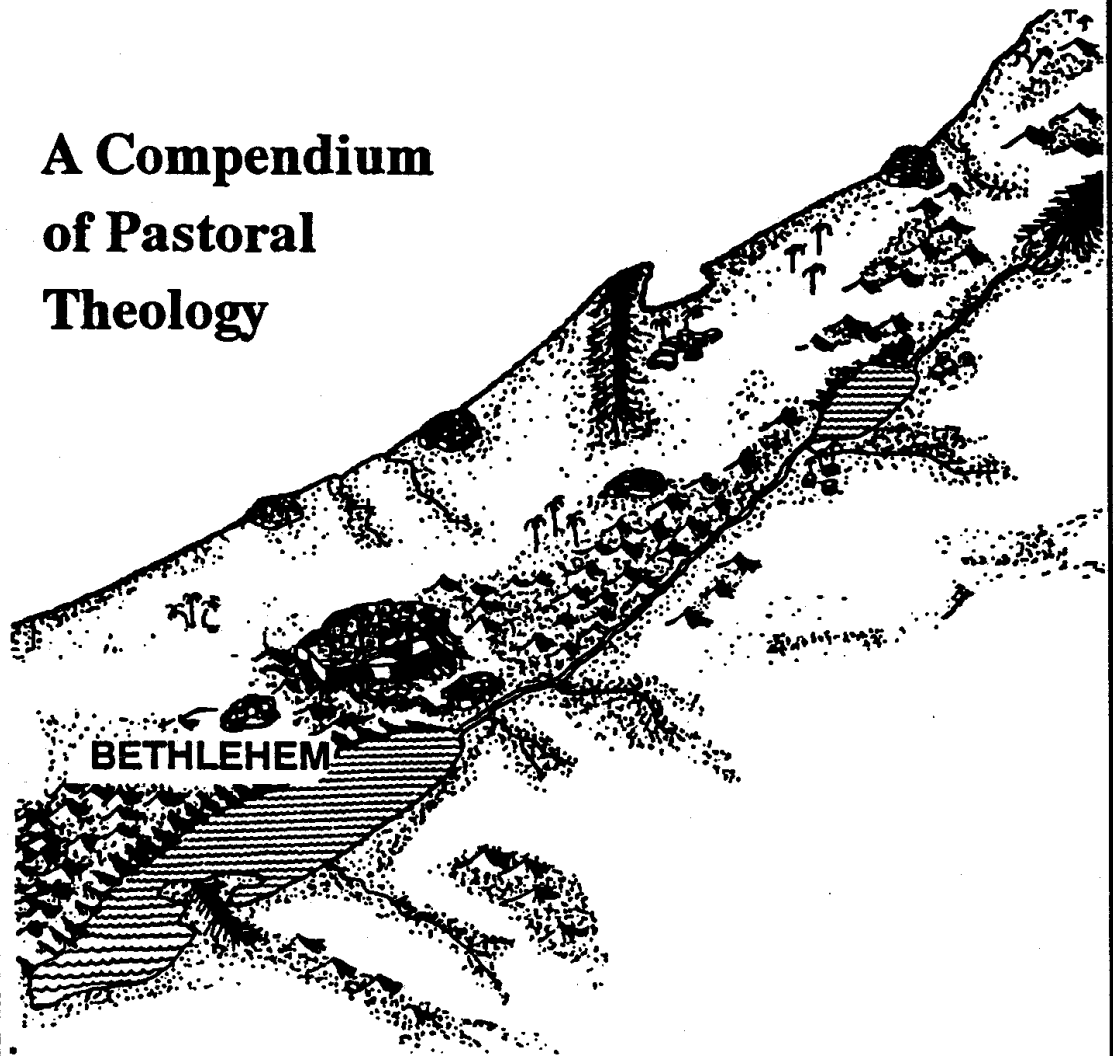


THE LIFE OF CHRIST **(Based on Matthew's Gospel)**

**A Compendium
of Pastoral
Theology**



BOOK 1
INTRODUCTION
AND INFANCY

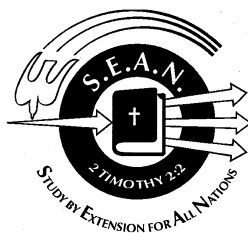
THE LIFE OF CHRIST **(Based on Matthew's Gospel)**

