

Luke Chapter 2

V: 1 Luke begins by putting a time stamp on the events.

- “All the world” – projection of power on an incredible scale.
- In Egypt which was also under Roman rule, they have discovered ancient papyri with a written record of this decree of Caesar Augustus to which they also had to submit.
- Caesar Augustus ordered this census and taxing, but it wasn’t anything unusual it was something that took place every 14 years.

V: 2 Bible critics have tried to use this passage to prove that the Bible is inaccurate because other historical documents show that Cyrenius was governor of Syria between 7 to 9 AD

- The name Cyrenius, is an Anglicized form of his Greek name, while others use the Latin form Quirinius. His full name is Publius Sulpicius Quirinius.
- Justinian, the Roman emperor from 527-565 AD ordered a new calendar based on the birth of Christ. It had previously been based on the birth of Rome. The new calendar was to be based on His story with the birth of Jesus as the focal point, but they made a mistake and Jesus’ birth is actually placed at 4 BC.
- Recent archeological findings discovered records that indicate that Cyrenius was actually governor of Syria during two time periods, the first time being earlier than the period from 7-9 AD which was the second time. Once again the Bible critics are proven wrong.

V: 3 Part of the decree was that each man had to return to the place of his birth to be counted in the census, possibly an attempt to reconcile their records or to keep accurate records.

V: 4-5 From Nazareth to Bethlehem is approximately 80 miles.

- It seems appropriate that the one destined to be called the “bread of life” would be born in Bethlehem, the “house of bread.”
- 9 month pregnant, traveling in the late summer / early fall, HOT – no accommodations, no AC. “Great with child...” every woman loves to be referred to that way...

Map

- No one in their right mind would have taken a woman 9 months pregnant (*great with child...*) on this type of trip – but the woman carrying the Messiah is located in Nazareth, and according to scripture, He needs to be born in Bethlehem.
- God used Caesar Augustus to do His bidding, to fulfill His will.
- This is all part of the fulfillment of Messianic prophecy that Bethlehem would bring forth the Messiah.

Micah 5:2 “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”

- Joseph was of the lineage of David. **Matthew 1:6-16**
- Mary was also of the lineage of David, **Luke 3:23-38**
- This is important because prophecy indicates that the Messiah would be of the lineage of David.

Isaiah 9:7 “Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”

1. **Genesis 3:15, Hebrews 2:16** God had promised through His word that the Savior would be a man, not an angel.
 2. **Isaiah 7:14** Born of a virgin.
 3. **Genesis 12:1-3, Numbers 24:17** A Jew as opposed to a Gentile.
 4. **Genesis 49:10** That He would be from the tribe of Judah.
- Mary was Joseph’s “espoused” wife – betrothed, engaged, promised – but not quite his wife just yet.
 - They were as good as married in everyone’s eyes, but until they had consummated the marriage they weren’t actually married yet.

V: 6 4 BC due to calendar revisions and fluctuations, September / October, as opposed to December – shepherds & flocks in the field.

V: 7 KJV states “1st born son” whereas other versions (Alexandrian) state “a son” – attempting to minimize the fact that Mary had other children and was not a perpetual virgin.

- This seems to indicate that there was no midwife or assistance, that Mary and Joseph delivered her firstborn son.

In fulfillment of prophecy:

Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

- In a manger, with the animals in a stall. Probably a cave / Ephratah / [pictures](#).
- Because there was no room. The same situation that prevails today with many people, no room for Jesus in their hearts or lives, possibly keeping Him in the shed out back.

V: 8 This is another time stamp on events:

- We don't know for sure exactly when Jesus was born. Due to the timing of the shepherds being in the field with their sheep, December is pretty much ruled out (middle of winter). September & October is the traditional time for shepherds to be in the field with their sheep and somewhat corresponds with the feast of Trumpets or Rosh Hashanah. This festival was celebrated on the 1st of Tishri, or on the 30th of September lasting 10 days up to Yom Kippur, the day of atonement. It was celebrated with the blowing of a shofar ten times.
- Jesus' life seemed to correspond with many of the Jewish feasts, such as His crucifixion being at Passover.

Colossians 2:16-17 ¹⁶Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days: ¹⁷which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.”

- Paul told us that all the festivals and new moons, etc., were shadows of things to come in Jesus, there or no “coincidences” in Jesus life – His life does co-inside with specific events.

