

Lesson Notes:

How would you define the following leadership groups governing Israel during the time of Christ?

King Herod: Jewish King appointed by Rome

The Scribes: Teachers who served as mentors and studied the Old Testament

The Priests: Leaders of Enlightenment from the tribe of Levi

The Pharisees: Fundamentalist Scribes who strickly adhered to the law and even added to it

The Sadducees: Priests who were the aristocracy and judges

The Sanhedrin: 71 priests or scribes chosen to sit on the Supreme court

Describe the “Holy of Holies” and how it was used in worship during the time of Christ:

The intermost room of the Temple reserved for yearly offerings to atone for the sins of the people. Separated by a vail.

Highlight the part of each prophesy below that would have helped you recognize the Messiah

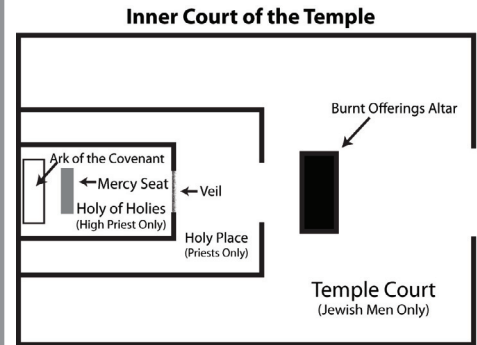
Micah 5:2 “But you, **Bethlehem Ephrathah**, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old from ancient times.”

Malachi 3:1 “See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, who you desire, will come,” says the Lord almighty.”

Isaiah 9:6 “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.”

Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Emmanuel.”

Isaiah 40:3 “A voice of one calling: ‘In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord’; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.”



Israel’s Leadership:

- Caesar** - Ultimate ruler over all of the Rome Empire
- King Herod** - Jewish king appointed by Rome at the time of Jesus’ birth
- The Tetrarchs** - King Herod’s sons who each ruled part of Israel after his death. Herod Antipas ruled Galilee
- Pontius Pilate** - Roman governor of Judea
- The Scribes** - Rabbis, Teachers of the law, who studied the writings of the Old Testament
- Priests** - From tribe of Levi, Leaders of Enlightenment
- Pharisees** - A subset of the Scribes who demanded strict adherence to the law
- Sadducees** - A subset of the Priests (overseen by the High Priest), part of the aristocracy, judges
- Sanhedrin** - 71 priests or scribes chosen to sit on the Supreme Court of Justice.

Student Notes:

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Write a brief description of each one of the gospel writers:

Matthew:

Tax collector who became a disciple of Jesus. First hand knowledge of Jesus

Mark:

Traveled with Paul, first to record the story of Jesus.

Luke:

A Gentile and a physician who traveled with Paul. Into the details and drew much of his book from Mark.

John:

One of the disciples closest to Jesus. Loved Jesus and included details about the human side of Jesus as well as the God Jesus.

What unusual, miraculous events helped affirm that Jesus was the son of God?

In the temple both Simeon and Anna affirmed Jesus as the messiah. At his baptism the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove lands on Jesus and a voice from heaven affirms him as God's son.

Who were the “wise men,” or magi, and what role did they play in affirming Jesus’ identity? How did their gifts bless Jesus?

They were astrologers who studied the heavens and noticed a new star indicating a new king. They brought costly gifts to Jesus which helped fund the trip to Egypt to escape Herod.

Points to remember:

1. Each of the four gospels includes slightly different details about the life of Christ because the authors saw Jesus from their own perspective, including details they thought were significant.
2. Some prophecies about the Messiah were confirmed when Jesus was born.
3. From Jesus’ birth the Jewish authorities were dead set on getting rid of him.

Student Notes:
