

Celebrating HIS First Coming

Remembering what the Prophets said... Pt. 7

Luke 2:21-35 AMP

21 And at the end of eight days, when [the Baby] was to be circumcised, He was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

22 And when the time for their purification [the mother's purification and the Baby's dedication] came according to the Law of Moses, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord—

23 As it is written in the Law of the Lord, Every [firstborn] male that opens the womb shall be set apart and dedicated and called holy to the Lord—

24 And [they came also] to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord: a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout [cautiously and carefully observing the divine Law], and looking for the Consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

26 And it had been divinely revealed (communicated) to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

27 And prompted by the [Holy] Spirit, he came into the temple [[a] enclosure]; and when the parents brought in the little child Jesus to do for Him what was customary according to the Law,

28 [Simeon] took Him up in his arms and praised and thanked God and said,

29 And now, Lord, You are releasing Your servant to depart (leave this world) in peace, according to Your word.

30 For with my [own] eyes I have seen Your Salvation,

31 Which You have ordained and prepared before (in the presence of) all peoples,

32 A Light for [b]revelation to the Gentiles [to disclose what was before unknown] and [to bring] praise and honor and glory to Your people Israel.

33 And His [legal] father and [His] mother were marveling at what was said about Him.

34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, Behold, this Child is appointed and destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against

35 And a sword will pierce through your own soul also—that the secret thoughts and purposes of many hearts may be brought out and disclosed.

Luke 2:36 KJV

36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

Luke 2:36 AMPC

36 And there was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old, having lived with her husband seven years from her maidenhood,

“A prophetess”: This refers to a woman who spoke God’s Word. She was a teacher/mouth piece of the Old Testament scriptures. The Old Testament mentions only 3 women who prophesied: Miriam (Exodus 15:20); Deborah (Judges 4:4); Huldah (2 Kings 2:14; 2 Chron. 34:22). One other, the “prophetess” Noadiah, was a false prophet, grouped by Nehemiah with his enemies.

Nehemiah 6:1-16 AMP

1 Now when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it, although at that time I had not set up the doors in the gates,

2 Sanballat and Geshem sent to me, saying, Come, let us meet together in one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they intended to do me harm.

3 And I sent messengers to them, saying, I am doing a great work and cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave to come down to you?

Note: _____

4 They sent to me four times this way, and I answered them as before.

5 Then Sanballat sent his servant to me again the fifth time with an open letter.

6 In it was written: It is reported among the neighboring nations, and Gashmu says it, that you and the Jews plan to rebel; therefore you are building the wall, that you may be their king, according to the report.

7 Also you have set up prophets to announce concerning you in Jerusalem, There is a king in Judah. And now this will be reported to the [Persian] king. So, come now and let us take counsel together.

8 I replied to him, No such things as you say have been done; you are inventing them out of your own heart and mind.

9 For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, Their hands will be so weak that the work will not be done. But now strengthen my hands!

10 I went into the house of Shemaiah son of Delaiah, the son of Mehetabel, who was shut up. He said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple, for they are coming to kill you—at night they are coming to kill you.

11 But I said, Should such a man as I flee? And what man such as I could go into the temple [where only the priests are allowed to go] and yet live? I will not go in.

12 And behold, I saw that God had not sent him, but he made this prophecy against me because Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him.

13 He was hired that I should be made afraid and do as he said and sin, that they might have matter for an evil report with which to taunt and reproach me.

14 My God, think on Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who would have put me in fear.

15 So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty-two days.

16 When all our enemies heard of it, all the nations around us feared and fell far in their own esteem, for they saw that this work was done by our God.

Luke 2:37 KJV

37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

Luke 2:37 AMPC

37 And as a widow even for eighty-four years. She did not go out from the temple [a] enclosure, but was worshiping night and day with fasting and prayer.

“Departed not from the temple”: Anna evidently had her living quarters on the temple grounds. She was eighty-four years old and she was very devoted to God and His work.

Luke 2:38 KJV

38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Luke 2:38 AMPC

38 And she too came up at that same hour, and she returned thanks to God and talked of [Jesus] to all who were looking for the redemption (deliverance) of Jerusalem.

Anna quickly realized who Jesus was, she not only recognized Him and accepted Him for herself, but told everyone in Jerusalem who looked for redemption.

Luke 2:39 KJV

39 And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

Luke 2:39 AMPC

39 And when they had done everything according to the Law of the Lord, they went back into Galilee to their own town, Nazareth.

“They returned into Galilee”: Luke omitted the visit of the Magi and the flight into Egypt (Matt. 2:1-18). The theme of early rejection, that was so prominent in Matthew, was not where Luke then focused his attention.

