

A detailed mosaic of Jesus Christ Pantocrator from Hagia Sophia, Istanbul. The Christ figure is depicted with a serene, frontal gaze, a beard, and long hair, set against a golden background with a circular halo. The mosaic is composed of small, intricate tiles in shades of gold, brown, and blue.

I Believe in Jesus Christ, the Only Son of God
Jesus Christ is True God & True Man
CCC, 422-483; CCCC, 79-93.

The Incarnation of the Word

I will put enmity between you & the woman, and between your seed & her seed; he shall bruise your head & you shall bruise his heel (Gen 3:15).

When the time had fully come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman (Gal 4:4).

The Word became flesh and dwelt among us (Jn 1:14)

Gn 3 is the 1st announcement of the good news of salvation. The promise of salvation is made to Adam & Eve. The "woman" is Eve, in a direct sense, & Mary in the full sense. The "seed" of the woman refers both to mankind & to Christ.

Until *the word became flesh & dwelt among us (Jn 1:14)*, God gradually prepared mankind to welcome his Son & progressively revealed Himself to them.

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him (1 Jn 4:9).

The origin of the Incarnation is God's love for mankind. God gives himself to us through the Word coming to share in our human nature.



The Annunciation, Beato Angelico, 1430.

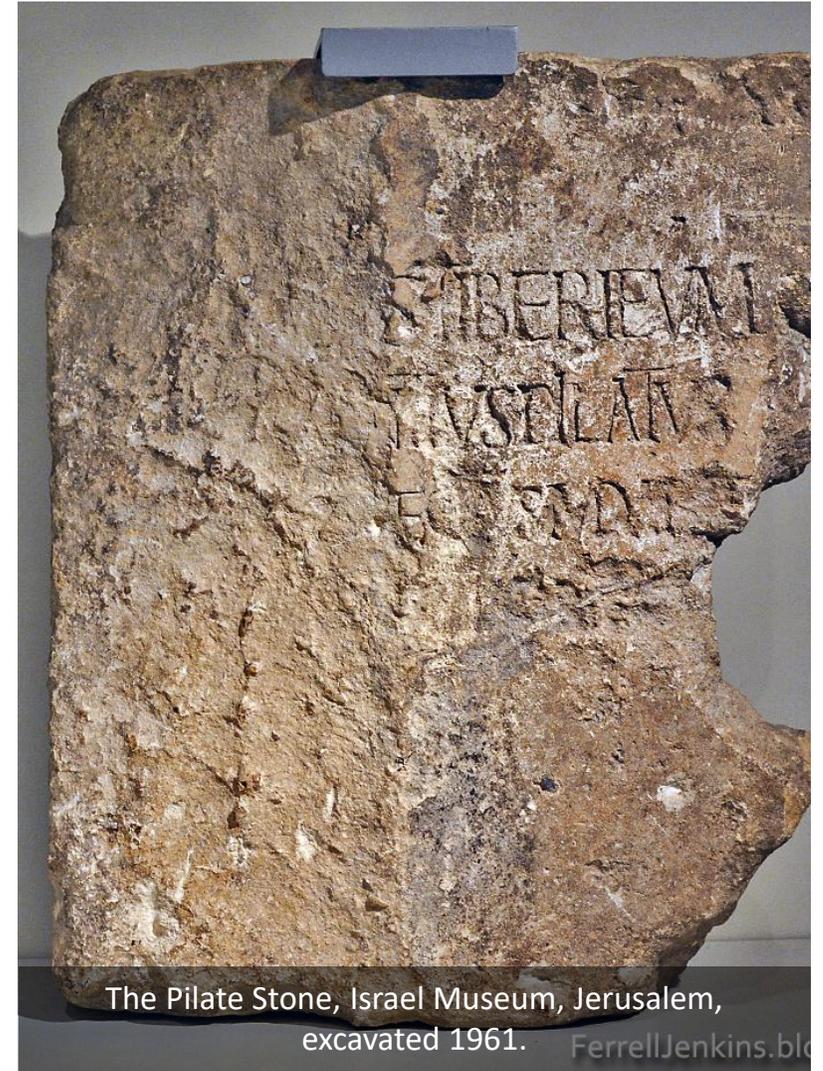
The Historical Reality of Jesus Christ



- Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Word, is not a myth or an abstract idea. He is a man who lived in a specific context & who died after a life spent on earth in the course of history.
- Christ existed, really died for us, & rose on the 3rd day.
- We believe and confess that Jesus of Nazareth, born a Jew of a daughter of Israel at Bethlehem at the time of King Herod the Great & the emperor Caesar Augustus, a carpenter by trade, who died crucified in Jerusalem under the procurator Pontius Pilate during the reign of the emperor Tiberius, is the eternal Son of God made man. He 'came from God', 'descended from heaven', & 'came in the flesh'. For 'the Word became flesh & dwelt among us, full of grace & truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. . . & from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace.' (423)

When Did Jesus Live?