V: 9 The angel of the Lord coming upon them describes their being overwhelmed.

V: 10 “Fear not” – because they did fear being in the presence of an angel.

- “Good tidings” = “evangelizo” (Gr.) from which we get “evangelize”, also translated as “Gospel” or the good news.
- This good news / Gospel was for all people.

Genesis 12:2-3 ²And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: ³And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Isaiah 42:6 “I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles.”

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world...”

V: 11 3 Titles: Saviour – Christ – Lord.

- Saviour: “Soter” (Gr.) – so-tare, deliverer.

Isaiah 43:11 “I, even I, am the Lord: and beside Me there is no Saviour.”

Psalm 18:2 “The Lord is my Rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.”

- Christ: “Messiah” – “Mesheach” – “Anointed”

Daniel 9:25-26 “Messiah” used, only used two times in this passage describing the coming of Messiah into Jerusalem and it’s subsequent destruction.

Luke 4:18 Jesus quotes from **Isaiah 61**, explaining who He is.

Isaiah 61:1 “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me; because the Lord hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.”

- Lord: “Kurios”, “supreme authority”, also translated as “Jehovah” or “Yahweh”.
- Jesus makes several “I AM” statements that are recorded in the Gospel of John:

John 6:48 “I am the bread of life.”

John 8:12 “I am the light of the world.”

John 10:9 “I am the door...”

John 10:11 “I am the good shepherd...”

John 11:25 “I am the resurrection, and the life...”

John 14:6 “I am the way, the truth, and the life...”

John 8:58 “... verily, verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was, I am.”

- Why is this significant?

Exodus 3:14 “And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and He said, thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.”

V: 12 This is a short term prophesy – here’s what you will find.

- This would have to have been an unusual thing, or a distinctive thing to be recognized.
- If the angel had said you will find a baby in a nice home, in a clean crib, next to the hearth wrapped in a nice warm blanket – in “normal” circumstances.
- Manger = crib or stall.

V: 13 **Hebrews 1:14** – ministering spirits.

- This multitude of heavenly host – like most of the angels spend most of their time praising God.

Isaiah 6:3 “And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory.”

Revelation 4:8 “And the four creatures had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”

- The angels are seeing the creator of the universe born into this world as a baby:

1 Timothy 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: for God was manifest in the flesh, and justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

V: 14 Peace and good will toward men.

- Know Jesus and you’ll know peace. No Jesus = no peace.

Isaiah 9:7 “Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”

- Good will towards mankind:

1 John 4:9 “In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him.”

- Peace isn’t just the absence of hostility; there can be an outward peace and an inner turmoil.

- Shalom means more than just an outward peace from the battles of life. It also means well-being, health, prosperity, security, soundness, and completeness.

V: 15 Having had such a literally heavenly revelation they head for Bethlehem to see what the angels were talking about.

- Shepherds were considered “low class”, even outcasts– it was not the romanticized or honorable job that we view it as. Their work not only made them ceremonially unclean, but it kept them from the Temple. Shepherding was the task of the lower servants, the young, the expendable, and the unclean – just the sort of people that Jesus made it a point to minister to.

V: 16-17 They found everything just as the angels had said.

- They testified and proclaimed of what they had been told and had seen from **V: 11**

18-20 The scriptures about the Messiah were not obscure, unknown scriptures – and the angelic host represent a big hint that something big is happening.

- Had the people been watching and waiting there might have been a wider recognition of what was taking place.

Jesus would later lament:

Matthew 23:37 “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stoneth them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!”

1. The shepherds received the angelic messenger’s testimony.
 2. In obedience they went to see the baby Jesus.
 3. They worshipped, and they spread the word.
- The shepherds walked away praising God.

V: 21 Joseph & Mary did unto Jesus according to the Law.

Leviticus 12:2-3 “²Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, if a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean. ³And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.”

- Mary had been told to name her son Jesus in **Luke 1:31**, Joseph had been told the same thing in **Matthew 1:21**, here we see that they were obedient.
- Jesus: Jehoshua – Joshua – Yahweh is Salvation.

- The day of circumcision was when a boy became part of the Abrahamic covenant, symbolized by the cutting away of the flesh. It was not only the day that he was identified as a Hebrew, but he also received His name – his identity.

V: 22 Her purification: 33 days for a boy, 66 days for a girl.