This does not say exactly when they went back to Nazareth except to say that after they had fulfilled the law given by Moses. Many scholars believe that the wise men spoken of in Matthew came to see Jesus before Mary and Joseph's return to Nazareth, and even the stay in Egypt to avoid Herod Killing Jesus occurred before their return to Nazareth.

Luke 2:40 KJV

40 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

Luke 2:40 AMPC

40 And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace (favor and spiritual blessing) of God was upon Him.

Mary and Joseph brought Jesus back to Nazareth (Matt. 2:23) In (Isaiah 11:2), we read about the abundance of His Spirit.

Matthew 2:23 AMPC

23 He went and dwelt in a town called Nazareth, so that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled: He shall be called a Nazarene [Branch, Separated One].

Isaiah 11:2 AMPC

2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the reverential and obedient fear of the Lord

Jesus has all of these to the utmost; the grace of God... Jesus Christ is the fullness of God on the earth.

Colossians 2:9 AMP

9 For in Him the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature].

Luke 2:41 KJV

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. (Parent or caregiver - Joseph was not th father)

Luke 2:41 AMP

41 Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year to the Passover Feast.

“Feast of the Passover”: Passover was a one-day feast, and then followed immediately by the week-long Feast of Unleavened Bread. It was a requirement to go to Jerusalem on the feast of the Passover each year. Mary and Joseph kept the Mosaic Law, and they went each year 3 times to worship at the temple (feast of Passover, feast of Pentecost, and feast of Tabernacles).

Note: Verse 41 doesn't mean that Joseph was Jesus' father, but “parent” here refers to caregiver or to watch over. Also, the men were the only ones required to go, but in this case, the whole family went.

Luke 2:42 KJV

42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

Luke 2:42 AMPC

42 And when He was twelve years [old], they went up, as was their custom.

Luke 2:43 KJV

43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.

Luke 2:43 AMPC

43 And when the Feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem. Now His parents did not know this,

“Jesus tarried behind”: His lingering was neither mischievous nor disobedient; it was owing to a simple mistaken presumption of His parents’ part (verse 44), that He was left behind.

The feast of Passover and Unleavened Bread are really covered together. The Passover meal was on the 14th of Nisan and Unleavened Bread extended for 7 days after. After this time was fulfilled, Mary and Joseph started back to Nazareth. They were not aware that Jesus had not come with them, but stayed behind.

Luke 2:44 KJV

44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

Luke 2:44 AMPC

44 But, supposing Him to be in the caravan, they traveled on a day's journey; and [then] they sought Him [diligently, looking up and down for Him] among their kinsfolk and acquaintances.

“In the company”: Joseph and Mary were traveling along with a large caravan of friends and relatives from Nazareth. There may have been hundreds of people from their community that went together to the feast. Men and woman in such a group might have been separated by some distance, and it appears each parent thought He was with the other. Hebrews were required to go to Jerusalem, so this was indeed a large group.

Luke 2:45 KJV

45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

Luke 2:45 AMPC

45 And when they failed to find Him, they went back to Jerusalem, looking for Him [up and down] all the way.

Perhaps, Jesus had lived such a normal childhood that perhaps His mother had forgotten who Jesus really was.

Luke 2:46 KJV

46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

Luke 2:46 AMPC

46 After three days they found Him [came upon Him] in the [a] [court of the] temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

Luke 2:46 GNT

46 On the third day they found him in the Temple, sitting with the Jewish teachers, listening to them and asking questions.

“Three days”: This probably does not mean they searched Jerusalem for 3 days. They apparently realized He was missing at the end of a full day’s travel. That required another full day’s journey back to Jerusalem, and the better part of another day was spent seeking Him.

“Hearing them, and asking them questions”: The 12 year old boy Jesus was respectful, taking the role of the student. But even at that young age, His questions showed a wisdom that put the teachers to shame.

These doctors were Doctors of Theology. We know that Jesus' style was to ask them questions. Even when He was questioned later, He answered with questions that they could not answer.

Luke 2:47 KJV

47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

Luke 2:47 AMPC

47 And all who heard Him were astonished and overwhelmed with bewildered wonder at His intelligence and understanding and His replies.

Here was a 12 year old boy, who had not been trained in the temple, who knew the Word more than those who had studied all of their lives. How could this be? This young man they were talking to was the Word of God. In John the 1st chapter, He is called just that.

John 1:1 KJV

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:1 AMPC

1 In the beginning [before all time] was the Word (Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself.

Luke 2:48 KJV

48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

Luke 2:48 AMPC

48 And when they [Joseph and Mary] saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, Child, why have You treated us like this? Here Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You [distressed and tormented].

“Why hast thou thus dealt with us?”: Mary’s words convey a tone of exasperation and rebuke, normal for any mother under such circumstance, but misplaced in this case. Jesus was not hiding from them or defying their authority.

