

2019-2020 Bible Study

#11

12/3/19

Luke 2 (Cont)

12/3/19

Setting the Stage for **Matthew**

- You are a 30 year old, 1st Century Jew:
 - Living in Jerusalem in 65 A.D.
 - Married with a family
 - Working as a shop keeper
 - Attempting to live a “righteous life” and have heard about “the new way” of Judaism

Setting the Stage for Luke

- You are a 30 year old, 1st Century Gentile:
 - Living in Asia Minor in 65 A.D.
 - Married with a family
 - Working in a trade
 - Living as a Greek Pagan
 - Curious about a new religion presented by Paul of Tarsus and his followers based on the teachings of a deceased Jewish rabbi

Luke 2 (Cont)

- **Luke 2:26-32** *“And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord Christ...And for the glory of thy people Israel”*
 - This passage is often sung or recited at the end of a number of services in both the eastern and western Churches
 - At the end of compline (night prayer)
 - At the end of baptismal services in the Byzantine rite
 - Father pointed out the beauty of the passage is that it is recited in the middle of the liturgy in which one hears about the salvation of Israel *

Luke 2 (Cont)

- **Luke 2:33-35** *“And his father and mother marveled at what was said about him:...through **your own soul** also... that thoughts of many hearts may be revealed”*
 - The Greek word here is **psuche** meaning your **personhood**, yourself; you yourself will be pierced
 - This is a foreshadowing of what she is going to experience as her son is rejected, and lives his passion and death on the cross
 - Father asked if we could imagine the sorrow of the Blessed Virgin who knew that her son was the hope for Israel that the people had been awaiting for over 500 years?
 - Can we imagine the incredible depression and sorrow that would have pierced her heart on that day? *

Luke 2 (Cont)

- **Luke 2:36-38** *“and there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel ...she was eighty four.... To their own city Nazareth”*
 - Look at the differences between this story and that in **Matthew 2**
 - Luke tells us that after the trip to Jerusalem they returned to *Nazareth*
 - Luke does not mention their trip to Egypt
 - Father pointed out that each author presented facts that were important to their audiences
 - Luke was writing to the Jewish Christian and Gentile converts in Asia Minor
 - Matthew was writing to the Jewish Christians in Palestine to help them explain to their non-Christian Jewish friends why Jesus was the Messiah

Luke 2 (Cont)

- Luke's Gentile audience would have no idea about a Messiah or the history of the Jews including their lengthy venture into Egypt
- Another difference in these two presentations is that Matthew does not tell us anything about a visit by the shepherds at his birth or the young Jesus being separated from his family for three days
- They were not holding back information as much as they were trying to maximize the limited amount of expensive space they had
- If we understand these differences, the two gospels make perfect sense *

Luke 2 (Cont)

- **Luke 2:39-46** *“and when they had performed everything according to the law...the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem”*
 - Most likely, the Holy Family went to Jerusalem three times a year in accordance with **Exodus 23** and **Deuteronomy 16** to celebrate the three religious feasts
 - Luke tells us that Jesus was 12 years old at that time
 - Some have speculated that this might have been a concept that preceded the Jewish *bar mitzvah* which implied that a boy of that age was considered as an adult

Luke 2 (Cont)

- Others have speculated that Luke was telling this to us to ensure we knew that he was not a 3-year old child who got lost in Jerusalem
- The fact that he was a young man makes sense based on the next story concerning him hanging out with the rabbis in the temple
- After Mary and Joseph left the festival, they could not find Jesus for three days
- Finally, they stumbled upon him in the temple precinct most likely in the court of men, the court of gentiles, or the portico of Solomon where he was discussing the Law with the rabbis *

Luke 2 (Cont)

- **Luke 2:47** *“And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers”*
 - Some ask why would Jesus be asking questions (He was God)
 - This does not mean He was seeking information to gain knowledge
 - Questions and answers were a common way for teachers to present information to their students and insure that the student understood the information at hand
 - This was an ancient Greek style of teaching
 - Many Greek philosophers used this technique with their students

Luke 2 (Cont)

- When Luke stated that He was asking questions, it means that he was teaching them
- We can see this from Luke's comment that the priests were amazed as His answers
 - Jesus would ask, "why would it say in the Law such and such?"
 - They might respond that they did not know
 - Then, Jesus would provide the answer! *

Luke 2 (Cont)

- **Luke 2:48-52** *“and his mother said to him, Son why have you treated us so?... Did you not know I must be in my Father’s house...And the favor of God and man”*
 - Jesus was speaking of His heavenly Father
 - Joseph was His adopted Father
 - His Father’s house was the temple
 - This was another of Luke’s little hints concerning who Jesus was

Luke 2 (Cont)

- This last sentence sounds like **1 Samuel 2:26** ^f where Samuel was left in the temple with Eli, the High Priest
- This ended Luke's Infancy Narrative
- Next, we will look at an introduction to **Mark** before we return for a longer look at **Matthew** *

Infancy Narrative

MATTHEW

Genealogy of Jesus
Betrothal in *Nazareth*
Joseph's dream to marry Mary and name the child "Jesus"

LUKE

Zachariah meeting with Gabriel in the temple in Jerusalem
Birth of John the Baptist foretold
Zachariah's doubt and loss of speech
Birth of Jesus foretold to Mary in Nazareth by Gabriel (Annunciation)
Mary visits Elizabeth at *Ein Karem* (the Magnificat)
Birth of John the Baptist
Zechariah's prophecy
The Roman enrollment
Travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem

Infancy Narrative

MATTHEW

Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem

The star of David

Visit and gifts of the Wise Men

Joseph told to flee to Egypt in a dream

Herod kills all boys 2 years and younger

Joseph told to return to Nazareth in a dream

Holy Family settled in Nazareth

LUKE

Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem

Shepherds and Angels

Swaddling clothes and manger

No room in the Inn

Jesus is circumcised and named

Jesus is presented in the temple in Jerusalem

Prophecy of Simeon and Anna

Family returned to Nazareth

Boy Jesus lost in the temple