

Luke Chapter 2

V: 1 Luke begins by putting a time stamp on the events. Secular history records that this occurred in 4BC.

- Caesar Augustus, originally named Gaius Octavius, was the first emperor of Rome, ruling from 27 BC until his death in AD 14 at the age of 72. He is known for transforming Rome from a republic into a powerful empire and for initiating a long period of peace known as the Pax Romana; Roman peace.
- “*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V: 2 Bible critics have tried to use this passage to prove that the Bible is inaccurate because other historical documents show that Quirinius / Cyrenius was governor of Syria between 7 to 9 AD

- The name Cyrenius (KJV), is an Anglicized form of his Greek name, while others use the Latin form Quirinius (NKJV, NIV, NASB, ESV). 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 different time periods, the first time coinciding with the birth of Jesus, and the other 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” - referred to as the city of David.

- 9 month pregnant, traveling in the late summer / early fall, HOT – no accommodations, no AC. “*Great with child...*” I sure every woman loves to be referred to that way...
- 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 literally used Caesar Augustus to do His bidding, to fulfill His will.

Proverbs 21:1 “The king’s heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.”

- This is all part of the fulfillment of Messianic prophecy that Bethlehem would bring forth the Messiah.

Micah 5:2 “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose going forth are from of old, from everlasting.”

- Joseph was of the lineage of David. **Matthew 1:6-16** (Jeconiah / cursed)
- 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.

The LORD’s promise to David:

2 Samuel 7:12-13 “¹²When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish His kingdom. ¹³He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of His kingdom forever.”

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.

Matthew 1:18 “Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: after His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.”

- 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 Place this at 4 BC due to calendar revisions and fluctuations, September / October, as opposed to December – shepherds & flocks in the field.

- All this to say that “*the days were completed for her to be delivered*” - meaning it wasn’t random, it all happened exactly when, where, and how God wanted it to be.

Proverbs 19:21 “There are many plans in a man’s heart, nevertheless the LORD’s counsel - that will stand.”

V: 7 She brought forth her firstborn Son. This seems to indicate two things: 1st that there was no midwife or assistance, that Mary and Joseph delivered her firstborn son. 2nd Firstborn, meaning there would be others to follow.

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.



- Because there was no room. Joseph probably wasn’t the only one to return to Bethlehem for this census - there were probably many who had done so and taken up all the extra rooms in town.
- Nevertheless the same situation prevails today with many people, no room for Jesus in their hearts or busy lives, possibly keeping Him in the shed out back just in case.

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 being the 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 “¹⁶So let no man judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or sabbaths, ¹⁷which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”

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

V: 9-10 An angel of the Lord coming upon them, our passage describes their being overwhelmed. The glory of the Lord probably means a great light in the dark of night.

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

Notice, they didn't faint:

Matthew 28:4 “And the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men.”

- There was certainly some trepidation, they're seeing a spectacularly glorious sight.
- The angel seeks to calm them, so they can receive the message:
- “*Good tidings*” = “evangelizo” (Gr.) from which we get “evangelize”, also translated as “Gospel” or the good news.
- Good tidings of “*great joy*” - the joy of our salvation, getting to be with Him forever.

Psalms 16:11 “You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

- This good news / Gospel was and is for “*all people*.”

Genesis 12:2-3 “²I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and I

will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Isaiah 42:6 “I the Lord have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles.”

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

V: 11 Geographic reference: “*City of David*” = Bethlehem.

- 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.”

Psalms 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” – “The Anointed One”

Daniel 9:25-26 “Messiah” used, only used two times in this passage describing the coming of Messiah into Jerusalem and its 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 has anointed Me (Anointed One) to preach good tidings to the meek; He has 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”, NT equivalent “Jehovah” or “Yahweh.” The unspeakable name of God.

Exodus 3:14 “And God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM.**” And He said, thus you shall say to the children of Israel, **I AM** has sent me to you.”



H W H Y (all consonants, no vowels)

- Generally accepted as Yahweh (Hebrew) or **Jehovah** (Latin.)

- YHWH - tetragrammaton - is the four-letter Hebrew-language theonym YHWH / HWHY, the name of God in the Hebrew Bible. The four Hebrew letters, written and read from right to left, are yod, he, vav, and he.
- 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? Because Jesus is the great “I AM!”

