

THRU BIBLE

Luke 2:21-52 | "The Childhood of Jesus"

INTRO: There have been some fanciful and fictional stories about the childhood of Jesus from the Apocrypha and other writings. However, the Bible is silent on the majority of His childhood, except what is recorded for us in the Gospels.

I. JOSEPH AND MARY'S OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW. (v. 21-24)

OBEDIENT ON THE 8TH DAY (v. 21)

A. (v. 21)

1. ***"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."***

a. Jesus was **CIRCUMCISED**.

1) This made Jesus a part of the Covenant people, the Nation of Israel (**Gen. 17:7-14; Exodus 4:24-26**).

a) It was the right of circumcision that made them a Jew, not just ethnicity.

b. Jesus was put **UNDER** the Law.

1) **NOTE:** Jesus is not above the Law, but under the Law!

a) Cf. **Galatians 4:4-5** - *"But when the fulness 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*

THRU BIBLE

Luke 2:21-52 | "The Childhood of Jesus"

law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

- b) Cf. [Matthew 5:17](#) - Jesus said, *"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."*

c. Jesus was **NAMED**.

- 1) "Jesus" – Gr. Yeshua - "Joshua; YHVH is salvation"
 - a) Circumcision put Him under the Law, but His name revealed His mission to redeem those under the Law!

OBEDIENT TO THE LAW OF PURIFICATION (v. 22a, 24)

B. (v. 22)

1. "...the days of her purification..."

- a. Cf. [Leviticus 12:1-8](#)

C. (v. 24)

1. "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."

- a. "A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons"

THRU BIBLE

Luke 2:21-52 | "The Childhood of Jesus"

- 1) This shows their POVERTY ([Lev. 12:8; 14:21-22](#)).
- a) **NOTE:** This is another reason we know that the Wise Men have not shown up yet with their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh ([Matt. 2:11](#)).
- 2) **NOTE:** If find it interesting that God would allow them to be so poor that they couldn't bring a lamb, yet they are bringing the Lamb of God Himself ([Gen. 22:8; John 1:29](#)) to the Temple!

OBEDIENT TO THE LAW OF DEDICATION (v. 22b)

D. (v. 22b)

1. **"...they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;"**
 - a. Cf. [Exodus 13:1-2, 12-15](#) - "*And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine. ... That thou shalt set apart unto the LORD all that openeth the matrix, and every firstling that cometh of a beast which thou hast; the males shall be the LORD'S. And every firstling of an ass thou shalt redeem with a lamb; and if thou wilt not redeem it, then thou shalt break his neck: and all the firstborn of man among thy children shalt thou redeem. And it shall be when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What is this? that thou shalt say unto him, By strength of hand the LORD brought us out from Egypt, from the house of bondage: And it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go, that the LORD slew all the firstborn in*

THRU BIBLE

Luke 2:21-52 | "The Childhood of Jesus"

the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man, and the firstborn of beast: therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all that openeth the matrix, being males; but all the firstborn of my children I redeem."

OBEDIENT TO THE LAW OF REDEMPTION (v. 23)

E. (v. 23)

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

a. Cf. **Numbers 18:15-16** - "Every thing that openeth the matrix in all flesh, which they bring unto the LORD, whether it be of men or beasts, shall be thine: nevertheless the firstborn of man shalt thou surely redeem, and the firstling of unclean beasts shalt thou redeem. And those that are to be redeemed from a month old shalt thou redeem, according to thine estimation, for the money of five shekels, after the shekel of the sanctuary, which is twenty gerahs."

- 1) The firstborn was to be the Lord's and be wholly devoted to the service of God.
 - a) After the 10th plague in Egypt, God said that the firstborn would be His (**Exod. 13:2**). He spared them from judgment, and He wanted them to be His.
- 2) God then chose the Tribe of Levi for the work of the ministry instead of the firstborn from all the tribes, thus He established the Law of Redemption so that you would buy back your

THRU BIBLE

Luke 2:21-52 | "The Childhood of Jesus"

firstborn and the Levites would serve in his place (Num. 3:11-13).

