

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ Childhood and Youth

Last time...the visit of the wise men and the flight to Egypt...and striking similarities

This time...the childhood and youth of Jesus

We continue in the Matt 2

v19a when Herod was dead:

A huge event...the end of a “big” life...is reduced by the Holy Spirit to 4 words...
“when Herod was dead”

No man, no matter how much power or wealth he has, can fight God and win
Such lives are always reduced to few words

The bitter enemy of Jesus Christ, this type of the antichrist, had a most bitter end
Herod’s paranoia about rivals to his throne haunted him continually
He was tormented by irrational fears and nameless and faceless souls

He foiled all his enemies...except his wives and children

He had 10 wives and 14 children

His sister convinced him that his one beloved wife...

he was so fond of her as to be her slave...

and her 2 sons were plotting to poison him

In a fit of paranoid rage he had them assassinated

Afterwards, overwhelmingly grieved by her death, he tried to
commit suicide...but failed

He burned alive national patriots...called Zealots

He summoned the nobles of Israel to Jericho, where he imprisoned them
in the hippodrome (horse race track), leaving orders for his sister to
have them killed after his death;

he would see to it that the Jews’ celebration of his death would be
replaced with intense mourning for the deaths of their nobles

After a ruthless reign of 37 years, Herod died a horrific death at age 69...

hated by everyone

“He stole to the throne like a fox, ruled like a tiger, and died like a dog.”

He was buried in his castle, Herodium, outside Bethlehem

(only months after he slaughtered the innocents of that town)

Note: Herod’s sister was wise enough to NOT carry out his orders...
and all Judea rejoiced at the death of this tyrant

v19b-21 angel...dream...Joseph:

After the tumultuous and terrifying events leading up to the death of Herod,
from which the Father in Heaven shielded His Son and His family,
a heavenly messenger was dispatched to Joseph via a dream

The command came from God to go home...to the land of **Israel**

In 586 BC, at the start of the times of the Gentiles, Judah ceased to exist
According to the Roman Empire, and at the time of this writing,
it was the province of Judea

Later, according to the vindictive Roman Empire, it was called Palestine

But...the eternal transcendent Creator of the universe calls that land

- Israel...inseparable from His people Israel
- My land
 - Gen 12:7 promised to Abram and his Seed
 - Lev 25:23 the land shall not be sold forever for
the land is Mine
 - Ezk 39:16 (and 7x elsewhere) to the invaders
of His land while His “tenants” were
expelled for 70 years for defiant
mismanagement of His land
(Sabbath year to give land its rest)
 - Joel 3:1-2 all nations will be gathered to the
valley of Jehoshaphat for how they
treated His people and His land
(parted it...land for false peace)
- “Most Important Nation” (fulfilled during Mil Reign)
 - Deut 32:8-9 When the most High divided to the
nations their inheritance, when he
separated the sons of Adam, he set
the bounds of the people according
to the number of the children of
Israel. For the LORD's portion *is* his
people; Jacob *is* the lot of his
inheritance.

Q; How is that land labeled on the maps in the back of your Bible?

Q: Was that not part of BN’s message to this idolatrous nation on 3/3/15?

As is Joseph's bent, he obeys immediately
It seems their stay in Egypt was brief
Where did he take his family?
In context, it seems he took them back to Bethlehem, their hometown

v22-23 Archelaus...Nazareth...Nazarene:

But...upon their return to God's land called Israel...all is not well
There is neither peace nor safety in and around Jerusalem
(Bethlehem is only 8 miles away)

Herod was succeeded by his son Archelaus, as approved by Caesar Augustus
Another son, Antipas, was named sub-ruler of Galilee and Peraea
Another son, Philip, was named sub-ruler of modern day Jordan

Initially, Archelaus made liberal promises of amnesty and of great reforms...
but in short order he ordered the wholesale slaughter of his rebelling
opponents, proving himself to be

- more cruel
- more oppressive
- more immoral
- more self-indulgent
- far less talented

than his father, Herod

Note: Most of the Jewish revolts against Rome occurred on the
3 compulsory Jewish feasts (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles)
which will explain Pilate's nervousness in years to come

So wicked was Archelaus that after a short reign of 9 years, Augustus had him
banished to the Province of Gaul (France)

Therefore, Joseph is again warned by God in a dream and he leads his family on
the reverse of the Luke 2:16 journey back to Nazareth...

avoiding those despicable Samaritans

And thereby fulfilling Scripture

Where is this prophesy in the OT?

