



Luke's Gospel: Son of Man, Seeker of Men.

Part 2: The Childhood of Jesus

Luke 2:21-40 (NKJV); Circumcision of Jesus

²¹ And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

Jesus Presented in the Temple

²² Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present *Him* to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD"), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Simeon Sees God's Salvation

²⁵ And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name *was* Simeon, and this man *was* just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

²⁹ "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,
According to Your word;

³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation

³¹ Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,

³² A light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles,
And the glory of Your people Israel."

³³ And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ³⁵ (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Anna Bears Witness to the Redeemer

³⁶ Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; ³⁷ and this woman *was* a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served *God* with fastings and prayers night and day. ³⁸ And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

The Family Returns to Nazareth

³⁹ So when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their *own* city, Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Series Theme: *Luke presents Jesus as the Son of Man who came to seek the sons of men to save them and give them new life in Christ.*

Luke is a writing a historical document of a supernatural event.

What can we learn about the childhood of Jesus?

1. Jesus' parents _____ Him to God and brought Him up in God's _____ (v. 21-24).

- Jesus' parents went through 3 ceremonies to honor God with their new family:
 - i. _____: Jesus was circumcised according to the Abrahamic covenant.
 - ii. _____ Ceremony
 - iii. _____/Dedication Ceremony
- What's in a name? His name was called "Jesus." Jesus means "God saves."
- We also see that Jesus' earthly parents were poor since they gave the required sacrifice of someone who didn't have great means (Lev. 12:8).

2. _____: A picture of a fully _____ follower of Christ (v. 25-32).

- Let's look at his character: He was just and devout.
- He was waiting for Israel's salvation in the coming Messiah.
- He was a man who was both of the law and the Spirit.
- He was a man who was led by the Holy Spirit.

Does God still speak to us today? YES

1) God still speaks to us today through the Holy Spirit.

- 2) The Holy Spirit typically speaks in a still, small voice in our heart (our mind).
 - 3) The Holy Spirit will always point us towards Christ and will never contradict God's Word.
 - 4) God speaks to us through giving us peace about certain decisions.
 - 5) In difficult decisions, times of prayer and fasting often precede God's voice.
- Notice how Luke points out that this Messiah is for both Jews and Gentiles—revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.

Scripture Insight: [2:32](#) "A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles...the glory of Your people Israel: This is the first explicit statement in Luke that includes both Jew and Gentile. Salvation is portrayed as light ([1:79](#)). It would be a revelation to Gentiles because they would be able to participate in God's blessing with a fullness that had not been revealed in the OT (see [Eph. 2:11-22; 3:1-7](#)). Jesus is the glory of Israel because through Him the nation would see the fulfillment of God's promises; the nation's special role in God's plan would be vindicated (see [Is. 46:13; 60:1-3; Rom. 9:1-5; 11:11-29](#))."¹

3. Jesus' early days produce _____ and _____ in those closest to Him (v. 33).
- Joseph and His mother—notice that Joseph is not called Jesus' dad here. Why? Joseph was Jesus' adopted father, but not his biological father.
 - *Marveled*—This should be the experience of all who love and follow Jesus.

Tips to rediscover your awe and wonder:

- 1) Remember when you were first made new.
- 2) Reflect on the beauty and majesty of King Jesus.
- 3) Rise up each day to worship the One Who is worthy of all praise.

4. Following Jesus is a mixture of _____ and _____ (v. 34-35).
- Simeon blessed them...
 - Simeon gave Mary a stern warning: One day you will have to see your chosen Child, be rejected, and ultimately be killed for the rising and falling of many in Israel.
5. _____: A picture of sacrificial worship (v. 36-38).
- Anna was a _____—she proclaimed God's Word to others.

Did you know? Several women are described as prophetesses. In the Old Testament we have the following five:

1. Miriam ([Exodus 15:20-21](#))
2. Deborah ([Judges 4:4](#))
3. Huldah ([2 Kings 22:14](#))
4. Noadiah ([Nehemiah 6:14](#))
5. Isaiah's wife ([Isaiah 8:3](#))

¹ Thomas Nelson Study Bible.

In the New Testament, there are another five:

1. Anna ([Luke 2:36](#))
2. Philip's four daughters ([Acts 21:8-9](#))²
 - She shows so much reliance.
 - Worshiped daily at the temple.
 - Served God with fasting and prayer both night and day.
 - She began to preach about Jesus to those who were searching for redemption.
6. Jesus' childhood was characterized by _____ growth (v. 39-40).
 - They followed God's plan as revealed in the Old Testament law.
 - Jesus grew in all areas:
 - 1) _____-Jesus grew physically—he grew and was strong in spirit (become strong)
 - 2) _____ & social skills (EQ & IQ)-Was characterized by wisdom.
 - 3) _____-Thrived in God's grace.

Application: How are you doing in each area of your life? Score yourself in each category from 1-5: 1-I am doing poorly in this area. 3-I am average in this area. 5-I am excelling in this area.

➤ Physical —I am eating healthy, exercising, and striving to be in the best health possible for my age.
➤ Intellectual —I am striving to keep on learning. I am never satisfied with be complacent or stagnant in my learning. I try to read new books each month.
➤ Spiritual —I have a daily devotional time with Jesus that is fresh and vibrant. I share my faith regularly with those that God places in my path. I am committed to actively serving in the local church. I am part of a small group that encourages me and holds me accountable.

Practical and Personal Applications:

Take Home Truth: How you respond to Jesus reveals your true heart.

Action Step: Take 15 minutes out of your schedule to worship God. Let the Father know how much you appreciate His wisdom and will. Let Jesus know how much you adore Him and are grateful for His salvation. Let the Holy Spirit know how much you cherish His leadership, conviction, and guidance in your life.

Preview for next Sunday: *The Tween Age Jesus*. Luke 2:41-52.

Wednesday night: Come this Wednesday for our Winter Studies. You get to pick between 3 different Life Group options! *Meet for dinner in A-104 and then head to your Life Group (Our fellowship hall is being remolded this week).

² <http://bibleq.net/answer/4201/>.