

3/16/14

## Luke 2

Luke is very interested in historical event to identify and verify the revelation about Jesus, as will be very evident through his gospel.

Luke is the only one of the three synoptic authors, who records much earlier events and details that we would not have had, if he had not recorded them.

Now in chapter two you have a great parallel to the events and things recorded about John in chapter one, now recorded about Jesus Christ.

### 2:1-7 The birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

2:1-5 The birth was according to divine plan. vs. 1-5

- 1) The decree went out in the days of Herod, a decree. vs. 1, Lk. 1:5a
  - a) Herod began to rule in 37 B.C. and died in 4 B. C. , Augustus was born in 63 B.C. began to rule in 27 B.C. and died in 14 A. D.
  - b) The decree “dogma” was an imperial proclamation from Caesar Augustus.
    - \* This took place during a time of peace, for ten year the Temples of

Janes were closed and remained so for 30 years, there being no war.

- c) The real name of Caesar Augustus was Caius Octavius who came to be the Emperor.
  - 1)) The Roman empire had been ruled by generals, then by Caesar, who were worshipped as deity.
  - 2)) The Roman Senate suggested to him various titles, dictator, king, finally they came up with “Augus”, like the gods, it pleased him.
- d) The entire world was to be registered, indicating the Roman world of that day.
  - 1)) The word registered “apographo”, is to enter a name in a public record, the present tense indicates continuously.
  - 2)) The purpose was for raising taxes, as verse two will indicate. vs. 1
- 2) The beginning of the census is dated for us, while Quirinius or Cyrianius was governor of Syria. vs. 2-3
  - a) Critics tried to fault the Scriptures, but archaeological evidence proved him to be governor twice, 4 B.C. , 6 A. D.
  - b) The word first “protos”, refers to the first time it was placed in operation of others that would follow, this being

confirmed by archaeological evidence of census every 14 years in Egypt.

- c) The decree required everyone go to his own city, the origin of birth and family. vs. 3
- 3) The Lord directed both of them down to Bethlehem through the natural decree of taxes, being of the house of David. vs. 4
  - a) Nazareth was in lower Galilee, southwest of the Sea of Galilee and north of the great Plain of Esdraelon.
  - b) The city was around ninety to one-hundred miles or so, from Bethlehem in Judea, means house of bread.
    - 1)) The prophet Micah had prophesied about His birth in Bethlehem 700 years before, a contemporary of Isaiah. Mic. 5:2
    - 2)) Both Joseph and Mary were of the line of David. Matt. 1:6, 11, 16; Lk. 3:31-32, 69
- 4) The journey to be registered was made when Mary his betrothed wife was with a child. vs. 5
  - a) There was no procrastination or disobedience to the decree, despite her condition, all was on God's schedule.
  - b) They were legally married, literally "having been betroth" and Mary is called "his wife", though Joseph did

not know Mary sexually till after the birth of Jesus. Matt. 1:24-25

**2:6-7** The birth of Jesus according to divine purposes.

- 1) The birth of Jesus was right on time, as the were Bethlehem. vs. 6a
  - a) Not as they left Nazareth.
  - b) Not on the road to Bethlehem.
- 2) God fulfilled it by a normal birth, like any other. vs. 6b
  - a) God gave the promise four-thousand years earlier, right after the fall of Adam and Eve. Gen. 3:15
  - b) God promised His birth to be through David's line. 2Sam. 7:12-16; Rom. 1:3
  - c) God reminded Isaiah that a virgin would bear a son and call His name Emanuel, God with us. Is. 7:14; Matt. 1:23
  - d) Jesus is called the Son of the Highest, the Holy One and the Son of God. Lk. 1:31, 32, 35
- 3) Mary brought forth her firstborn Son under difficult circumstances. vs. 7
  - a) The firstborn indicated he belonged to God and the priest of the home, not proof text to prove Mary had other children by Joseph, after Jesus, but the context is not correct.

- \* We have other text that give us the names of the half-brothers and sisters of Jesus. Matt. 13:55-56
- b) The cloth was a square cloth with a long bandage like string diagonally off the corner, found twice. vs. 7, 12
- c) Mary laid Him in a manger, not the traditional wooden manger, but most likely refers to a stone feeding trough for the animals.
- d) The reason being Mary and Joseph found no room in the in “kataluma” a guest room or lodging place with a common courtyard enclosed by four walls and there was water in the center.
- \* The animal, cargo and servants were accommodated and where Mary gave birth to Jesus.

### **2:8-20      The angelic announcement of the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.**

**2:8-9**      The announcement was to lowly shepherds.

- 1) The location was near to Bethlehem. vs. 8
  - a) The reference to country “chora” means same region or surrounding area.

