

Gospel Train
By Robbie Sikes

The Gospel Train is a simple instrument chronologically dividing the Life of Christ into 15 divisions.

The **COW-CATCHER** represents the **Pre-Existence** of Christ. Jesus was with God in the beginning when the world was created. John is the only Gospel writer who records this fact and therefore, the **ZIP CODE** for the **COW-CATCHER** is 0001 (Which means it is *not* in Matthew, *not* in Mark, *not* in Luke, but found only in the first chapter of John).

The **SMOKE STACK** represents Jesus's birth through the age of 12 when He went with His parents to Jerusalem for the Passover and taught in the Temple. In order for Christ's birth to coincide with the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pilate, and Herod, we must place the time of His birth at 4 BC. The individual study sheets give Jesus's activities during each section with an accompanying map giving **Christ's Travels** during that section. The numbers on the map correspond to the numbers on the right telling where He went and what chronologically was happening.

There are then 18 vacant years when none of the four gospel writers record anything pertaining to His life. This vacancy is depicted by the blank space between the **SMOKE STACK** to the **ENGINEER'S CAB**.

The **ENGINEER'S CAB** represents the fall of the year AD 26. Luke says Jesus was about 30 years old when He was baptized by John the Baptizer. He was then tempted by the Devil and called His first five disciples. This begins His ministry which is sometimes called **The Year of Inauguration**.

The year AD 27 is recorded by three groups of pictures. Beginning around January until the first vertical line, representing the Passover in Abib (April) 14th, consists of about 4 months. Christ performed His first miracle (**1** =miracle) of changing water to wine at Cana and visited Capernaum.

At the vertical line representing the Passover, He cleansed the temple the first time. During these 6 months from the Passover to the Tabernacle Feast held annually the 15th of Ethanim (October), Nicodemus comes to Him at night and in this conversation or

1 Discourse (**1** =Discourse), He teaches him he must be born again. Jesus teaches in Judaea and John the Baptizer ministers in Aenon. When John was put in prison, Jesus starts North toward Galilee.

The last section of AD 27 is represented by a picture of a **WELL**. He talked to the Samaritan woman at Jacob's **Well**; He was **Well** received in Galilee; and He performed his 2nd miracle of making the nobleman's son **Well**. This section contains one

miracle (**2**) and the second and third discourses (**2** , **3**).

The next row of pictures represent the year AD 28, which is sometimes called **The Year of Popularity**. Again may we stress, by following the individual study sheets, they show in chronological order what miracles (), discourses (), and parables () are happening and by studying the maps, you have a visual aid of where the places are that He is traveling to.

Christ's third year of ministering, AD 29, is sometimes called **The Year of Opposition**. The first two sections show He is teaching primarily in the Galilean region, but the third section shows He has dropped down to the Southern and Perea regions for His teaching and ministering. The outside line on the far right of the Gospel Train represents the **DEDICATION FEAST** line during Chislev (December) 25th. Only once is this Feast recorded in the four gospels and John is the one who tells about it at the close of AD 29.

In AD 30, Christ continues to teach in Perea and in the Southern part of Judaea during His last few months on this earth! The broken line of the train wheel representing Christ's **LAST WEEK** matches the broken line of the square to show when He took the Passover (Last Supper) with His Apostles. After His crucifixion, He walks on this earth **40 Days** and then ascends back to His Heavenly Father.

Memory Hooks from 1-47 are supplied to help you remember what miracle, discourse, or parable follows one another. The **HOOKS** are always the same and the “wildest mind pictures” possible, associating what Jesus is actually doing with that particular Memory Hook, will help instant recollection of the chronological happenings of His life.

The outline and divisions of the Gospel Train was originated by Johnie Luker in the later part of the 1960's. Further years of prayerful study and development by Robbie Sikes has brought this simple instrument for your use in studying Christ's life and to vividly remember what you learn.

Johnie Luker's **Gospel Train for Children** is designed for younger students and Robbie Sikes' **Gospel Train – Harmony of the Gospels** is more appropriate for older students and adults.