- b. **NOTE:** They are redeeming the Redeemer!
 - 1) They redeemed this Firstborn Child from the tribe of Judah so that a Levite could serve in His place in the Aaronic priesthood, yet He would become a priest after the order of Melchizedek that would be superior to the Levitical priesthood.

II. THE FAITHFUL REMNANT. (v. 25-38)

SIMEON (v. 25-35)

A. Who Was Simeon?... (v. 25-27)

1. Not much know about him from history.

- a. Tradition tells us that he was the father of Rabbi Gamaliel, the teacher of Saul of Tarsus.

2. Luke, the historian, tells us some things about his man...

a. He was just. (v. 25)

- 1) "just" – Gr. *dikaios* – "upright, righteous", a man of integrity.

b. He was devout.

THRU BIBLE

Luke 2:21-52 | "The Childhood of Jesus"

1) "devout" – Gr. *eulabēs* – "taking hold well, reverencing God"

c. He was waiting for the Messiah.

1) "the consolation of Israel" – Messianic title.

a) "consolation" – Gr. *παράκλησις paraklēsis* – "comfort, encouragement, help, refreshment"

i. Cf. [Isaiah 9:6; 40:1](#)

d. He heard from the Lord. (v. 26)

e. He was led by the Spirit. (v. 27)

1) "...the parents brought in the child Jesus..."

a) It could be that they went through the gate Beautiful and passed by the 7 year old lame boy ([Acts 3:2-3; 4:22](#)).

2) "...after the custom of the Law."

a) This was 5 shekels ([Num. 18:16](#)).

B. Simeon's Prayer. (v. 28-32)

THRU BIBLE

Luke 2:21-52 | "The Childhood of Jesus"

1. (v. 30-31) "***For my eyes have seen thy salvation which You have prepared before the face of all people.***"
 - a. God prepared for the work of salvation!
 - 1) Salvation is a work of God.
 - b. **NOTE:** Simeon was waiting for the Messiah to come, and the day came!
 - c. **KEY:** We are waiting for Jesus to come at any time, and one day it will happen!

2. (v. 32) "***A light to lighten the Gentiles...***"
 - a. Cf. **Isaiah 9:1-2** (cf. **Matt. 4:12-16**) - "*Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict [her by] the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.*"
 - b. Cf. **Isaiah 42:6-7** - "*I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles; To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, [and] them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.*"
 - c. Cf. **Matthew 17:1-2** = Transfiguration.
 - d. Cf. **Revelation 21:22-23** - "*And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are*

THRU BIBLE

Luke 2:21-52 | "The Childhood of Jesus"

the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb [is] the light thereof."

3. "...and the glory of Your people Israel."

- a. "glory" – Gr. *doxa* – "splendor, brightness, brilliance"
 - 1) Jesus was the incarnated Shechinah glory of God!
 - a) Shechinah glory = the visible manifestation of the presence of God that brings heaviness, brightness, brilliance, and splendor.
 - 2) **KEY:** The thing that makes Israel shine is her Messiah Jesus! He makes them shine brightly!

4. (v. 33) "Joseph and His mother"

- a. A subtle reference to the virgin birth.

5. (v. 34) "And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary His mother..."

- a. The word "them" refers to Mary & Jesus, not Joseph.

6. "...Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel..."

- a. This Child is set for the FALL of many in Israel.

THRU BIBLE

Luke 2:21-52 | "The Childhood of Jesus"

- 1) NATIONAL Fall.
 - a) Cf. [Isaiah 8:14-15](#); [Romans 9:32-33](#); [1 Peter 2:6-8](#)
 - b) The leaders rejected Him, thus...
 - i. The Temple was destroyed in 70 A.D. ([Matt. 23:38](#); [Luke 19:42-44](#))
 - ii. The Jews were scattered among all nations.

- 2) INDIVIDUAL Fall.
 - a) Jesus separated men into 2 camps: those for Him and those against Him.

- b. This Child is set for the RISING AGAIN of many in Israel.
 - 1) NATIONAL Resurrection.
 - a) Cf. [Ezekiel 37](#)

 - 2) INDIVIDUAL Resurrection.
 - a) Many Jews have eternal salvation because of Jesus, thus they will literally be resurrected unto eternal life.
 - i. Cf. [Acts 2:41, 47](#); [3:26](#); [4:4](#); etc...