“Thy father”: Joseph, who was legally His father. From all historical findings, His childhood was fairly normal. His mother had perhaps forgotten why Jesus had come to the earth, and she felt that He, as other children were, was obligated to tell her before He disappeared. Of course, after three days of looking without finding Him, they could of feared the worst.

Luke 2:49 KJV

49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

Luke 2:49 AMPC

49 And He said to them, How is it that you had to look for Me? Did you not see and know that it is necessary [as a duty] for Me [a]to be in My Father's house and [occupied] about My Father's business?

“My father’s business”: Contrasting with Mary’s “your father” (in verse 48), His reply was in no sense insolent, but reveals a genuine amazement that they did not know where to look for Him. This also reveals that even at so young an age, He had a clear consciousness of His identity and his mission.

Here we see again, that Jesus answers questions with another question.... Jesus' Father was God. This moment (at 12 years of age), was when He proclaimed that He, Jesus was doing the Family or Father's business.

Can you imaging the look at the teacher's in the Temple after Jesus had this dialogue with his parents? At least we know that He left a lasting impression on these scholarly men in the temple.

There has been very little written about the time between Jesus' visiting the temple at Jerusalem and when He starts His public ministry when He is 30 years old. We do know that Mary knows of His miracle ability because she tells them at the wedding to do whatever He asks.

My opinion is: This is an indication to me that Jesus had been performing miracles before her from the time He was 12 until then. I believe His formal ministry begins at 30, and that he had been ministering all along privately.

Luke 2:50 KJV

50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

Luke 2:50 AMPC

50 But they did not comprehend what He was saying to them.

My opinion is: Jesus had not been performing miracles before He was 12, because the Scripture here says they (Mary and Joseph), understood not. We know that Mary understood when Jesus was 30, so this fuels the idea that He ministered privately between 12 and 30 years of age.

Luke 2:51 KJV

51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

Luke 2:51 AMPC

51 And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was [habitually] obedient to them; and his mother kept and closely and persistently guarded all these things in her heart.

“Subject unto them”: Jesus’ relationship with His Heavenly Father in no way overridden or nullify His duty to His earthly parents. His obedience to the fifth commandment was an essential part of the perfect legal obedience He rendered on our behalf.

Hebrews 5:8-9 KJV

8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

Hebrews 5:1-9 AMP

1 For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in things relating to God, to offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.

2 He is able to exercise gentleness and forbearance toward the ignorant and erring, since he himself also is liable to moral weakness and physical infirmity.

3 And because of this he is obliged to offer sacrifice for his own sins, as well as for those of the people.

4 Besides, one does not appropriate for himself the honor [of being high priest], but he is called by God and receives it of Him, just as Aaron did.

5 So too Christ (the Messiah) did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed and exalted by Him Who said to Him, You are My Son; today I have begotten You;

6 As He says also in another place, You are a Priest [appointed] forever after the order (with [a]the rank) of Melchizedek.

7 In the days of His flesh [Jesus] offered up definite, special petitions [for that which He not only wanted [b]but needed] and supplications with strong crying and tears to Him Who was [always] able to save Him [out] from death, and He was heard because of His reverence toward God [His godly fear, His piety, [c] in that He shrank from the horrors of separation from the bright presence of the Father].

8 Although He was a Son, He learned [active, special] obedience through what He suffered

9 And, [His completed experience] making Him perfectly [equipped], He became the Author and Source of eternal salvation to all those who give heed and obey Him,

He had to fulfill all righteousness. After this Jerusalem experience, Jesus returned with them to the little town of Nazareth where He would grow to manhood known as a carpenter's son (stone mason). Mary remembers all of these happenings as any mother would. Jesus was not rebellious but obeyed Mary and Joseph (was subject unto them).

Luke 2:52 KJV

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Luke 2:52 AMPC

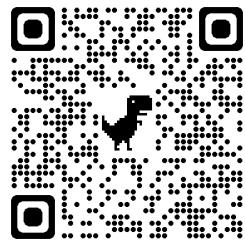
52 And Jesus increased in wisdom (in broad and full understanding) and in stature and years, and in favor with God and man.

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature”: Jesus did not cease being God or divest Himself of divine attributes in order to become man. Rather, He took on a human nature (or addition, not a subtraction), and submitted the use of His divine attributes to the will of the Father (John 5:19, 30; 8:28; Phil 2:5-8).

Therefore, there were times when His omniscience was on display (Matt. 9:4; John 2:24-25; 4:17-18; 11:11-14; 16:30), and other times when it was veiled by His humanity in accordance with the Father's will (Mark 13:32).

We know that Jesus had all knowledge and wisdom. I believe the statement above means that those looking on perceived more of His wisdom as He grew older. They became more and more aware of just how wise He was.

He was totally obedient to Father God and man realized His unselfishness and attitude. They could not help but love Him and respect Him more and more as they knew Him better.



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