Heb word comes from *netzer*..."branch"...designation of the Messiah
(Is 11:1, Jer 23:5, Jer 33:15, Zech 3:8)

Also true, in context: Nazarene is an inhabitant of Nazareth

In this one chapter of the Gospel written to the Jews regarding their King and Messiah, Jesus Christ is recorded as

- born in Bethlehem (v1)
- coming out of Egypt (v15)
- a Nazarene...The BRANCH from Nazareth (v23)

Can any other Person in the history of Israel fulfill all these, being from all 3 places?!

If a Jew is searching for the Messiah, Scripture rapidly and radically narrows the scope of the search...to only One!

Joseph, Mary, and Jesus are back in Nazareth

- 60 miles north of Jerusalem (as crow flies but not as a Jew walks)
- 20 miles SW of Capernaum (will figure prominently in future studies)
- on the Via Maris, a very busy trade route
- had a rather unsavory reputation

There, Jesus lived a “normal” but “unique” life...much of which is unrecorded

But, let's now go to Luke 2:39 to pick up the story

Luke 2

v39-41 Galilee...Nazareth...grew...strong in spirit...wisdom...grace:

In these three verses are recorded in Scripture the childhood of Jesus, from ages 2 to 12

We know from Scripture

- v39 performed all things according to the Law
- v41 Deut 16 (to Jerusalem for 3 Feasts)

that Jesus was raised in a Godly home, faithful to keep God's Word

Prov 22:6 started with the mother, as God's guard over the home

When the child could speak, this passed to the father to teach

- the Torah (Books of Moses)
- the hymns (Psalms)

At age 6, children went to school

Up to age 10, the Bible was the text book

1. Leviticus
2. The other 4 books of Moses
3. Prophets

At age 15, the Mishnah was...the traditions (Mark 7:7)

A radical difference between the Jews and the Gentiles was the compulsory education of all their children, not just those of the wealthy/powerful

Later, Jesus' questions starting with "Have you not read..." were for the Pharisees and Sadducees AND the common people listening... all could read and were expected to know the Word of God

But we must take careful consideration of v40

- what it says
- what the entire counsel of God says
- what has been added to the Word of God by man

What v40 says

- Jesus grew...physically, emotionally, spiritually...as do all children
- Jesus increased in spiritual strength
 - as did John the Baptist...Luke 1:80
 - but differently than John...
 - because of His nature (not have Adam's sin nature)
 - "completely filled" with wisdom
 - the grace of God was upon (*epi*) Him

What the entire counsel of God says

- Ps 19:7-11 law/testimony/statutes/commandment/fear/judgments
- Prov 1:7 the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge
- John 1:1, 14 Word is God, became flesh
- Col 2:9 in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily
- Deut 32:4 (our God) the Rock, his work *is* perfect: for all his ways *are* judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right *is* he.
- Heb 4:15 tempted as were we yet without sin (yielding to the/any temptation)
- 1 Peter 1:18-19 redeemed by a lamb without blemish, spot
- 2 Peter 1:19-21 no private interpretation, men moved by Holy Spirit
- Therefore, Scripture interpreting Scripture: Jesus NEVER sinned – never rebelled, disobeyed, talked back... even as a child and as a youth
- Had Jesus the child sinned, He was NOT the Son of God from eternity (Micah 5:2) because God cannot sin

What has been added to the Word of God by man (Beware!)

