

# 2019-2020 Bible Study

## #10

11/19/19

# Luke 1 (Cont)

# Administrative Information

- The Bible Study Class will be presented in the Parish Hall every Tuesday morning from **9:30 A.M. until 11 A.M.** beginning **September 10, 2019** and ending **May 12, 2020** except for the following Tuesdays related to a holiday:
  - Nov 26, 2019 – Thanksgiving Week
  - Dec 24, 2019 – Christmas Week
  - Dec 31, 2019 - New Year's Week
  - Apr 7, 2020 – Holy Week
- The same class will be given every Tuesday evening from **7:30 P.M. until 9:00 P.M.** in the Parish Hall
- Contact info: email: [biblestudy@straymonds.org](mailto:biblestudy@straymonds.org) ; Tel: **703 644-5873**
- Inclement weather decisions will be **based on Fairfax County Public School announcements**

# Luke 1 (Cont)

- **Luke 1:37-56** *“For with God nothing is impossible... and his posterity for ever”*
  - Here, we see the angel *Gabriel* telling Mary that nothing is impossible for God
  - Then Mary gives her “fiat” followed by the departure of *Gabriel*
  - Luke then relates that Mary traveled to assist Elizabeth in *Ein Karem*

# Luke 1 (Cont)

- Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, exclaimed “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!” (Hail Mary)
- Then, for a second time, John leapt for joy in her womb
- This is followed by **Mary’s Magnificat** (Luke 1:46-55)
- The section concludes with Mary returning to Nazareth

# Luke 1 (Cont)

- **Luke 1:57-66** *“Now the time came for Elizabeth to be delivered, and she gave birth to a son...For the hand of the Lord was with him”*
  - Again, an unusual event occurs as *Elizabeth* argued with her relatives concerning what will be her son’s name
  - They pointed out that no one in their family had been called John
  - The issue was resolved when the child’s father *Zachariah*, who by law had to name the child, called for a tablet and wrote his name is *John (Yochanan)* “Yahweh is gracious, Yahweh gives” \*

# Luke 1 (Cont)

- **Luke 1:67-79** *“And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied saying...into the way of peace”*
  - Notice that the Holy Spirit is all over the place in Luke’s gospel
  - The reason was that Jesus the Messiah, the anointed one, the spirit who had returned, was present
  - Father suggested that there was a difference between those in the Old Testament who had been anointed versus those in the New Testament
    - In the Old Testament, the spirit descended on one individual at a time
    - In the New Testament, all who are baptized and confirmed are anointed

# Luke 1 (Cont)

- After this verse, we hear **Zachariah's beautiful Hymn** discussing the importance of his son John, but also that of Jesus the Christ
- This hymn is also read every day as a part of the Liturgy of the Hours



# Luke 1 (Cont)

- **Luke 1: 80** *“And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness till the day of his manifestation to Israel”*
  - We do not know exactly what happened to John in the wilderness
  - We know at some point he entered in the wilderness and may have had contact with the Essene community at *Qumran*
  - Some speculate that after his father died, he was adopted by the Essenes, but no one knows for sure
  - The story continues in **Luke 2** and originally there were no chapter divisions \*

Luke 2

# Outline for the Infancy Narrative in Luke 2

- The Roman enrollment
- Travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem (the city of David)
- The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem
- The shepherds and angels
- Wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger
- Jesus was circumcised and named on the eighth day
- Mary's purification, and Jesus' presentation in the temple in accord with the Law
  - Prophecy of Simeon and Anna
- The return to Nazareth
- The boy Jesus in the temple

# Luke 2

- **Luke 2:1-2** *“In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius I was governor of Syria”*
  - Some have suggested that this is a sign that some of Luke’s stories have been made up since *Quirinius* was not the governor of *Syria* at that time
  - Yet, there is archaeological evidence that shows he was in an administrative role over that region in an earlier phase of his career
  - This, most likely, was what Luke was referring to \*

# Luke 2 (Cont)

- **Luke 2:3-7** *“and all went to be enrolled, each of his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee from the city of Nazareth, to Judea to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem because he was of the house and lineage of David... no place for them in the inn”*
  - Father stressed Luke’s emphasis on Joseph’s lineage rather than that of Mary
  - Of great importance in this passage is the concept of “first born”
    - This does not mean the first among many who will be born