Exodus 3:14 “And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, thus you shall say to the children of Israel, I AM has sent me to you.”

- What do you need Jesus to be for you?
- Do you need provision in your life? Then He is Jehovah Jireh, the Lord your provision.
- Do you need healing? Then He is Jehovah Rapha - the Lord who heals.
- Do you need peace? He is Jehovah Shalom.
- Do you need salvation? Jesus’ name “Yeshua” means God is Salvation!

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

- Of all the sheep folds in the area, how did they find the right one? This is all happening in the middle of the night. Joseph had probably either built a fire or had a lamp so there was light emanating from the one sheep fold while all the others were dark.
- Appropriate for the light of the world.
- This would have to have been an unusual, 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 – that would be “normal” circumstances.

- Isaiah predicted, prophesied that the Messiah would come from humble beginnings, and that is what happened.

Isaiah 53:2 “For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.”

- Manger = crib or stall.

V: 13 **Hebrews 1:14** “Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?”

- 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 Their message: “*Glory to God in the highest..*” Then peace and good will toward men.

- First is to praise God, to give Him the glory that He so richly deserves!

Psalms 69:34 “Let heaven and earth praise Him, the seas and everything that moves in them.”

Isaiah 49:13 “Sing, O heavens! Be joyful, O earth! And break out in singing, O mountains! For the LORD has comforted His people, and will have mercy on His afflicted.”

- Because of Jesus there will eventually be peace on earth - during the Millennium, but that will be elusive until He comes back. But we can know peace at a personal level right now, we can have peace with God because of what He has done for us.

Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”

Romans 5:1 “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- 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:

Ephesians 2:4, 7 “⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us.” - “⁷that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.”

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, a false peace of sorts.
- 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 They responded immediately, “**now**” - no hesitation. Having had such a literally heavenly revelation they head for Bethlehem to see what the angels were talking about.

2 Corinthians 6:2 “For He says: “In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you.” Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”

- 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.

Matthew 9:13 “But go and learn what this means: I desire mercy and not sacrifice. For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.”

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

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** - that He is "the Savior, Christ the LORD."

Psalm 66:16-17 "¹⁶Come and hear, all you who fear God, and I will declare what He has done for my soul. ¹⁷I cried to Him with my mouth, and He was extolled with my tongue."

Psalm 71:17-18 "¹⁷O God, You have taught me from my youth; and to this day I declare Your wondrous works. ¹⁸Now also when I am old and gray headed, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come."

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, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!"

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.

V: 18 "*... all those who heard it marveled...*"

- "those who heard it marveled, others like Mary took it all in and pondered in her heart - trying no doubt to connect the dots from her first encounter with the angel Gabriel up to this point.
- Recently there was a man from South Africa - who seemed to be a genuine believer - I'm not doubting that part. He testified that he'd had a vision of Jesus telling him that the rapture would be on September 23rd coinciding with the Feast of Trumpets. He seemed very sincere and many marveled at his testimony.
- After hearing his testimony and comparing it to scripture there were a few of us that concluded that it wasn't true, knowing that the rapture could happen on any day, it would have been nice, but it didn't pan out the way he said.
- Now, had those who marveled when they heard the shepherd's testimony actually compared their testimony to God's Word - they might well have connected the dots in the right way and prompted others, like the Pharisees to do their homework.

- Examining the shepherd's testimony and the circumstances of Jesus' birth, and comparing it to God's Word.
- They would have discovered that Mary & Joseph were both descendants of King David as would be this child destined to be hailed as the "Son of David" a known Messianic title, in fulfillment of **2 Samuel 7:12-13**.
- They might have looked at Mary and discovered her testimony of still being a virgin and what the angel Gabriel had told her about conceiving by the power of the Holy Spirit and seeing the fulfillment of **Isaiah 7:14**.
- They might have looked at the location of His birth and would have seen a fulfillment of **Micah 5:4**.
- They would have noted the timing of His birth and recognized the fulfillment of **Genesis 49:10**.
- There are many more scriptures they could have examined, and discovered that they were all fulfilled in the person of our Lord Jesus.

Proverbs 4:4 "He also taught me, and said to me: let your heart retain my words; keep my commands, and live."

- Pondering these things, meditating, considering what to do with this information.
- The shepherds walked away praising God.