A Compendium of Pastoral Theology

BOOK I

INTRODUCTION AND INFANCY

WEST AFRICA EDITION



S.E.A.N

Study by Extension for all Nations

Patrons of SEAN International: Rev. Dr. John Stott, Rev. Dr. Michael Green.

SEAN (pronounced "Say-an") means Study by Extension for All Nations. This SEAN course is one of a series on the Life of Christ based on the Gospel according to St Matthew. It combines lessons for home study with group discussion. The lessons are arranged in units; each unit being a week's work. After each unit there is a group meeting, and "guides" for this are provided in a separate Group Leader's Training Manual. Therefore the course should only be done by members of a group guided by a leader who follows the companion Group Leader's Training Manual.

This Book 1, on the Introduction and Infancy of Christ, is the first of a series of 6 books. The whole course is based on the New International Version of the Bible

Apart from this study book, you will also need the following items to complete your study:

- 1. A New International Version of the Bible.**
- 2. An ink pen (biro/BIC) to write answers.**
- 3. Coloured pencils (red, blue, green and yellow).**

Your group leader will explain how to complete this book and answer any questions you may have about this course.

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GHANA**

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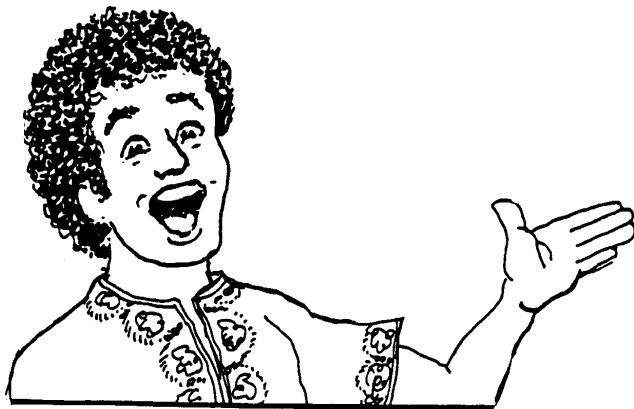
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INTRODUCTION AND INFANCY

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Greetings and welcome to the Compendium!
The Compendium is a series of courses about the Life of Christ that will also teach you how to be a pastor (shepherd) to your church (flock). The lessons are not difficult, but they teach you important things that will help you to be a good pastor.

I am your teacher who will guide you through each step of your home studies in this course on the Life of Jesus Christ. I think you will find it interesting and of real practical value in your life and ministry. So let's start by asking the Lord to help us. Take a few minutes and ask the Lord to open your heart and mind to learn the important things in these lessons.

BEFORE YOU START, PRAY FOR GOD'S HELP TO UNDERSTAND.



Our first week's home study consists of the following three lessons, which make up Unit 1. You must complete all three lessons this week before you go to the group meeting.

