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**A CHRONOLOGY OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST**

**FOLLOWING HIS STEPS**

**An Effort to Harmonize the Gospels**

**by Elder Bob Allgood**

**INTRODUCTION**

**“If thou know not, O thou fairest among women, go thy way forth by the footsteps of the flock, and feed thy kids beside the shepherds’ tents” (Song of Solomon 1:8).**

**It seems to me that these words were prophetically spoken through Solomon to the Saints of God who make up the Bride of Christ, the Church of the firstborn and of The Living God. As children of God in these earthen vessels we are in an imperfect state and know only in part the unsearchable riches of Christ. It seems to me that Solomon’s words are teaching us that IF or since we “know not” we should follow the footsteps of the flock, i. e. the saints of God that have gone before us. I believe those footsteps of the flock follow the steps of Christ. Peter wrote, “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps” (1 Peter 2:21). I notice Peter said “follow his steps” and not follow IN his steps, as though we could live and do exactly what Christ did, for none of us could do that. But it does imply that “we ought to walk as he walked”, which is what John taught, “He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked” (I John 2:6).**

**For several years I have desired to put in order the Life of Christ as those events are presented to us, in the sequences they**

are given, in the four Gospels. I have thought this would help me to have a better understanding of HIS earthly ministry, which lasted only about three and one half years. It has only been within the last few months that I thought I had finally accumulated the tools necessary to do this. I realize that even if I am able to put in order those things contained in the Gospels, as John said, “there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written”.

### **A FEW WORDS ABOUT BIBLE CHRONOLOGY**

At midnight on December 31, 1999 as time changed to January 1, 2000 everyone celebrated the “beginning” of a “new millennium” when in fact the year 2,000 was the start of the “last or final year” of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century NOT the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup>. The year 2001 was the first year of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It took some time for folks to catch on to this fact – but there was a smaller worldwide celebration at midnight on December 31, 2000. One can imagine how difficult it would be to arrive at a destination on time if his watch was running several hours behind. One can imagine how difficult it would be to determine a Calendar Year if we are using a system that is off by four or five years.

In A.D. 532 (or was it A.D. 527?) the monk Dionysius Exiguus started a “Christian” system of dating events, beginning with the year he believed Christ was born. He called the years after the birth of Christ “anno Domini”. A. D. is the abbreviation for anno Domini, which is Latin for “in the year of our Lord”. The years before the birth of Christ are called B.C. (before Christ). According to this system Historical Events shown as happening in A.D. were supposed to have taken place after the birth of Christ, and the events that took place before Christ would be shown as BC.

However it has been proven and generally accepted by most Historians and Scholars that Dionysius Exiguus

**started with the wrong date for the birth of Christ. According to well established Roman history, the Herod mentioned in Matthew 2 died in 4 BC (using the dating system created by Exiguus). According to the Scriptures (Matt. 2:16) Christ had already been born, but was no more than 2 years old. That would place the birth of Christ at about 5 BC and no later than 4 BC. We know from Scripture that Christ was about thirty years old when he was baptized by John and began his ministry (Luke 3:21-23). Everyone generally agrees from the Gospel Records that his ministry was about three and one half years (3 1/2) placing his death at the age of 33 1/2 in the correct year of 30 A.D. and not 33 1/2 A.D. based on the system of counting by Dionysius Exiguus.**

**For years I thought the only way to obtain the date of an historical event was to depend on Historians who depended on other Historians who often differed in their opinions as to when those events took place. Without a doubt there has been and still are some excellent Historians. Some are more reliable than others because they claim a belief in God, and should be trusted to be as honest as they can be. Like anyone else I still look to Historians for many dates of historical events. But even then the best we often get is an approximate date in order for the Historians to be safe. Most of the time these dates are unimportant, serving only a reference to a time-frame, BUT sometimes they are very critical.**

**For instance, according to Daniel's Prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27) of 70 Weeks of 7 Years or 490 years, "from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem UNTO THE MESSIAH the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks OR 69 weeks OR 483 years. I believe scripture proves that "the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem" was given by Cyrus (Ezra 1:1-4) in the year 457 BC based on a Biblical Chronology – and not uninspired historians. The words "Unto the Messiah the Prince" can be proven to be unto his baptism by John the Baptist and his anointing of the Holy Ghost" at the age**

of 30, AND according to Bible Chronology we can prove this was in the year 26 AD. Since Messiah was to be cut off in the midst of the 70th week “but not for himself” - we can fix the age of Christ at his death at 33 1/2 years. One half of seven years = 3 1/2 years.

**THIS ALL PROVES OUT USING SCRIPTURE AS FOLLOWS:**

**1. June – July in 6 BC. The announcement by the Angel that John the Baptist would be born.**

**2. January in 5 BC – The announcement to Mary that Jesus would be born. Mary visits Elizabeth who is already “in her sixth month”.**

**3. March – April in 5 BC - John the Baptist is born (nine months after point 1).**

**4. September – October in 5 BC – Christ is born (nine months after point 2).**

**5. September – October in 4 BC – Jesus would have been at least ONE year old, and maybe a little older by the time Herod had all the children two years old and younger in Bethlehem killed – Matthew 2:7-16. Herod died in 4 BC.**

**6. Using September – October as the possible birth months of Christ he would have been:**

**1 in 4 BC, 2 in 3 BC, 3 in 2 BC, 4 in 1 BC, 5 in 1 AD (there is no Zero BC or AD), 6 in 2 AD, 7 in 3 AD, 8 in 4 AD, 9 in 5 AD, 10 in 6 AD, 11 in 7 AD, and 12 in 8 AD.**

**7. Jesus was taken to the Feast of the Passover in Jerusalem when he was TWELVE. Since the Passover was in the month of Nisan = to our March or April, this must have been in 9 AD before he turned 13 in September or October.**

**8. Adding 18 years to his 12<sup>th</sup> birthday in 8 AD we calculate he was 30 in 26 AD when John baptized him.**

**9. He would have been 33 in September or October of 29 AD – and 33 ½ when he was crucified on the Passover in March or April in 30 AD.**

**The purpose of ANY Chronology is not to establish an EXACT date (day-month-year) of any particular event, nor is to magnify a Time-Line above the Truth of Gospel of Christ. If anyone finds what they believe to be an error in this Chronology, I would welcome their comments, with scriptural proof of the error.**

**It is not my intent to add comment to these chronology Tables, other than that which is necessary to connect the events in the Steps of Christ as they are recorded in the Scriptures. The details of each individual STEP have been compiled on a CD. Each Step in the chronology consist of a Heading, Date, Scripture References, a Note or Comment and the actual Scriptures from the King James Bible.**

**This has been one of those undertakings, where my desire was greater than my ability. David said, “The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way” (Psalms 37:23). I will ask, as did David, that the Lord, “Hold up my goings in thy paths, that my footsteps slip not” (Psalms 17:5), and may all things be done for His honor and glory.**

**Elder Bob Allgood**

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