

The Life and Mission of Jesus Christ on Earth

Lesson Three -- Luke 2:1-52 (Parallel Scripture, Matt. 2:1-23)

Summary of Lesson

In this lesson we will study the entire childhood of Jesus, which constitutes the first period of His life, and includes all events of His life mentioned in the New Testament from His birth until the inauguration of His ministry when He was about thirty years of age. The main events of this study are: the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, the shepherds' adoration in Bethlehem, the circumcision of Jesus, His presentation in the temple at Jerusalem forty days after His birth, the return to Bethlehem and the visit of the wise men, the flight into Egypt, the massacre of the innocent children, the return to and settlement in Nazareth upon the death of Herod the Great, the childhood of Jesus, the visit to the temple at the age of twelve, and Jesus' youth.

Luke 2:1-52

{1} And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. {2} This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. {3} So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. {4} Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, {5} to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. {6} So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. {7} And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. {8} Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. {9} And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. {10} Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. {11} "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. {12} "And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe

wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." {13} And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: {14} "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" {15} So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." {16} And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. {17} Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. {18} And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. {19} But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. {20} Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them. {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. {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." {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."

{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. {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. {41} His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. {42} And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to the custom of the feast. {43} When they had finished the days, as they returned, the Boy Jesus lingered behind in Jerusalem. And Joseph and His mother did not know it; {44} but supposing Him to have been in the company, they went a day's journey, and sought Him among their relatives and acquaintances. {45} So when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, seeking Him. {46} Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. {47} And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers. {48} So when they saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." {49} And He said to them, "Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" {50} But they did not understand the statement which He spoke to them. {51} Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart. {52} And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Matthew 2:1-23

{1} Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, {2} saying, "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have

seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him." {3} When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. {4} And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. {5} So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet: {6} 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.'" {7} Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. {8} And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found Him, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also." {9} When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. {10} When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. {11} And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. {12} Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

{13} Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." {14} When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, {15} and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of

Egypt I called My Son." {16} Then Herod, when he saw that he was deceived by the wise men, was exceedingly angry; and he sent forth and put to death all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the wise men. {17} Then was fulfilled what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying: {18} "A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation, weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted, Because they are no more." {19} But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, {20} saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." {21} Then he arose, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. {22} But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee. {23} And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Questions On Lesson Three

1. What did Joseph and Mary do each year?
2. For what purpose did the wise men desire to see Jesus?
3. Why did Joseph return from Egypt into Galilee instead of Judea?
4. Unto whom had the Holy Spirit made the promise that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah?
5. Who decreed that all the world should be taxed?
6. "But Mary _____ all these things, and _____ them in her heart."
7. How did God warn the wise men not to see Herod again?
8. Why were Joseph and Mary not alarmed at the fact that Jesus was not with them on the first day of their return journey?
9. How old was Jesus at His presentation in the temple?
10. Of whose house was Joseph?
11. What was the name of the aged widow who gave thanks to the Lord the Messiah?
12. Why did Herod think that he could learn of the birthplace of Jesus by gathering together the chief priests and scribes?
13. How many days did it take Joseph and Mary to locate Jesus?
14. What was offered as a sacrifice at Jesus' presentation?
15. "And Jesus increased in _____ and _____, and in _____ with God and _____."
16. Of what tribe was Phanael?
17. What Old Testament prophet prophesied concerning the massacre of the innocent children?
18. Who was governor of Syria during the taxing?
19. At what age did Jesus attend His first Passover?
20. What caused the shepherds in the fields to become "sore afraid"?
21. Babies of what age were ordered by Herod to be slain?
22. At what age was Jesus named?

Questions On Lesson Three

1. **What did Joseph and Mary do each year?** (Went to Jerusalem to attend the Passover, c 2:41)
2. **For what purpose did the wise men desire to see Jesus?** (To worship Him, a 2:2)
3. **Why did Joseph return from Egypt into Galilee instead of Judea?** (He had heard that Archelaus was reigning in place of his father, Herod, in Judea and was warned by God in a dream not to go there, a 2:22)
4. **Unto whom had the Holy Spirit made the promise that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah?** (Simeon, c 2:25,26)
5. **Who decreed that all the world should be taxed?** (Caesar Augustus, c 2:1)
6. **"But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart."** (c 2:19)
7. **How did God warn the wise men not to see Herod again?** (They were warned by God in a dream, c 2:12)
8. **Why were Joseph and Mary not alarmed at the fact that Jesus was not with them on the first day of their return journey?** (They supposed that He was with some of their relatives travelling with them, c 2:44)
9. **How old was Jesus at His presentation in the temple?** (Forty days (see summary))
10. **Of whose house was Joseph?** (He was of the house and lineage of David, c 2:4)
11. **What was the name of the aged widow who gave thanks to the Lord the Messiah?** (Anna, c 2:36)
12. **Why did Herod think that he could learn of the birthplace of Jesus by gathering together the chief priests and scribes?** (He knew of the O.T. prophets and their predictions concerning the birthplace of the Messiah and the Chief Priests and Scribes knew the O.T., a 2:4)
13. **How many days did it take Joseph and Mary to locate Jesus?** (Three days, c 2:46)
14. **What was offered as a sacrifice at Jesus' presentation?** (A pair of turtledoves or 2 young pigeons, c 2:24)
15. **"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature , and in favor with God and man."** (c 2:52)
16. **Of what tribe was Phanel?** (Aser or Asshur, c 2:36)
17. **What Old Testament prophet prophesied concerning the massacre of the innocent children?** (Jeremiah, a 2:17)
18. **Who was governor of Syria during the taxing?** (Cyrenius, c 2:2)
19. **At what age did Jesus attend His first Passover?** ((Twelve years old, c 2:42)
20. **What caused the shepherds in the fields to become "sore afraid"?** (An angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, c 2:9)
21. **Babies of what age were ordered by Herod to be slain?** (Two years old and younger, a 2:16)
22. **At what age was Jesus named?** (Eight days old, c 2:21)