- b) The shepherds were keeping watch over their flock by night, protecting them from wolves and thieves.
  - 1)) Shepherds did not have the best of reputations.
  - 2)) Some think they were shepherds for sheep for the temple sacrifice?
- 2) The heavenly appearance of the angels is described. vs. 9
  - a) An angel appeared in human form, probably Gabriel. vs. 9a-b
  - b) The shepherds saw the majestic splendorous glory of God around them.” vs. 9c
    - \* The word Lord “kurios”, indicates “Yahweh” or God.
  - c) The shepherds responded with great fear, being terrified. vs. 9d

**2:10-11**      The announcement was one of redemption for lost sinners.

- 1) The angel declared the nature of the message was good news to man. vs. 10
  - a) Literally, “Stop being afraid.” vs. 10a-b
  - b) Behold “idou” means is an imperative command to pay attention.
  - c) Good tidings “euaggelizo”, means good news, from which we get our word evangelize from it, the present tense being in progress.

- d) The Greek has the article, the people of God, including now Jew and Gentile.
- 2) The angel declared the fulfillment of God's promise of a Redeemer. vs. 11
  - a) A human baby was born, a Savior that very day, in the city of David, Bethlehem, a Savior. vs. 11a
    - 1)) The prophecy as prophesied by Micah, in Bethlehem. Mic. 5:2
    - 2)) The title Savior "soter", in the Roman world was given to the gods like Zeus or Jupiter.
    - 3)) The title Savior appears only two times, as Mary declared God her Savior and here, the only directly referred to Jesus. Lk. 1:47; 2:11
    - 5)) The title "Savior of the world" was given to Jesus in Jerusalem, but in Samarian, not by a Jew but a Samaritan woman. Jn. 4:42
  - b) The fulfillment of the Messiah, Christ the Lord. vs. 11b
    - 1)) The title Christ "Christos", the Greek translation of the Hebrew for the promised Messiah, the anointed One.
    - 2)) The second title Lord "kurios", means Master, the One to whom a person belongs to.

- 3)) Isaiah declared, "Oh, that God would rend the heavens! That you would come down". Is. 64:1

- 2:12-16** The announcement was to be responded to by the shepherds. vs. 12-16
  - 1) The angel described the condition of the child wrapped in up, as a sign. vs. 12
    - a) The swaddling cloths was a square of cloth with a long bondage-like strip coming diagonally off from the corner that wrapped around the child.
    - b) The babe would be in a manger "phatne", a animal feeding trough, not a wooden manger with hay.
  - 2) The angels declared the contagious worship of God. vs. 13-14a
    - a) The sign was in heaven was a sudden praise of God in the highest. vs. 13a
    - b) An enumerable army of angels giving praise and giving glory to God for the fulfillment of His promise of a Savior. \* Gloria Excelsis. Lk. 2:14
  - b. The benefit was peace and good will towards lost man. vs. 14b-c
    - 1)) The peace was of the forgiveness of sins, through faith in Jesus, the Messiah, the Savior of the world. The Roman "Pax Romana" was a temporary peace, unlike the one Jesus gives to a repentance sinner!

- 2)) The good will “eudokia”, means the good pleasure of God towards sinful humanity that would repent in faith through hearing the gospel message of salvation through Jesus.
- 3) The angels having departed, prompted the shepherds to search for Messiah. vs. 15
  - a) They obeyed the message immediately. vs. 15a-d
  - b) They knew it was a divine visitation vs. 15e
- 4) The confirmation of God’s word was witnessed to be true. vs. 16
  - a) They first saw a man and a woman. vs. 16a
  - b) They saw the Savior in a manger. vs. 16b

**2:17-20** The announcement was to be imparted to others.

- 1) They believed in the Savior. vs. 17
  - a) They were first partakers seeing Jesus through and in faith by a personal relationship. vs. 17a
  - b) They could not keep the good news to themselves. vs. 17b
- 2) The people hearing the good news were amazed and contemplated the gospel message. vs. 18
  - \* Without doubt some believed and others did not believe!

- 3) Mary considered all in her heart. vs. 19
  - a) The word pondered “sumbllo”, means to throw together, along side to attempt to comprehend.
  - b) The visitation of Gabriel, the shepherds, etc.
- 4) The shepherds were turned into different men. vs. 20
  - \* They left worshipping, giving glory and praise to God for what they heard and saw.

### **2:21-40** **The presentation of Jesus in the Temple.**

**2:21-24** The circumcision and dedication of Jesus.

- 1) The ritual of circumcision was obeyed. vs. 21
  - a) On the eight days, the day when doctor understand now the cuagulating properties are best.
    - \* God gave Abraham the ritual of circumcision, a sign of the covenant for every Jewish male. Gen. 17:10-12
  - b) The prophetic ascribed name by Gabriel was given, prior to the conception. Matt. 1:20-21
- 2) The law of purification was also obeyed. vs. 22

- a) The required time was 33 day for the purification of a male child. Lev. 12:2-4
- b) The presentation was in the temple at Jerusalem.
- 3) The first born belonged to God, but He dedeemed them by taking the tribe of Levi to Himself. vs. 23  
\* God spared the first born of the Israel and holy to Yahweh. Ex. 13:2, 12-15
- 4) The required sacrifice were a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. vs. 24  
\* The offereing of poverty. Lev. 12:6-8

**2:25-35** The revelation by Simeon of that Jesus was Messiah.

- 1) Simeon the man. vs. 25
  - a) He was a man in Jerusalem, not indicated to be a priest.
  - b) Simeon “Sumeon”, means “harkening”, after the second son of Jacob.
  - c) He was a man of character, just and devout.
  - d) He was waiting for the Consolation of Israel, the Messiah to arrived.
  - e) He was endowed with the Holy Spirit upon him.
- 2) The Holy Spirit made know to him that he would see the Messiah before his death. vs. 26  
\* This would be a word of knowledge.

