

# Chronology of the Life of Jesus

## Lesson 2

### Introductory Thoughts Re: Chronology

- The New Testament does not give dates regarding the events that transpire in its pages.
- Using extra-biblical sources, we can estimate, often with a great deal of accuracy, the dates of biblical events.
- This is not an area where we can be dogmatic... and any difficulties (they are few) in pinning down a date is no reason for doubts concerning the authenticity of the New Testament as the Word of God.

### How We Arrive at Dates in Jesus' Life

- The Greeks dated historical events by the Olympiads held every four years. The first Olympiad was held in 776 B.C.
- The Romans dated many things from the founding of Rome (753 B.C.). They also used the reigns of their rulers as a fixed point from which time was reckoned.
- Our calendar is based upon the calculations of Dionysius (a 6<sup>th</sup> Century Catholic monk), based upon the birth of Christ. (A.D. – *anno domini*. In the year of our Lord). It is generally recognized that Dionysius' calculations were at least four years in error.

### Dates in the Life of Jesus

- These dates taken from *New Testament History (Acts)*, by Gareth L. Reese. College Press).

Date	Event
4 or 5 B.C.	Birth of Jesus
26 A.D.	Baptism of Jesus (Luke 3:23) about 30 years old.
27 A.D.	First Passover in Jesus' Ministry (John 2:23) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cleansing of Temple</li> </ul>
28 A.D.	Second Passover in Jesus' Ministry (John 5:1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Healing of the lame man</li> <li>• Some object that this was not a Passover, because the feast is not mentioned by name</li> <li>• Note: Reliable manuscripts have a definite article in the Greek "the" feast</li> </ul>
29 A.D.	Third Passover in Jesus' Ministry (John 6:4) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feeding of the 5,000</li> </ul>
30 A.D.	Fourth Passover in Jesus' Ministry (John 11:55) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jesus' crucifixion</li> <li>• This estimate makes Jesus' ministry a bit more than three years in duration</li> </ul>

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