous return to Jerusalem, via Samaria & Galilee

Luke 17:11-19	Ten lepers
Luke 17:20-37	The coming of the kingdom
Luke 18:1-8	Parable of persistent widow
Luke 18:9-14	Parable of Pharisee & publican
Matthew 18:10-35	Teaching on forgiveness

Perea

Matthew 19:1-12	Teaching about divorce and celibacy
Matthew 19:13-15	Blessing the children
Matthew 19:16-30	The rich, young ruler
Matthew 20:1-16	Parable of laborers
Luke 9:51-56	Heading to Jerusalem thru Samaria
Matthew 20:17-19	Third prediction of His death. Mk 10:32-34, Lk 18:31-34
Matthew 20:20-28	Ambition of the sons of Zebedee Mark 10:35-45

Jericho

Mark 10:46-52	Blind Bartimaeus healed
Luke 19:1-10	Zachaeus visited
Luke 19:11-27	Parable of the Minas

Return to Bethany (Saturday, before Palm Sunday)

John 11:45-57	The Sanhedrin plots to kill Jesus
John 12:1-11	The anointing at Bethany

Passion Week

Sunday

Luke 19:28-44	The triumphal entry
Mark 11:11	Looks around, leaves

Monday

Mark 11:12-19	Curses tree/cleanses the temple
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Tuesday

Mk 11:20-26/Mt. 21:18-22	Comments on fig tree
Matthew 21:23-27	Authority challenged
Matthew 21:28-22:14	Three judgment parables
Matthew 22:15-40	Three theological challenges
Matthew 22:41-46	Jesus takes the offensive
Matthew 23	Woes to scribes and Pharisees
Matthew 24-25	Olivet discourse

Thursday

The upper room

Matthew 26:1-16	The last straw for Judas
Luke 22:1-38 (John 13)	Passover meal and discussion
John 14-16	The upper room discourse

Jesus' arrest and trial (Thursday night & Friday morning)

Mark 14:32-42	Prayer in garden
John 18:1-27	The arrest & Annas' house
Matthew 26:57-68	Trial at Caiaphas' house
Matthew 27:1-10	What became of Judas
John 18:28-38	First hearing before Pilate
Luke 23:6-12	Before Herod Antipas
John 18:39-19:17	Pilate on trial before Jesus
Luke 23:26-32	Women weeping

Friday

The crucifixion & burial

Matthew 27:32-66	Matthew's account
John 19:17-42	John's account

Sunday

The resurrection

Matthew 28:1-15	The women at the tomb
Mark 16:1-11/John 20:18	To Mary Magdalen
Lk 24:1-43/John 20:19-29	Appearances to apostles

The Great Commission and Ascension

Mark 16:14-18	Command to evangelize (Jerusalem)
John 21	By the sea, Peter commissioned (Galilee)
Matthew 28:16-20	Command to make disciples (Galilee)
Luke 24: 44-53	Command to preach (Jerusalem/Bethany)
Acts 1:4-11	Command to be witnesses (Olivet)
Mark 16:19-20	The ascension (Olivet)

* At this point I have departed from the traditional chronology, which places the healing of the paralytic and the call of Matthew next in order after the healing of the leper (I have placed seven segments between these), for the following reasons:

1. Traditionally, the healing of the paralytic and the call of Matthew are placed next in sequence (e.g. Mark 2:1ff & Luke 5:17ff), whereas the parables discourse, the stilling of the storm and the demonic of Gadara are put later (e.g. Mark 4:1ff & Luke 8:4ff).
2. Matthew unmistakably places the latter two incidents (8:23-34) between the healing of the leper (8:1-4) and Jesus' return to Capernaum, where he then healed the paralytic and called Matthew (chapter 9).
3. Though it is impossible to follow Matthew's chronology throughout this section (e.g. he relates the cure of Peter's mother-in-law and its sequel in 8:14-17, an impossible sequence), yet he distinctly places Jesus' return to Capernaum upon his arrival back from Gadara (9:1). This requires that the crossing of the lake to and from Gadara immediately precede the events next related in Capernaum.
4. Beyond this, Mark and Luke both place the parables discourse immediately prior to this trip to Gadara, and Mark is emphatic that the crossing occurred on the same day as the discourse (Mark 4:35).
5. Matthew places the parables discourse "on the same day" as Jesus' refusal to see his mother and brethren (12:46-13:1).
6. The visit of Jesus' brethren is preceded by the discussion of the unpardonable sin in Matthew (12:22-32; 46-50) and Mark (3:20-35).
7. The events in Capernaum were preceded by the Gadara crossing (Matt.9:1), which was preceded by the parables discourse (Mark 4:35), which was preceded by the visit of Jesus' mother and brothers (Matthew 13:1).