- Jesus was probably born @4-6BC.
- Dating Jesus' Birth:
 - Emperor Augustus (27BC - 14AD)
 - King Herod of Judea (37BC – 4BC)
- From Luke (3:1) we can date the beginning of Jesus' public life to @29 AD:
 - John the Baptist baptizing
 - 15th year of the reign of Tiberius (14-37AD)
 - Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea (26-36AD)
 - Herod was tetrarch of Galilee (4BC-39AD)
- Caiaphas was High Priest (18-36AD)
- 3 Passovers: the Passion was probably 33AD.



The Pilate Stone, Israel Museum, Jerusalem,
excavated 1961. FerrellJenkins.blog

Jesus Lived in a Particular Place



Preaching About Christ



The transmission of the Christian faith consists primarily in proclaiming Jesus Christ in order to lead others to faith in him. From the beginning, the first disciples burned with the desire to proclaim Christ:

“We cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.”

(Acts 4:20)

At the Heart of Catechesis: Christ

At the heart of catechesis we find a Person, Jesus of Nazareth, the only Son from the Father.

To catechize is to reveal in the Person of Christ the whole of God's eternal design reaching fulfilment in that Person. It is to seek to understand the meaning of Christ's actions & words & of the signs worked by him.

The aim of catechesis: To put people in communion with Jesus Christ.

Christ, the Incarnate Word and Son of God, is taught. Everything else is taught with reference to him. We teach to the extent that we are Christ's spokespeople, enabling Christ to teach with our lips. Every catechist should apply to him/herself the mysterious words of Jesus: 'My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.'

The desire to proclaim him, to evangelize, springs from a loving knowledge of Christ & makes us want to know the faith better.

**To “be” catechists!
Not to “work” as catechists.
Catechesis is a vocation:
“being a catechist”,
this is the vocation,
not “working” as a catechist.**

Pope Francis,
Congress on Catechesis



Divinity of Jesus in the New Testament

“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am
well pleased” (Mt 17:5).



The Transfiguration of Jesus, Carl Bloch, 1872.

The Only Son of God

- Jesus Himself declared that He was God, the only-begotten Son of God, of the same nature as the Father (Jn 3:16).
- At the Baptism and the Transfiguration of Christ, the voice of the Father calls Jesus his "beloved Son"
- To his accusers' question before the Sanhedrin, "Are you the Son of God, then?" Jesus answered, "You say that I am." (Lk 22:70)
- Jesus proved His divinity by his life, his teachings, his miracles (power over nature, sickness, etc) & above all by his Resurrection.
- Jesus distinguished his sonship from that of his disciples, never saying "our Father", except to command them: "You, then, pray like this: 'Our Father'". He emphasized this distinction, saying "my Father & your Father". (443)
- St Peter called Jesus "the Christ, the Son of the living God".
- St Paul writes, regarding his conversion, "he who had set me apart before I was born, & had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles". In the synagogues immediately Paul proclaimed Jesus, saying, 'He is the Son of God.'
- ***From the beginning Christ's divine sonship is the centre of the apostolic faith*** (1 Thess 1:10). (442)



St Paul Preaching in Athens, Raphael, 1515.

Jesus Claimed To Be The Son of Man



Jesus Before the High Priest, 1856.

I saw in the night visions, & behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man ... & to him was given dominion & glory & kingdom, that all people, nations & languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away (Dan 7:13-14).

Jesus applies this Messianic prophecy to Himself before the Sanhedrin. The high priest commanded Jesus, “tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.” Jesus said to him,

“You have said so. But I tell you, hereafter you will see the Son of man seated at the right hand of Power, & coming on the clouds of heaven” (Mt 26:63-64).

For the Jews, this meant that Jesus was claiming to be divine. They tore their garments as the Jews did when they heard blasphemy, & condemned Jesus to death as a blasphemer.

Jesus Claimed to be the Son of Man

‘They brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Rise and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins” - he then said to the paralytic - “Rise, take up your bed and go home.”’ (Mt 9:2-7)

Jesus does not disagree with the scribes that only God can forgive sins; he shows his divinity by miraculously curing the paralytic man.



The Palsied Man Let Down Through the Roof, James Tissot, 1886-1896.



Jesus Claimed Authority Over God's Law.

'And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes' (Mt 7:28-29).