

Calvary Chapel Portsmouth



Simply teaching the Bible, simply

The Gospel of Luke

a verse-by-verse study

Session 3

Review

- Luke was written to the Jewish High Priest who succeeded Annas and Caiaphas (37-41 AD)
 - Theophilus was the son of Annas
 - Brother-in-law of Caiaphas
- Luke records both the announcement and then the births of both John and Jesus
 - John was to prepare the way for the coming Messiah
 - Jesus was that Messiah, who is destined to sit and rule over the Israel and the whole world from Jerusalem, subduing all Israel's enemies!

Review

- In regard to Christ's birth, Luke introduces us to the shepherds
- These were no ordinary shepherds
 - Theirs were ordinary sheep!
- They were Levites tasked with caring for and inspecting the sheep to be offered as sacrifices in Jerusalem
- The lamb's had to be without spot or blemish
 - Because of this, when they were born they were wrapped in 'swaddling bands' to protect them
 - These were the old priestly garments

Review

- Jesus was not born in a stable!
- There was no inn-keeper
- The Greek text tells us that Joseph and Mary were not welcome at the family home in Bethlehem
 - Mary was pregnant before marriage
 - It was the Feast of Trumpets and any who came near Mary would be defiled and unable to celebrate
- Instead, they found alternative accommodation!
- The prophet Micah tells us exactly where!
 - The Jewish Targums & Midrash all concurred!
- Migdal Eder (The Tower of the Flock)

Review

- So why Bethlehem?
- Why Migdal Eder?
- Why shepherds?
- God specifically chose Bethlehem because it was town of the sacrificial lambs
- Jesus was born in Migdal Eder so that His first clothing would be priestly robes
- The Shepherds were the ones whose duty it was to inspect the lambs to be offered as sacrifices
- No wonder Mary hid these things in her heart!

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.

Luke 2:19-20

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CHAPTER 2

VERSE 21 >

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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.

Luke 2:21

- We have been told that Mary's baby was:
 - **Conceived in the womb** Luke 1:31 / 2:21
 - Conception takes place in the fallopian tube, , the embryo then 'journeying' to the womb.
 - Dr Luke would have known surely have known this
 - **Mathew tells us her baby would be 'conceived OF the Holy Spirit'** Matt 1:20

35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Luke 1:36

Was it Mary's Egg?

- Does it matter?
- We all inherit traits from our parents
 - 23 Chromosomes from both father & mother
- Significantly, we inherit sin!
- David said *“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me”* Psalm 51:5
- We know that Joseph was not Jesus' biological father...
- But was Mary Jesus' biological Mother?

Was it Mary's Egg?

- Consider Jesus' own words:

While He yet talked to the people, behold, His mother and His brethren stood without, desiring to speak with Him. Then one said to Him *"Behold, your mother and your brethren stand without, desiring to speak with you."* But He answered and said to him that told Him, **"Who is my mother?"** And who are my brethren?" And He stretched forth His hand toward His disciples, and said, *"Behold, my mother and my brethren!"* For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, *the same is my brother, my sister, and mother"*.

Matthew 12:46-50

Was it Mary's Egg?

- Nowhere in scripture does Jesus call Mary 'mother'

*'Now there stood by the cross of Jesus, His mother and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple standing by, whom He loved, He said to His mother "**Woman**, behold your son!" Then He said to the disciple "Behold, your mother!"*

John 19:25-27

Was it Mary's Egg?

- Note Jesus' specific words:

*'Verily I say to you, among them that are **born of women** there has not risen a greater than John the Baptist....'*

Matthew 11:11

- Jesus was greater than John!
- Here Jesus seems to separate Himself from the rest of the human race
- Jesus was not born of a woman, but from a woman

Was it Mary's Egg?

- Paul implies the same:

But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, **made of a woman**, made under the law. To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Galatians 4:4

- Note: not 'born of a woman' but 'made'
- If Christ was 'made' under the Law, He was put in the position of being subject to the law.
- In the same way, if He was 'made' of a woman then He was put in the position of being subject to Mary i.e. in her care

Was it Mary's Egg?

- Paul implies the same:

....'God sending His own Son, **in the likeness of sinful flesh**'....

Romans 8:3

'Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be **made like** His brethren....to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.'

Hebrews 2:17

Was it Mary's Egg?

- Jesus was the perfect spotless Lamb of God who came to take away the sins of the world (John 1:29)
- Only if Jesus was without sin (Heb 4:15 / 9:28) could He become the propitiation (payment in full) for our sin
- If the egg was Mary's
 - Jesus would have inherited her sin nature and couldn't be the Saviour of the world!
 - Only a Lamb without blemish could atone for sin
 - There would have been no reason for Him not to call her mother
 - John would not have been the greatest born of woman
 - Jude, James etc. would literally be Jesus half-brothers and half-sisters!