- Apocryphal Gospels...so-called “lost Scripture”
 - dozens of false gospels
 - Gospel of Judas
 - Gospel of Thomas
 - Gospel of Nicodemus
 - etc etc etc
 - adopted and developed by the Roman Church because they contain tales of Jesus in this period of His life of which so little is recorded by the Scriptures
 - performing miracles
 - astounding the townsfolk of Nazareth
 - NOT inspired by the Holy Spirit, not inerrant, not infallible because they contradict Scripture
 - John 2:11...the first of His miracles performed by the quiet, below-the-radar “son of the carpenter”
 - these spurious gospels (false gospels) were the works of false teachers to
 - fill in this “blank” period of time in Jesus’ life with fanciful things from their imaginations (Gen 6:5)
 - tickle the ears of Biblically illiterate people (2 Tim 4:3-4)
 - “prove” their heretical doctrines of devils (1 Tim 4:1)
e.g. JW’s today
- Post-modern Christianity
 - “Higher Criticism” and philosophies of men that deny or raise doubts about the deity of Jesus Christ by saying He was a “normal” child who made mistakes, sinned, made errors in judgment while He grew up
 - blasphemous and heretical...from which “mindset” comes countless spurious books and mis-translations (ala *The Message*) that are contrary to the Received Text

Scripture gives us not a biography of Jesus of Nazareth,
but a history (identity, mission) of the Savior Jesus Christ

v42 twelve years old...Jerusalem...feast:

Jesus' childhood from ages 2-12 is captured in Scripture in v39-41

Now we have a timestamp: He is 12 years old...a youth

Occasion: His family's annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Passover (v41),
to the City of their God, to the House of God

This is thought to be the first time Jesus accompanied His parents to Jerusalem
The obligation to go to Jerusalem for those 3 feasts fell upon a youth at 13 yrs old
By custom, a youth might go a year or two earlier than that

With family and friends, Jesus would sing the Psalms of Ascent (Ps 120-134)

I wonder what Jesus thought when He saw for the first time

- Jerusalem...the City of His God
- The Temple...the House of His Father

Did He react

- as I did, and all others who have gone?
- with John 2:19-21, Luke 19:41, and Matt 24:1-2 *ff* in mind?
- quietly, reflecting on His mission to be accomplished here and the higher meaning of the Temple (Himself)?

v43-44 fulfilled the days...child Jesus tarried...sought him:

The pilgrims traveled to and from Jerusalem in groups – safety in numbers

Only the first 2 days of the Feast of Passover were compulsory...

the 3rd day of the feast was when the worshippers went home

When Joseph and Mary and their entourage had completed the compulsory
two days, they headed home

Apparently after the first day's journey home, a headcount was taken and...

v45-47 found him not...after three days...astonished:

Jesus comes up missing

A parent's worst nightmare.

Panic anyone?

They put it in reverse and go back to Jerusalem to find Jesus

But they can't locate Him

After 3 days of increasingly panicked searching, they finally found Jesus...

He had stayed behind to be in Jerusalem for the entire week of the

Feast of Passover

- in the Temple complex...on the terrace where the “doctors” taught
- sitting with the most learned teachers of the Word of God
(Plus commentaries and traditions)
 - listening
 - asking questions
- blowing everybody's mind with His depth of understanding of the Word of God at such a youthful age

Let's think about that...

- in the Temple complex:
 - Why did it take the searchers 3 days to look in the Temple?
 - Jewish life and religion intertwined in the Temple
- sitting with the most learned teachers of the Word of God
(Plus commentaries and traditions)
 - listening
 - Jesus was a very good listener
(mental exercise vs physical sense,
hearing with understanding)
 - It is harder to listen than it is to talk
 - It is even harder to listen while we are talking
 - The best teachers, students, and professionals
(business or otherwise) are good listeners
 - Is there a difficult relationship in your life?
Examine the quality of your listening

- asking questions
 - the Jewish method of teaching
 - Was Jesus the Son of God conducting a T3?
 - the context of Passover –
 - exodus out of Egypt/world
 - freedom from bondage
 - death of the firstborn
 - the Passover lamb
 - the feast as an appointment of God
 - the deeper meanings of all the superficial things/actions
 - questioning the commentators and traditions
- blowing everybody's mind with His depth of understanding of the Word of God at such a youthful age

This meek, quiet, humble youth had such great insight about profound things

Later...Matt 7:28-29

v48-50 thy father and I...My Father's business:

I gather that Joseph and Mary are highly distressed and frustrated.

