

Introduction to the Jesus of History



The story of Christianity begins with the *Jesus of history*. He lived most of his whole life (6 BCE to 27 CE) in **Nazareth**, a village in **Galilee**. He made a number of trips from **Nazareth** to **Jerusalem**, beginning in his childhood and he was crucified by the Romans at Jerusalem. The Jesus of history lived in the homeland of the Jewish people and that land was very important to him.

In his world, people usually had only one name. His name was **Yeshua**. If greater specificity was needed, it was customary to add the father's name or the place of origin. Below are references in the *New Testament* to his different names.

- *Yeshua son of Joseph* (Luke 4:22; John 1:45; 6:42)
- *Yeshua of Nazareth* (Acts 10:38)
- *Yeshua the Nazarene* (Mark 1:24; Luke 24:19)

Today he is known as "*Jesus Christ*," but the word "*Christ*" was not associated with Yeshua until a few years before his crucifixion. It was not a name; it was a title -- "*Anointed One*." It was after his baptism, when he was thirty-years-old, that this title was linked to his name. The title indicates that his followers believed him to be "*The Anointed Son of King David*," whom some expected would restore Israel to its former glory.

In order to accurately understand the life and teachings of Yeshua, the Jesus of history, we must always keep these key points in mind.

- *The time period in which he lived and taught was 6 BCE to 27 CE.*
- *The places he lived and taught were in Galilee, Samaria and Judea.*
- *His culture was Late Second Temple Period Judaism.*

Primary Source:

<http://www.britannica.com/biography/Jesus-Christ>