

1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7 And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

*Being born in a stable and being laid in a feeding trough, is not exactly how we would expect Jesus Christ, the creator of the whole world, to enter this physical earth!*

*...but then again, our God is always full of un-expected surprises!*

# The Gospel of **LUKE**

Lesson 5  
Chapter 2 - Verses 1-20

## Jesus' Birth

Chapter 2, Verses 1-7 - Jesus enters the world in an unexpected way!

1. A Roman emperor named Caesar Augustus, commanded the whole land of Palestine to be **taxed**.
2. This law of taxation required every Jewish citizen to return to their **hometown** and report to the Roman government their employments, properties and assets.
3. This law of taxation made Joseph and Mary travel **80** miles from Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in Judea.
4. During the trip, Mary was in the **last** stages of her pregnancy.
5. Because the city of Bethlehem was **crowded** and Joseph and Mary were poor, they could not find a place to **stay**, and they had to live in an animal **stable**.
6. While living in a stable, Mary gave **birth** to the baby Jesus.
7. When Jesus was born, Mary wrapped him in a **blanket** and laid him in a feeding trough.



**750** years before He was born, the Bible tells us in Micah 5:2, that Jesus would be born in the little town of Bethlehem.



Caesar Augustus was flexing his power by requiring everyone to return to their own city so they can be taxed, but in reality, Caesar was God's little **puppet**.



Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room for Him at the inn. Similarly, today many have no room for Jesus in their own **lives**.



Jesus' earthly ministry was performed in **poverty**. Darby said, "He began in a manger, and ended on the cross, and along the way had no where to lay His head."

## Birth Announced

Chapter 2, Verses 8-12 - Angels announced the birth of Jesus to shepherds.

1. Not too far from the birth of Jesus, shepherds were **camping** in the fields at night, watching over their flock of sheep.
2. While the shepherds were camping, an Angel appeared to them in a bright, glorious light and the shepherds were extremely **scared**.
3. The Angel tried to **comfort** the fearful shepherds by telling them to "fear not, I have good news for the whole **world**."

# Birth Announced

...Continued from previous page

Chapter 2, Verses 8-12 - Angels announced the birth of Jesus to shepherds.

4. The Angel announced to the shepherds, that nearby, in the town of Bethlehem, a Baby had been **born**.
5. The Angel announced to the shepherds that this baby was the Savior, which means a person who **rescues** other people from harm, danger, or loss.
6. The Angel announced to the shepherds that this baby was the Christ, which means the **Anointed** (chosen) of God.
7. The Angel announced to the shepherds that this baby was the Lord, which means God has **shown** Himself in human form.
8. The Angel gave the shepherds a sign to help them **find** the baby Jesus.
9. The Angel told the shepherds that they will find the baby Jesus wrapped in a blanket, laying in a place where **animals** eat their food.
10. Immediately after the angel finished speaking to the shepherds, many other angels came down from Heaven and started **praising** God.
11. After the angels left and went back to Heaven, the shepherds **hurried** to Bethlehem and **found** Mary and Joseph, and the baby Jesus, lying in a manger.
12. When the shepherds realized what the Angel had told them was **true**, they **told** everyone they met what the Angel had said about the baby Jesus.
13. Everyone who heard the shepherd's stories about the baby Jesus, were **shocked**, but Mary didn't say a word, and she thought about everything that had happened.
14. After a while, the shepherds returned to their flocks, happy and praising God for all they had **seen** and **heard**.



The first announcement of Jesus' birth was not given to the religious leaders in Jerusalem, but to **humble** shepherds.



God using the humble shepherds signifies to us all, that Jesus is available to **all**, including the plain and the ordinary. Jesus will come to anyone with a heart humble enough to **accept** him.



The shepherds ran to see the baby Jesus and then they told everybody about Him. Shouldn't we look forward to **seeing** Him everyday in prayer, worship and Bible study? Shouldn't we want to **share** our story about Jesus with our friends?



Born in a stable, laid in a manger and announced to shepherds... everything about the birth of Jesus, points to the fact that Jesus is the **Lamb** of God that took away the sin of the world.

11 For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

12 And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

*“Some of the Jews were waiting for a savior to deliver them from Roman power. But the work of Jesus is more far reaching than anyone could imagine. Christ paid the price for our sins. He offers us more than temporary salvation from political or physical problems—he offers us peace with God that will last for eternity.” - LASB*

21 And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

22 And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;

23 (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)

24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

*Our Lord Jesus, being made of a woman, was made under the law.*

*He was not only, as the son of a daughter of Adam, made under the law of nature, but as the son of a daughter of Abraham was made under the law of Moses; he put his neck under that heavy yoke.*

*Christ submitted to it, that he might with the better grace cancel it, and set it aside for us.*

*M. Henry*

# The Gospel of **LUKE**

Lesson 6

Chapter 2 - Verses 21-35

## Temple Visit

Chapter 2, Verses 21-24 - The baby Jesus is brought to the Temple.