“Son, why have you done this to us?

Do you have any idea about the agony You have put us through and how worried and tormented we have been about You?”

To which 12 year old Jesus calmly answers, corrects, and reminds:

“How is it you did not know where I would be?

Did you not know...or forget...that I MUST be about My Father's business?”

Jesus is

- correcting His mother's identification of His Father
- drawing a very distinct connection and consecration to His Father (Jesus is unique)
- reminding His mother of His identity, mission/higher calling
 - Luke 19:10 with Ezk 34
 - even giving the false shepherds an opportunity to repent via His questions and understanding

Yet...his parents did not understand what He was saying
Foghorn Leghorn would wonder if they were too short because all the
good ones were going right over their heads

Should we find fault with Joseph and Mary?

No

It was needful for the revelation of Jesus' deity to be gradual;
He could not have been subject to His parents for proper
human raising if they knew He was God

This is clearly pre-Holy Spirit...indwell and remain

John 14:26 teach you all things, bring into remembrance

John 15:26 Spirit of truth, testify of Me

John 16:13 guide you into all truth

So, 1 Cor 2:6-16 before they and His other followers would have
the mind of Christ

But spiritual discernment is ours who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit, so...

- Was Jesus doing what He wanted or what His Father wanted?
- Was Jesus pushing His agenda or following His Father's lead?

Jesus...even from His youth...is ALWAYS a model of

- submission...based on humility vs restrained pride
- denial of Self-will
- being orderly

It was His very "food" to do the will of His Father and to finish His Father's work
John 4:34

Therefore, as we see 12 year old Jesus, we must examine our hearts.

- Are we doing what we want to do or what the Father wants us to do?
- Are we pushing our own agenda or following our Father's lead?
- Are we submissive and humble?
- Do we deny our Self-will?
- Are we orderly?

v51-52 went down...subject unto...increased:

In v39-41 we have the childhood of Jesus

In v42-50 we have the youth of Jesus at age 12

Here we have the rest of His youth...ages 12-30

After the “missing child” incident,

- did Jesus cop an attitude or feel sorry for Himself?
- did Jesus express a sense of entitlement?
- did Jesus say He was special and wanted to be treated that way?

No...Jesus led a

- “normal” life...
 - submissive obedience to His parents, God’s authority placed over Him
 - denial of Self...all the more remarkable when we consider His unique Self
 - increasing in stature
 - age
 - size
- “unique” life...
 - increasing in wisdom
 - obedience to His Father
 - in direct contact with His Father
 - increasing in favor
 - with God His Father (Heb 11:1-6...
link of “good report/faith” and “pleasing to God”
 - with man

All the while Mary kept all these things in her heart...

patiently awaiting the revelation of the mystery of God...

walking by faith and being astonished every step of the way

Now we have in Jesus’ life...18 years of silence

Where Scripture is silent, so must we

Are you seeking Jesus Christ?

He is

- busy about His Father's business
 - not distracted by the world's busy-ness
 - redeeming the time...that is short
- in His Father's house
 - 1 Cor 3:16-18
 - 1 Cor 6:19-20

Come...seek and you shall find (while He still may be found)

Are we like Jesus?

- Submissive and humble?
- Orderly?
- "Fed" by doing the Father's will?

Where we are not, we must...surrender to His will

(lesson from ME last night...a helpful fellowship for your 1st ministry if married)

Do the words of Jesus amaze us?

How well are we listening to Him?

Are we meditating (mental exercise) on or just using a physical sense?

Are we too busy talking to listen?

Are we too busy to listen?

What are we to be doing, day-by-day as we await the revelation of Jesus Christ?

- v51b
- v52...by surrender
- Phil 3:14