The Uniqueness of Christ

- *“Jesus Christ was born into this world, not from it. He did not evolve out of history; He came into history from the outside. Jesus Christ is not the best human being, He is a Being Who cannot be accounted for by the human race at all. He is not man becoming God, but God Incarnate, God coming into human flesh, coming into it from outside. His life is the Highest and the Holiest entering in at the lowliest door.”*

» Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*

The Uniqueness of Christ

- *“According to the Bible, there are only two Men: Adam and Jesus Christ, and God deals with them as the representatives of the human race, not as individuals. All the members of the human race are grouped round these two Men. The first Adam is called “the son of God”; the last Adam is the Son of God, and we are made sons of God by the last Adam. The Christian is neither Adam nor Jesus Christ, the Christian is a new man in Christ Jesus. The first Adam and the last Adam are the only two Men according to God’s norm, and they both came into this world direct from the hand of God”.*

Oswald Chambers, *The Psychology of Redemption*

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

Luke 2:21

- Circumcision was the sign of the covenant that God established with Abraham. [Gen 17:9-14](#)
- Every Hebrew male was to be circumcised on the 8th day.
- Why the 8th day?

The 8th Day for Circumcision

- Modern medical science has discovered that a newborn baby has a peculiar susceptibility to bleeding between the 2nd and 5th days of life.
- **Vitamin K**, (needed for blood clotting) is not formed in the normal amount until the 5th to the 7th day
- A 2nd element necessary for the normal clotting of blood is **Prothrombin** which is minimal in the first few days of the baby's life,
- However, this increases to 110% of normal on the 8th day and then levels off to 100%.
- An 8-day-old baby has more available prothrombin than on any other day of its entire life!

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

Luke 2:22

- According to the Law (**Leviticus 12**) the days of purification would be 40 days for a male child and 80 days for a female.
- This means that Joseph, Mary and Jesus travelled approximately 8 miles from Bethlehem to Jerusalem 40 days after the birth.
 - **That means they left Bethlehem!**

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.**

Luke 2:22-24

- According to the Law (**Leviticus 12**) the offering should be a lamb if you could afford it...
- If not, a pair of birds.
- Clearly, Joseph and Mary were not sitting on a pot of gold!

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

Luke 2:25-27

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.

Luke 2:28-32

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.

Luke 2:33-35

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.

Luke 2:36-38

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

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

Luke 2:40

Psalm 69 – The Silent Years

- 1 Save me, O God; for the waters are come in unto my soul.
- 2 I sink in deep mire, where there is no standing:
I am come into deep waters, where the floods overflow me.
- 3 I am weary of my crying: my throat is dried:
mine eyes fail while I wait for my God

Psalm 69:1-3

Psalm 69 – The Silent Years

4 They that hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of mine head: they that would destroy me, being mine enemies wrongfully, are mighty: then I restored that which I took not away.

5 O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee.

6 Let not them that wait on thee, O Lord God of hosts, be ashamed for my sake: let not those that seek thee be confounded for my sake, O God of Israel.

Psalm 69 – The Silent Years

7 Because for thy sake I have borne reproach; shame hath covered my face.

8 I am become a stranger unto my brethren, and an alien unto my mother's children.

9 For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.

Psalm 69:7-9

Psalm 69 – The Silent Years

10 When I wept, and chastened my soul with fasting, that was to my reproach.

11 I made sackcloth also my garment; and I became a proverb to them.

12 They that sit in the gate speak against me; and I was the song of the drunkards.

13 But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O Lord, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.

Psalm 69 – The Silent Years

¹⁴ Deliver me out of the mire, and let me not sink:
let me be delivered from them that hate me, and out of
the deep waters.

¹⁵ Let not the waterflood overflow me, neither let the
deep swallow me up, and let not the pit shut her mouth
upon me.

Psalm 69:14-15

Psalm 69 – The Silent Years

- 16 Hear me, O Lord; for thy lovingkindness is good: turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies.
- 17 And hide not thy face from thy servant; for I am in trouble: hear me speedily.
- 18 Draw nigh unto my soul, and redeem it: deliver me because of mine enemies.

Psalm 69:16-18

Psalm 69 – The Silent Years

19 Thou hast known my reproach, and my shame, and my dishonour:
mine adversaries are all before thee.

20 Reproach hath broken my heart; and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none.

Psalm 69:19-20

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

Luke 2:41-43

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.

Luke 2:44-45

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.

Luke 2:46-47

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.

Luke 2:48-50

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.

Luke 2:51-52

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To be continued...

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