1. Eight days after His birth, the Child was officially named **Jesus**, the same name given by the Angel before he was conceived.
2. Eight days after His birth, Jesus was also **circumcised** according to Jewish law.
3. God's Law said that 40 days after the birth of a son, the mother was ceremonially unclean and could not **enter** the Temple.
4. When the 40 days of purification were finished, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple in Jerusalem to give Him **back** to God.
5. God's Law said that every first-born baby boy **belonged** to the Lord.
6. God's Law also said that parents had to offer a **sacrifice**, giving at least a pair of doves or two young pigeons.



Circumcision symbolized the Jews' **separation** from the world and their special relationship with God.



A firstborn son was presented to God one month after birth. Then the parents **bought** back the child from God through an offering.



Jewish families went through several ceremonies soon after a baby's birth. Jesus was God's Son, but his family carried out these ceremonies according to God's law. Jesus was not born above the law; instead, he **lived** it perfectly.

## Simeon Sees

Chapter 2, Verses 25-27 - Simeon lives to see the baby Jesus.

1. Simeon was a man who **truly** loved God and he had God's **power**.
2. Simeon was a man who was **waiting** for the coming of the Messiah.
3. Simeon was **told** by the Holy Spirit that he would not **die** until he saw Jesus.
4. Simeon was **led** by the Holy Spirit to the Temple on the **same** day that Mary and Joseph were dedicating Jesus to God.



The Bible tells us that Simeon waited for God's promise and we should do the **same**; by desiring His coming, and hoping for it with patience.



Simeon found Jesus in the Temple. If you are looking for Jesus, the house of God is a good place to **find** Him.

# Simeon's Prophecy

Chapter 2, Verses 28-35 - Simeon meets the baby Jesus in the Temple.

1. Simeon takes the baby Jesus in his arms and begins to [sing](#) a prophetic song.
2. Simeon said that he can die in [peace](#) because he has seen Jesus the one who will save.
3. Simeon said that Jesus was chosen by God to make salvation available to [all](#) different types of people.
4. Simeon said that the birth of Jesus is God [showing](#) himself to the non-Jewish nations.
5. Simeon said that Jesus also came to bring praise and honor and glory to the [nation](#) Israel.
6. Mary and Joseph were [speechless](#) and surprised at the things Simeon was saying.
7. Simeon prayed for Mary and Joseph, that God would [bless](#) them.
8. Simeon said that Jesus will [remove](#) the neutral ground; people will either joyfully accept Jesus or totally reject Jesus.
9. Simeon said that many people will [oppose](#) Jesus and His work.
10. Simeon said that the sufferings of Jesus will cause Mary to [suffer](#) also.
11. Simeon said that Jesus will [reveal](#) the secret thoughts and purposes of many people.



After he had seen the baby Jesus, Simeon was ready to go [home](#) to be with the Lord. In the life of a Christian, death should not be a [fearful](#) thing, but a [peaceful](#) departure to a better place.



God promised Simeon that he would see His Son; and when God directed Simeon to the Temple to see the baby Jesus; it is another small indicator that God will always keep His [promise](#).



God led Simeon to meet Mary, Joseph and Jesus. We should always remember that nothing happens by [chance](#) and the people we meet, could be people God has placed in our lives for a [purpose](#).



Simeon told Mary that she would suffer because of the things that would happen to her Son. In the midst of our joys; it is important for us to remember that [bonds](#) and [afflictions](#) will always be with us.



Simeon was a very old man, but he was still led by the Spirit and used by God to bear witness of Jesus. In our world the older generation is often [ignored](#). We as Christians should encourage older Christians to [share](#) their experiences and we should [listen](#) carefully when they speak.

28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

30 For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

32 A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

35 (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

*Men will be judged of by the thoughts of their hearts, their thoughts concerning Christ; are they for him, or are they for his adversaries? The word of God is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart, and by it we are discovered to ourselves, and shall be judged hereafter.*

*M. Henry*

*Simeon was a true prophet. He was not prophets in the sense of future telling or fortune telling. Prophecy is forthtelling. You speak forth for God to a person or a nation about that person's or that nation's unrighteousness and about those things they might do to be faithful and obedient. The true prophet speaks to us of our sins, our false values and our unloving behavior.*

*L. Ogilvie*

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;

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.