UNIT 1

Lesson 1A: Jesus in the Roman Empire

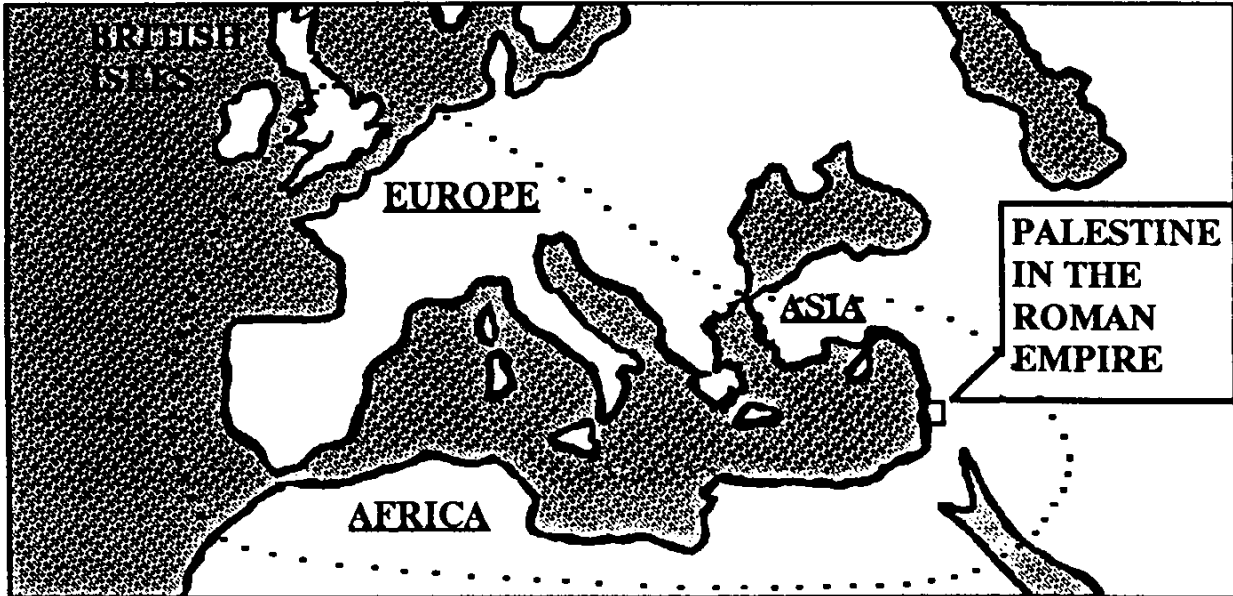
Lesson 1B: The Political Situation in Palestine

Lesson 1C: Matthew, the Author

Goals for Unit 1

Read these goals carefully. They will give you an idea of what you will be able to do once you have finished this study unit. On completing Unit 1 you should be able to achieve the following goals:

1. Explain the importance of Jesus' message of the kingdom of heaven to those living in the complicated political situation of His day, and in our day too.
2. Name some of the main reasons why Matthew and Simon the Zealot would have felt deep-rooted hatred towards each other before they entered into the kingdom of heaven.
3. Take part confidently in a discussion in the Group Meeting on what the Bible teaches about the harmfulness of strife, and how to overcome it in the kingdom of heaven.



1. In order to understand the life of Christ, we should know something about his country and the people who lived there. In this first lesson, we are going to study these things. Look at the above map and see how large the Roman Empire was, (shown by the dotted line). It ruled over lands in **three** different **continents**. Write the names of these three **continents** below: (In the map they are underlined.)



Stop a minute! The answer to each question (called Feedback) can be found at the end of this lesson. Turn now to page five and check your answer. Anytime you are not sure of an answer, check the feedback at the end of the lesson

2. **Exercise:** Look at the map above and mark the boundry of the Roman Empire in red. It is shown by the dotted line.

3. You can now see from the map you have coloured just how many other lands were included in the Roman Empire. For example, find Africa on the Map. How much of Africa fell within the Roman Empire? (Tick the **right** answer according to the map).

a. _____ None b. _____ All c. _____ Only the top part

4. a.) Now find Palestine on the map above. This is the land where Jesus lived. According to the map, was Palestine within the Roman Empire?

Answer Yes or No _____

b.) In order to keep control of Palestine the Roman Empire had to keep a large army of occupation there. So what must have been a common sight for Jesus and his apostles as they walked the roads in Palestine?

Roman _____

5. Jesus lived in the country that is now called **Israel**. However, about 100 years after Jesus, the Roman authorities officially renamed it after the Philistine people, and this name was used for a long time. In the following list, tick the name the **Roman** authorities imposed on Jesus' country (the one most like Philistine).

_____ Israel _____ Palestine _____ Rome