

**FROM JESUS TO CHRIST: THE FIRST CHRISTIANS
(PBS FRONTLINE VIDEO DOCUMENTARY)**

PART I: JESUS' BIRTH, LIFE & DEATH

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. According to Professor Michael White, what is the main problem that scholars face in trying to reconstruct the life of Jesus?
2. Describe the political realities of the world that Jesus was born into.
3. What are the socio-political implications of the *Pax Romana*?
4. According to Professor John Dominic Crossan, what is the origin and significance of the phrase "Son of God" (*Divi Filius*)?
5. Recent archaeological discoveries at Sepphoris have challenged the conventional depiction of Jesus' life. What did these archaeological discoveries reveal about the (i) socio-economic, (ii) political, (iii) cultural, and (iv) linguistic realities of the region that Jesus lived in?
6. What was the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist? Why were Jesus' followers embarrassed by this relationship? How did they attempt to explain this relationship?
7. Professor John Dominic Crossan calls John the Baptist an "apocalyptic eschatologist." What does he mean by that theological phrase?
8. According to Professor Allen Callahan, to whom did Jesus pitch his message? How did Jesus' audience shape his preaching?
9. According to Professor John Dominic Crossan, what are the implications of the phrase "kingdom of God"?
10. According to Professor John Dominic Crossan, how did Jesus perceive the Temple?
11. Who was responsible for Jesus' execution?
12. According to Professor John Dominic Crossan, what were the social and political dimensions of a Roman crucifixion?
13. The plaque on Jesus' cross read "*Jesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum.*" According to Professor Michael White, what are the implications of this phrase?