V: 21 Moving forward approximately 1 week. Joseph & Mary circumcised Jesus according to the Law. (Probably still in Bethlehem)

Leviticus 12:2-3 "2Speak to the children of Israel, saying, if a woman has conceived, and born a male child, then she shall be unclean seven days; as in the day of her customary impurity she shall be unclean. 3And on 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**: Yeshua – 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 Separate event, moving now to Jerusalem / Temple.

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

Leviticus 12:6-8 “⁶When the days of her purification are fulfilled, whether for a son or a daughter, she shall bring to the priest a lamb of the first year as a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtle dove as a sin offering, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting. ⁷Then he shall offer it before the LORD, and make atonement for her. And she shall be clean from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who has born a male or a female. ⁸And if she is not able to bring a lamb, then she may bring two turtle doves or two young pigeons - one as a burnt offering and the other as a sin offering. So the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean..”

- Jesus and the Law of Moses, the Law of the Lord, the law 3X'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 sanctified 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.
- This also incorporates the idea of the “first-fruits.”

Exodus 22:29 “You shall not delay to offer the first of your ripe produce and your juices. The firstborn of your sons you shall give to Me.”

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

Leviticus 12:8 “And if she is not able to bring a lamb, then she may bring two turtle doves or two young pigeons - one as a burnt offering and the other as a sin offering. So the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean..”

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

2 Corinthians 8:9 “For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.”

V: 25-26 Simeon is described as a just and devout man. He is seen waiting on the Lord which lends credence to the description given.

Isaiah 49:23 "... For they shall not be ashamed who wait for Me."

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

- Simeon = "hearing". He had been told, he did indeed hear, but we also see him watching and waiting, which is what we are called to do.

Luke 21:36 "Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man."

Matthew 24:42 "Watch therefore: for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."

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."

- He was filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Being filled with the Spirit, the Spirit revealed to Simeon that before he died, he would see the Messiah, and now it is coming true.

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 delights 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.

John 8:12 “Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I AM the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”

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

- 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 believes, to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”

- Our call, like the shepherds:

1 Peter 2:9 “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people / peculiar people that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;”

Ephesians 5:8 “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.”

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

- Thus seeking, I believe to weaken the doctrine of the virgin birth, which is critical to our faith.
- Along with the angel Gabriel speaking to Mary about conceiving by the power of the Holy Spirit, Joseph was also informed of the same:

Matthew 1:20-21 “²⁰But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. ²¹And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”

- Gabriel had already told them that this Son, Jesus would save His people from their sins, they already knew that He would be a miraculous child given His conception by the power of the Holy Spirit, and that He would be the Son of God. All amazing things.

- Then to have Elizabeth affirm all the same things by her rejoicing at being in the presence of her Lord, and the baby John the Baptist leaping in her womb. **Luke 1:43**
- Then the shepherds show up rejoicing at seeing the birth of their Savior who is Christ the Lord. **Luke 2:16**
- Now they come into the temple and hear the independent testimony of Simeon, the blessing he imparts, and the prophesy that he speaks forth - all in accordance with God's Word.
- It's no wonder that they are marveling - such incredible confirmation and comfort.

2 Peter 1:19 "And so we have a more sure Word / the prophetic Word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;"

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, then he speaks directly to Mary.

- 4 components to that blessing:
 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 "He will be as a sanctuary, but a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel, as a trap and 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.
 - The religious establishment spoke against and resisted Him all the way, leading up to His crucifixion.

John 10:31-33 “³¹Then the Jews took up stones again to stone Him. ³²Jesus answered them, “Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me?” ³³The Jews answered Him, saying, “for a good work we do not stone You, but for blasphemy, and because You, being a Man, make Yourself God.””

V: 35 3rd point: “*Yes, a sword shall pierce through your 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.”

- At the crucifixion the heart of the centurion was revealed:

Matthew 27:54 “... truly this was the Son of God.”

Sadly, it also revealed the hearts of the chief priests, the scribes, and the Pharisees:

Matthew 27:41 “likewise the chief priests also, mocking with the scribes and elders...”

Predicted / prophesied in the Psalms:

Psalm 42:10 “As with a breaking of my bones, my enemies reproach me, while they say to me all day long, “where is your God?””

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 (or in this case she) 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 106-107 years old, she’s not letting 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.
- In the trials of life we have the choice to either cause us to draw close to God, or allow them to turn us away from God - she chose to draw close.