# Luke 2 (Cont)

- First born in the Old Testament was a special category of offspring
- The first born son was seen as a sign from God that your family line would continue (at that time only 1 out of 5 children survived childhood)
- The first born son was supposed to protect and provide for the family upon the death of the father who usually died between age 40 to 45
- Thus, the first born was seen as a special blessing from God and requiring a special sacrifice (**Exodus 13:11-16**)<sup>a</sup>
- Father pointed out that Protestants sometimes read this passage to mean that Mary and Joseph had other children

# Luke 2 (Cont)

- This would imply that one could not designate a son “first born” until after the birth of the “second born”
- Thus, one would have waited until the birth of the second born before offering the sacrifice for the first born
- This title means that the first born was the son who opened the womb regardless of what came after
- We see this referenced again in **Luke 2:12**

# Luke 2 (Cont)

- Luke tells us twice that the baby was wrapped “in swaddling clothes” (**Luke 2:12**)
- Father asked why is Luke telling us something that would have been obvious?
- Once again Luke is referring us back to the Old Testament
- In **Wisdom 7:4** <sup>b</sup> we find the great King Solomon revealing that he, like all babies, was wrapped in “swaddling clothes”



# Luke 2 (Cont)

- Luke is stating that Jesus, son of David and new Solomon, was born in a humble stable and was the person that Solomon was praying for
- Jesus possessed wisdom and was the word of God
- It would appear that Luke was telling us more than that he was wrapped in “swaddling cloths”
- Father pointed that Jesus was born in a cave
- Most houses at that time were built over a cool cave which could serve as a safe room or place to keep animals \*

# Luke 2 (Cont)

- **Luke 2:8-10** *“And in that region there were shepherds out in the field,... I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all of the people”*
  - These were not cute little babies flying around in the sky
  - Notice, whenever angels met human beings they told them not to be afraid
  - These angels told the shepherds that they were bringing them the “good news” that the Messiah had arrived who would be the long-awaited king who will save them from their enemies (a military and political component of the story) \*

# Luke 2 (Cont)

- **Luke 2:11-12** “for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord”
  - Savior implies the one who “saves you from your enemies round about”
  - This would be, not only a human king, but also the divine (anointed) king
  - In the Old Testament, the first Messiah (Christ) was Saul who was anointed by Samuel (**1 Samuel 11:15**) c
  - The first time we saw a reference to a Messiah (Christ) was at the end of *Hannah’s* Magnificat (**1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 2:10**)

# Luke 2 (Cont)

- Luke was interested in the story of *Hannah* because she was a woman filled with grace who spoke her prophetic utterances about the coming of the Messiah
- In this passage, Luke is speaking of a woman “full of Grace” who is giving birth to the great and final Messiah
- David was referred to as the “anointed one” when the Holy Spirit came upon his head upon the oil being poured on him (**1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 16:13; 2 Samuel 23:1**) e
- This became the title for all the Kings of Judah and Israel
- Messiah was a title for a King of Israel
- Thus, we should understand the term “Christ” to be equal to the term “king” \*

# Luke 2(Cont)

- **Luke 2:13-18** *“and suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased”*
  - This is often translated as “men of good will”
  - We cannot have peace and righteousness without God
  - The shepherds decided to go across the fields to *Bethlehem* to check this out
  - Today, one can visit the shepherd field which is not far from the Church built over the cave where Jesus was born
  - When the shepherds arrived they found the cave, the animals, Mary, Joseph, and the baby Jesus as the angels had said \*

# Luke 2 (Cont)

- **Luke 2:19-23** *“But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart .... To present him to the Lord”*
  - *Bethlehem* is about 6 miles from *Jerusalem*, a journey that can be completed within a day’s walk
  - After the birth, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to *Jerusalem* to offer the sacrifices for a “first born son” and Mary’s ritual purification
  - The sacrifice called for a lamb, unless the couple was poor, in which case they could offer two turtle doves instead \*