Leviticus 12:6-8 “⁶And when the days of her purifying are fulfilled, for a son, or for a daughter, she shall bring a lamb of the first year for a burnt offering, and a young pigeon, or a turtledove, for a sin offering, unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, unto the priest: ⁷Who shall offer it before the Lord, and make an atonement for her; and she shall be cleansed from the issue of her blood. This is the law for her that hath borne a male or a female. ⁸And if she be not able to bring a lamb, then she shall bring two turtles, or two young pigeons; the one for the burnt offering, and the other for a sin offering: and the priest shall make an atonement for her, and she shall be clean.”

- Jesus and the Law of Moses, the Law of the Lord, the law 4X's.

Galatians 4:4 “But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law.”

Matthew 5:17 “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.”

V: 23 The first born of men and animals are to be consecrated to the Lord.

Numbers 3:13 “Because all the firstborn are mine; for on the day that I smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I hallowed unto Me all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast: mine shall they be: I am the Lord.”

- Prior to the Levitical priesthood the first born males were the priests, then after words the Lord had the parents make a sacrifice, sort of redeeming their first born. Hence the sacrifice of a lamb, or turtle dove if they were too poor.

V: 24 Turtledoves as opposed to a lamb, given their financial situation, being poor.

Leviticus 12:8

- Another proof that the wise men hadn't visited yet with their valuable gifts.

V: 25 Simeon is described as a just and devout man. He is seen waiting on the Lord which lends credence to the description.

Psalms 25:14 “The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and He will shew them His covenant.”

- Simeon = “hearing”. His name means hearing, but we see him watching and waiting.

1 John 2:28 “And now, little children, abide in Him; that, when He shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.”

Matthew 24:42 “Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”

- He was filled with the Holy Spirit.

V: 26 Being filled with the Spirit, the Spirit revealed to Simeon that before he died, he would see the Messiah.

V: 27-32 Simeon was guided by the Spirit to the Temple on that particular day, because he had a divine appointment.

Psalms 37:23 “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and He delighteth in his way.”

- Simeon blessed God because he was seeing the fulfillment of God’s word to him; praising God for His word being true.

V: 29 “Lord” (G-1203), despotes = “absolute ruler”.

- Why not the same word that is used above for several references to “Lord” where the word “Kurios” is used?

Possibility: Kurios / supreme authority is used right up to the point of describing Simeon who is the one who uses “Despotes”. A personal application from a man filled with the Holy Spirit, while it is true that God is the “Supreme Authority”, he is in a personal sense my “Absolute Ruler”, indicative of a personal relationship.

- “Christian” vs: follower of Jesus, disciple.

V: 32 Light – Jesus is the light of the world, and that light has been shined onto the Gentiles.

Isaiah 42:6 “I the Lord have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles.”

John 8:12 “Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”

- Being a light to the world includes the Gentiles.

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

V: 33 Joseph the husband of Mary, the mother of Jesus as opposed to newer translations that say “his father and his mother marveled...”

- Thus seeking to weaken the doctrine of the virgin birth, which is critical to our faith.

V: 34 Simeon starts out blessing God for His faithfulness and for His word literally being born out – now he blesses the baby Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

1. “*Fall and rising again of many in Israel...*”

- The blessing turns into a prophecy as well – Jesus would be a stumbling block or a rock of offense to the Jew and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem – that is the fall, the nation being destroyed and dispersed in 70 AD.

Isaiah 8:14 “And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.”

- This also speaks of the nation rising, which we are seeing today, it began on May 14, 1948 and continues to this day, and will lead to that time when the nation turns to Jesus as Messiah.

2. “*A sign which shall be spoken against:*”

- The very presence of Jesus proved a tremendous rebuke to sin and un-holiness, and thus brought bitter animosity towards Him.

V: 35 3rd point: “*Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also...*”

John 19:25 “Now there stood by the cross of Jesus his mother, and His mother’s sister...”

- This verse came full circle for Mary as she stood at the cross of Jesus and watched her blessed Son die on the cross, truly a sword had gone through her heart at that time.

4. “*That the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed...*”

Hebrews 4:12 “For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

V: 36-38 “Anna” is the same as Hebrew name of “Hannah”, which means Grace.

- “Phanuel” means “face of God”, she had a Godly dad, a Godly heritage. As such she was probably raised in the fear and admonition of the Word. Proof that when they are taught young they will not depart from God’s Holy Word.

Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

- Probably married around 15-16 years of age, married for 7 years, now a widow of 84 years, she’s like around 106-7 years old, she’s not let her age keep her from serving God.
- Having lost her husband she could have chosen to become bitter, instead she’s chosen to be better – drawing close to God, dedicating her life to the Lord, serving in the Temple, fasting, praying, giving thanks, praising Him – with her life.
- Anna & Simeon were both bearing witness and fruit in their old age, just as God had promised.
- They are both part of that faithful remnant that is looking for the consolation of Israel.

Psalm 71:17-18 “¹⁷O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. ¹⁸Now also when I am old and grey headed, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to every one that is to come.”

Psalm 92:13-14 “¹³Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. ¹⁴They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing.”

- Bearing witness, giving thanks to God for the deliverance of Israel.

V: 39-40 Presenting Jesus at the Temple and the offering of the sacrifice. **V: 24**

- They returned to Nazareth. Luke doesn’t record their flight into Egypt to save Jesus from Herod the Great / Satan’s plan in **Matthew 2:13-15**. They don’t return until after the death of Herod, then Luke picks up the story again.
- John the Baptist was filled from the Spirit even in the womb – Jesus was filled with the Spirit from before eternity...
- Strong in the spirit, filled with wisdom, the grace of God was upon him, overflowing with grace.

V: 41-45 Joseph and Mary, along with Jesus and his ½ brothers and sisters traveled every year to Jerusalem to keep the Passover.

- Fast forwarding 12 years, Joseph was in Jesus' life for at least that long.
- This year, unknown to His parents, Jesus stays behind to spend time in the Temple.
- They end up going back to Jerusalem to find Jesus.
- Whenever we get to that place where we realize we've lost Jesus, we need to do the same thing, go back to the last place where we saw Him.

Jesus speaking to the Ephesian church:

Revelation 2:5 "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works;..."

- What were you doing? Was Bible study a priority? What were you doing when you were really in touch with Jesus? Go back and do it again.

V: 46 After 3 days they found him. After first discovering Jesus missing, they search their camp / caravan / group and can't find Him.

- Returning to Jerusalem, it took 3 days of back tracking and searching only to find Him in the most obvious place.
- These may have been some of the same learned men who would later reject Jesus as the Messiah – then after He was crucified and buried and "missing" for 3 days he would appear to various of the disciples – those who would believe in Him.
- Jesus was 12 and had probably already been Barmitzvah'ed because He wouldn't have been allowed to be in the Temple discussing the scriptures the way He was had He not been.

V: 47 Wisdom and knowledge are gifts of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:8 "For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the work of knowledge by the same spirit."

Ephesians 1:17 "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him."

V: 48 Jesus was undoubtedly the "perfect" kid, not rebellious, or willful. So when He "disappears" it must have been a surprise to them, and seemingly out of character.

- Because Mary refers to Joseph as Jesus' father some have tried to use this verse to refute the virgin birth. This is nothing more than identifying Joseph who acted in the capacity of Jesus' earthly father, just like any step-father would.

V: 49 Jesus doesn't acknowledge Joseph as being His father, but in a sense makes the correction as He says that He's been about His Father's business.

- Later, Jesus refers to the Temple as "his Father's house", leaving little doubt that He was claiming that Jehovah is His Father.

John 2:16 "And said unto them that sold doves, take these things hence; make not My Father's house an house of merchandise."

- Jesus is by implication also stating that his relationship with His heavenly Father is a greater priority than his relationship with his earthly mother and family.

Matthew 10:37 "He that loveth father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me."

- Jesus indicates that there are some things He "must" do.

"I must be about Father's business."

Luke 4:43 "And He said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God..."

Luke 9:22 "... The son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day."

John 3:14 "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:"

V: 50-52 Joseph & Mary didn't understand what Jesus was talking about.

- Jesus was subject unto them. Honoring his father & mother, "them" – not just Mary, but Joseph as well.

Exodus 20:12 – 5th commandment.

- Over the years Mary just considered, thought about, mused over these things.
- We've all been there, not understanding events going on around us, or a scripture before us – and we just ponder it, wondering, waiting for understanding.
- Jesus increased in wisdom and stature. There is no biblical record of those 18 interim years between the age of 12 and 30 when Jesus began his public ministry – we do know that he didn't perform any miracles in that time:

John 2:11 "This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifest forth His glory; and His disciples believed on Him."