- 3) The Holy Spirit directed Simeon into the temple and took Jesus in his arms to blessed Him. vs. 28
- 4) The blessing consisted of four hings. vs. 29-32
  - a) Yahweh was allowing Simeon to die in peace, as He had told him. vs. 29
  - b) Simeon had seen the Messiah, the Savior. vs. 30
  - c) The Incarnate Christ sent to the world. vs. 31
  - d) Jesus was a light to communicate salvation to the Gentiles, and the glory of God’s people Israel. vs. 32
- 5) The response of Joseph and Mary were amazed at the things spoken. vs. 33
  - a) Yet Joseph and Mary were very well aware of some of these things. Lk. 1:31-33; 2:8-14
  - b) But Jesus would affect the entire human race, Jew and Gentile.
- 6) The prophetic blessing is a sweet and source announcement. vs. 34
  - a) Then Simeon blessed “eulegeo”, spoke well of them.
  - b) Said to Mary Jesus would be the source of salvation of some, while the damnation of others in Israel. Lk. 1:50-53
  - c) Jesus would be a sign “semeion” a mark of token pointing men to the

Father, different from others, yet responded in unbelief.

- 7) The suffering and death of Jesus would bring much suffering to the heart of Mary, while it would result in the sinfulness of man to be saved. vs. 35

**2:36-40** The affirmation by Anna Jesus was Messiah.

- 1) Anna was a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. vs. 36a-d
- 2) She was old and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity. vs. 36e-f
- 3) She was a widow of 84 years and active in the temple, serving *God* with fastings and prayers night and day. vs. 37
  - a) Some believe the total year are 84.
  - b) Other that 84 is her widowhood, plus 7, possibly 14 when married, a total of 105 years old, due to the indication “great age” this being more probable. vs. 36
- 4) She upon entering gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Jesus to all looking for redemption in Jerusalem. vs. 38
- 5) Joseph, Mary and Jesus then having been obedient to the law returned to Galilee, to their *own* city, Nazareth. vs. 39
- 6) Jesus grew, became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. vs. 40

**2:41-50** **The visit of Jesus to Jerusalem on the Passover.**

**2:41-45** The return home from Jerusalem.

- 1) Three times a year all males over the age of twent had to present themselves for three feasts, Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. vs. 41  
\* Ex. 23:14-17; 34:22, 23; Deut. 16:16
- 2) The Feast of Passover is on April and they kept it every year, at this one Jesus was 12 years old. vs. 41
  - a) The age of “bar mitzvah”, son of the law.
  - b) This indicated the right of passage, the age of maturity.
- 3) The Feast of Unleaven Bread was tied to Passover, from the 15-22, so it had been at least 8 days of so when they began their journey back home, but Jesus remained in Jerusalem, unknown to his parents. vs. 43
- 4) A day out they realized he was not among them and returned to Jerusalem for him. vs. 44-45  
\* The word seeking “zeteo”, indicates looking everywhere.

**2:46-50** The return to Jerusalem to search for Jesus.

- 1) They finally found Jesus in the temple among the teachers, listening and asking them questions. vs. 46  
\* Three days, one out, one back, one searching for Jesus.
- 2) The reaction of all hearing Jesus was astonishment, regarding his understanding and answers. vs. 47
- 3) Seeing Jesus they were astonished, while Mary mildly reproved Him, "Son, why have You done this to us? Look, Your father and I have sought You anxiously." vs. 48
- 4) Jesus reproved them, in view of what they knew about Him. vs. 49
  - a) "Why did you seek Me?" vs. 49a-b
  - b) "Did you not know that I **must** be about My Father's business?" vs. 49c
    - 1)) One can not miss the clear contrast of "your father" and "My Father's business", Joseph was not His real Father, but God the Father. vs. 48, 49
    - 2)) Jesus always knew Joseph was not His Father, He was God Incarnate!
- 5) They did not have the ability to comprehend what Jesus meant in its totality. vs. 50  
\* Though they clearly knew who Jesus was and what He was sent!

## 2:51-52     The development of Jesus to adulthood.

- 2:51     The godly conduct of Jesus to his parents.
- 1) Jesus went to Nazareth, submitting Himself to His parents for next 22 years. vs. 51a-b
  - 2) Mary thought these years kept all these things in her heart. vs. 51c
- 2:52     The normal development of Jesus.
- 1) Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, mentally, emotionally and physically.
  - 2) Jesus at the same time increased in favor with God and men.