James 1:2-4 “²My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

- 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, You have taught me from my youth; and to this day I declare Your wondrous works. ¹⁸Now also when I am old and gray headed, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare Your strength to this generation, Your power to everyone who is to come.”

Psalm 92:13-14 “¹³Those who are planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. ¹⁴They shall still bear fruit in old age; they shall be fresh 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**. (Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Egypt, Nazareth) They don't return until after the death of Herod, then Luke picks up the story again.
- ⁴⁰John the Baptist was filled with the Spirit even in the womb – Jesus was filled with the Spirit from before eternity...
- Describing His becoming “**strong in spirit, filled with wisdom...**” He was always those things, it's just that those around Him are starting to recognize that.
- 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 presumably his ½ brothers and sisters traveled every year to Jerusalem to keep the Passover in accordance with the Law.

Deuteronomy 16:16 “Three times a year all your males shall appear before the LORD your God in the place which He chooses: at the Feast of Unleavened Bread, at the Feast of Weeks, and at the Feast of Tabernacles; and they shall not appear before the LORD empty-handed.”

- Fast forwarding 12 years, Joseph was in Jesus’ life for at least that long. Jesus is 12 years old, technically a man in His own right, no mention of a “Bar-mitzvah.”
- Coming of age, typically at 13 for boys, 12 for girls (Bat-mitzvah) - age of accountability where they become responsible for their own sins, their adherence to the Law. This is a tradition that started around the 12th century.
- Prior to this time, the concept of “adulthood” was less defined. Families would decide when their son was ready to observe the mitzvot (Jewish law / commandments), rather than adhering to a specific age or ceremony.
- This year, unknown to His parents, Jesus stays behind to spend time in the Temple.
- They get part way home and discover Him missing and end up going back to Jerusalem to find Him.

Joseph & Mary did find Him:

Jeremiah 29:13 “And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.”

- 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 where you have fallen; repent and do the first works;...”

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

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. Not 3 days of actual searching in Jerusalem, they’d gone a days journey out of Jerusalem, now it’s a day back, that’s two

days, and a day searching around Jerusalem and the Temple, finding Him on the 3rd day.

- These may have been some of the same “learned men”- who would later reject Jesus as the Messiah, and perhaps others who would eventually receive Him – then after He was crucified and buried and “missing” for 3 days he would appear to the disciples – those who would believe in Him.

John 12:42 “Nevertheless even among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue;”

- Jesus was 12 and even though the tradition of Bar-mitzvah hadn’t been established yet, He probably wouldn’t have been allowed to be in the Temple by Himself discussing the scriptures the way He was had He not been recognized as a young man in His own right, conducting Himself as a man as opposed to being a child. There was likely an obvious maturity about Him.

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 word 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.”

- Jesus is exercising these gifts.

Isaiah 50:4 “The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary...”

Matthew 7:28 “And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching.”

- At one point the Temple guards were dispatched to arrest Jesus, but when they got there Jesus was in the midst of teaching - and they eventually returned empty handed; when they were asked about it they responded:

John 7:46 “The officers answered, “No man ever spoke like this Man!””

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.

2 Corinthians 5:21 “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us...”

Speaking of Jesus:

1 Peter 2:22 “Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth.”

- 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.
- "*Anxiously*" = sorrowing, distressed.

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, meaning His heavenly Father.

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

John 2:16 "*And said unto them that sold doves, take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a 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.

Jesus would later teach:

Matthew 10:37 "*He that loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me: and he that loves 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:*"

John 9:4 "*I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no man can work.*"

- There were certain imperatives that Jesus came to accomplish, doing the Father's will and ensuring our salvation being chief among them.
- Examining this exchange; perhaps - totally speculating - Perhaps Mary & Joseph had lost sight of who Jesus is. When He was little there are recorded reminders from Simeon and Anna, then later the Magi / Wise men - but now it's 12 years later.

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

- Down to Nazareth, leaving Jerusalem for Nazareth is going North, but from a Jewish perspective any time you leave Jerusalem it is descending, going down.
- 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 necessarily understanding the 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, and in favor with God and man. That is from man's perspective, but in reality - you can't increase in wisdom when you already know everything!

Proverbs 3:3-4 “³Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, ⁴and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man.”

- 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.”