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.

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

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

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

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

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.

*Anna, as a prophetess, instructed others concerning him: She spoke of him to all them that believed the Messiah would come, and with him looked for redemption in Jerusalem. Redemption was the thing wanted, waited for, and wished for; redemption in Jerusalem, for thence the word of the Lord was to go forth, Some there were in Jerusalem that looked for redemption; yet but a few, for Anna, it should seem, had acquaintance with all them...*

*M. Henry*

# The Gospel of **LUKE**

Lesson 7

Chapter 2 - Verses 36-52

## Prophetess Anna

Chapter 2, Verses 36-39 - A special lady speaks about a special child.

1. Anna the prophetess, was, like Simeon, part of a small group of **faithful** Israelites that believed in the coming Messiah.
2. Anna the prophetess was God's **mouthpiece**. She spoke for God by proclaiming his truth.
3. Anna the prophetess was married for **seven** years, then widowed for **eighty-four** years.
4. Anna the prophetess was **faithful** in her attendance at the temple.
5. Anna the prophetess **worshipped** God, night and day, by fasting and praying.
6. Anna the prophetess showed up at the very time Simeon was **praying** over the baby Jesus.
7. Anna the prophetess immediately began to **praise** God.
8. Anna the prophetess then **spoke** about Jesus to the faithful ones in Jerusalem who were expecting redemption.
9. After Joseph and Mary finished everything required by God in the Law they **returned** to their home town.



Anna the prophetess never lost **hope** after so many years. She never **forsook** her belief, but held fast until the end.



Anna the prophetess never grew **bitter** in the face of sorrow. She remained a widow out of the conviction that her life **belonged** to God.

## Father's Business

Chapter 2, Verses 40-52 - Mary and Joseph cannot find the young Jesus.

1. As a child, Jesus grew **strong** in body.
2. As a child, Jesus grew **wise** in spirit.
3. As a child, the **grace** (power) of God was with Jesus.
4. When Jesus was **twelve** years old, His family made their annual trip to **Jerusalem** for the Passover.
5. When the Passover feast was finished, Mary and Joseph headed back **home**, but Jesus **stayed** in Jerusalem.

# Father's Business

...Continued from previous page

Chapter 2, Verses 40-52 - Mary and Joseph cannot find the young Jesus.

1. Mary and Joseph traveled back home in a large **caravan** and they assumed that Jesus was in another part of the caravan with friends or relatives.
2. After a days journey, Mary and Joseph realized Jesus was missing and the began to **look** for him.
3. Mary and Joseph went back to Jerusalem to find **Jesus**.
4. After three days, the distraught parents found Jesus in the **Temple**.
5. Jesus was in the Temple sitting with the **scholars**, listening to them and asking them questions.
6. Everyone who heard the young Jesus speak, was **surprised** at how much he knew and at the answers he gave.
7. When Mary and Joseph saw Jesus, they were **upset**.
8. Mary scolded the young Jesus for making her so **worried**.
9. Jesus tells Mary and Joseph that they should have known that He would be in His Father's **house**, dealing with the things of His Father.
10. Mary and Joseph did not understand what Jesus was **telling** them.
11. Jesus went back to Nazareth with Mary and Joseph, and lived **obediently** with them.
12. Mary **held** these things dearly, deep within herself.
13. Jesus matured, growing up in both body and spirit, blessed by both God and **people**.



When Jesus went to the Temple, He jumped at the opportunity to learn all he could and perhaps teach all he could. Here we see Jesus' **hunger** for biblical knowledge and understanding.



The first recorded words of Jesus, shows us that He was fully **aware** of His identity as the Son of God.



In the last verse in our Scripture, we have the bottom line in all of this: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and men." In the new life in Christ you and I find favor with God and man. If you find favor only with God or only with man, you miss something. The new being in Christ lives in a new **dimension**. All of life is triangular. - L. Olgivie



The Bible does not record any events of the next **18** years of Jesus' life, but Jesus undoubtedly was learning and maturing. As the oldest in a large family, he undoubtedly assisted Joseph in his carpentry work. Joseph may have died during this time, leaving Jesus to provide for the family. - LASB

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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?

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

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.

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

*Whereas other children show that the corruption of nature is in them, and the tares of sin grow up with the wheat of reason, he made it appear that nothing but the grace of God was upon him (the wheat sprang up without tares), and that, whereas other children are by nature children of wrath, he was greatly beloved, and high in the favour of God; that God loved him, and cherished him, and took a particular care of him.*

*M. Henry*