

KIDS FOR YAH

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 9

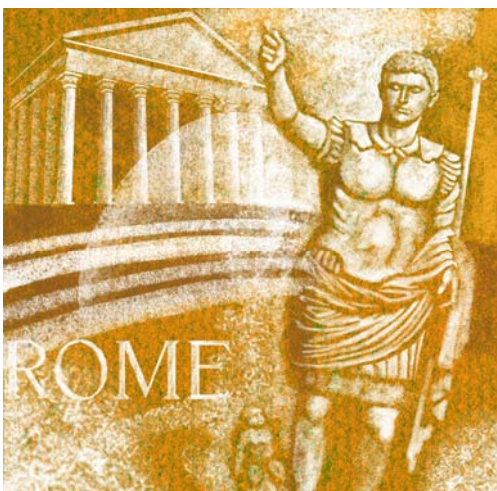
SEPTEMBER 2009

Life, Two Thousand Years Ago



In 63 B.C.E. (before Yahshua was born), the powerful nation of Rome conquered Israel. The Roman empire was incredibly large—it stretched from Egypt to what is now Italy and France. The Roman Emperor, Caesar, made Israel a part of his huge empire. Life was difficult for the people of Israel in those days, because Roman emperors demanded that the people wor-

ship them as deities. But the people of Israel refused to worship anyone but Yahweh, so they suffered greatly under Roman rule. Roman soldiers were sent everywhere to enforce Caesar's laws and collect taxes from the burdened people of the empire.



It was into this difficult time in history that Yahshua the Messiah was born. Caesar appointed Herod to help him rule his rebellious country. Herod knew all the laws of the Israelites. Herod did not care for the people of Israel. He only cared about keeping his position of rulership and pleasing Caesar.

Herod had lived in Palestine all his life. He knew very well what the prophets said about the coming Messiah.

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When the Maji stopped at the palace to inquire about the newborn Yahshua, Herod became frightened and jealous. He probably feared that the child would grow up and dethrone him! Herod pointed the Maji toward Jerusalem, but commanded them to report back to him once they found the child. Herod formed a plan to destroy the child.

The Maji did not return to Herod and he took action. He was so determined that no one would take over his throne that he ordered all the boys two years and under to be killed! An

angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to flee to Egypt with Miriam (Mary) and Yahshua. It must have been challenging to make a long journey with a new baby, since there were no cars or trains in those days! At the time, many Israelites were living in the land of Egypt and it is possible that Joseph and Miriam settled among them.

So Herod carried out his evil plan and all the young boys were killed. The cries of the mothers weeping for their children must have filled the air. After Herod died, several years later, an angel appeared to Joseph once again to tell him it was safe to return to Israel. So once again they made the long journey, but did not go to Bethlehem. They decide to settle further north where Mary had lived in Nazareth.

As Yahshua grew, he took on Joseph's trade of carpentry. He learned to use different tools. In bible times, the main job of a carpenter was to make furniture, doors, fences, and handles for tools. Archaeology confirms this, as many of these types of items were uncovered.

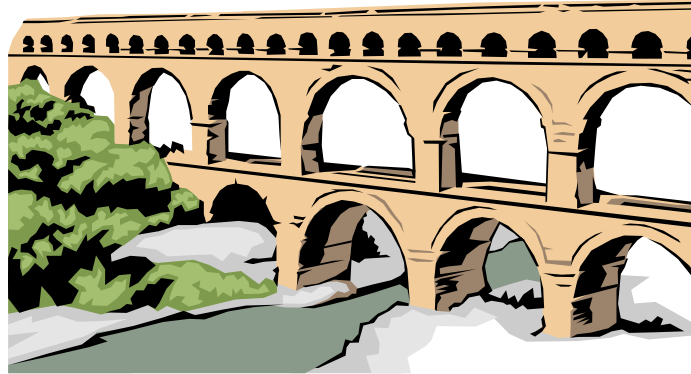
Meanwhile, John the Baptizer, Yahshua's cousin, was living alone in the wilderness, to draw close to Yahweh. He was the son of Miriam's cousin Elizabeth and her husband Zechariah. John had been chosen by Yahweh to do a special job. He had been making his own clothing from camel's hair and ate locusts and wild honey. John's life was not easy, but he began preaching, "Repent! The Kingdom of Yahweh is coming soon!" Many people turned from their evil ways because of John's message and were baptized by him. Many even thought John was the Messiah! But he made it clear that Yahweh had sent someone else to earth to be the Messiah. Yahshua even came to John to be baptized as an example to everyone else. Even today adults are required to be baptized once they accept Yahshua. So this is a brief glimpse of what was happening two thousand years ago. In coming issues, we'll learn more about this topic.



Choose the Best Answer

Rome Conquered Israel:

- A. just yesterday.**
- B. in 63 B.C.E.**
- C. in 1761.**
- D. no one knows for sure.**



Yahshua was a:

- A. banker.**
- B. store clerk.**
- C. carpenter.**
- D. dentist.**

Concerning John the Baptizer:

- A. Yahshua was baptized by him as an example.**
- B. John ate locust and wild honey.**
- C. He lived in the wilderness to draw close to Yahweh.**
- D. All of the above.**



Concerning Rome:

- A. It was a large empire stretching over many miles.**
- B. It was just a small village.**
- C. It was ruled by emperors who thought they were deities.**
- D. Both A. and C. are correct.**

Ancient carpenters built:

- A. super malls.**
- B. ice skating rinks.**
- C. the Sears tower.**
- D. furniture, doors, fences, and tool handles.**



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BACK TO SCHOOL CHECKLIST!

Most children who live in the United States will be returning to school in August or September. Going back to school means more than just buying new clothes and school supplies. This could possibly be your best school year ever, but it will take some work on your part!

____ I will remember to pray every day to Yahweh for protection and help.

____ I will try to be a good student and follow class rules.

____ I will try to be nice to other students.

____ If I have any problems at school, I will tell my parents immediately.

____ I will do my homework and turn it in on time.

____ I will try to respect my teacher even if I do not agree with him or her.

____ I will not call other students mean names.

____ If I do not understand anything in class, I will ask for help.

____ I will study hard for tests.

____ I will try to be a good example by living Yahweh's way of life.

____ I will take care of school property and personal property.

____ I will keep my desk and work area neat and tidy.