THRU BIBLE

Luke 2:21-52 | "The Childhood of Jesus"

7. "...and for a sign which shall be spoken against."

- a. The sign of His birth slandered. (John 8:41)
- b. Ministry attributed to Satan. (Matt 12:22-24)
- c. His death slandered. (Psa 22:6-8; Matt 27:39-44)
- d. His resurrection spoken against. (Matt 27:62-66)
- e. And today, His return is spoken against. (2 Pet 3)

ANNA (v. 36-38)

C. Who Was Anna?...

1. A prophetess.

- a. She is one of the many prophetesses in Scripture.
 - 1) Miriam (Ex 15:20)
 - 2) Deborah (Jud 4:4)
 - 3) Huldah (2 Kings 22:14)
 - 4) Noadiah (Neh 6:14)
 - 5) The wife of Isaiah (Isa 8:3)
 - 6) The four daughters of Philip (Acts 21:8-9)

2. The daughter of Phanuel, of the Tribe of Asher.

- a. She's from one of the supposed "Lost Tribes"!

THRU BIBLE

Luke 2:21-52 | "The Childhood of Jesus"

- 1) **Ezra 6:21** – *"the children of Israel, which were come again out of captivity"*
- 2) **Nehemiah 7:66** – *"the whole congregation"*
- 3) **Luke 2:36** – Anna from tribe of Asher.
- 4) **Luke 3:33** – Jesus from tribe of Judah.
- 5) **Philippians 3:5** – Paul from tribe of Benjamin.
- 6) **Acts 4:36** – Barnabas from tribe of Levi.
- 7) **James 1:1** – James wrote to the 12 tribes of Israel, none lost!
- 8) **Revelation 7:4-8** - In the future, during the Tribulation Period, God will seal 144,000 Jews, 12,000 from each Tribe! THEY'RE NOT LOST!!

3. Was married for 7 years.

- a. Earliest age to marry was 12yrs old.

4. Was widowed for 84 years.

- a. If she was married at 12...
 - 1) $12 + 7 + 84 = 103$ years old!

5. Faithfully served the Lord.

- a. *"...departed not from the Temple..."*
 - 1) She always wanted to be near God's presence.

THRU BIBLE

Luke 2:21-52 | "The Childhood of Jesus"

- b. *"...but served God with fastings and prayers night and day."*
 - 1) **KEY:** She served God at an advanced age. You are never too old for service to God!
 - 2) Though she couldn't physically do much, she served the Lord through intercession.
 - a) **Illust.** - Corrie ten Boom and Chuck Smith.
 - b) **Illust.** - Julien and Betty Hoover

III. THE CHILDHOOD OF JESUS. (v. 39-52)

TODDLER STAGE (v. 39)

A. (v. 39)

1. *"...they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth."*

- a. **NOTE:** Before this phrase, insert Matthew 2.
 - 1) Wise men visit. (**Matt. 2:1-12**)
 - 2) Joseph has a dream and takes Mary and Jesus to Egypt. (**Matt. 2:13-18**)
 - 3) Joseph has a dream and takes them from Egypt to Nazareth. (**Matt. 2:19-23**)

EARLY YEARS (v. 40)

B. (v. 40)

THRU BIBLE

Luke 2:21-52 | "The Childhood of Jesus"

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

a.

ADOLESCENCE (v. 41-51)

C. (v. 42)

1. ***"And when he was twelve years old..."***

- a. Jewish boys had their Bar Mitzvah ("son of the commandment") at 13 years old, and they were then required to journey to Jerusalem to participate in the major annual feasts.
- b. However, the rabbis in that day called for a boy to be brought up to Jerusalem two years earlier to observe the festive rights.

D. (v. 49)

1. ***"...My Father's business?"***

- a. Most Jews did not relate to God as Father.
- b. Jesus here acknowledges His unique relationship to God.

"HIDDEN YEARS" (v. 52)

E. (v. 52)

THRU BIBLE

Luke 2:21-52 | "The Childhood of Jesus"

1. *"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."*

- a. **Q** = What was Jesus doing during those "hidden years"?...
 - 1) Not preaching. ([Matt. 4:17](#))
 - 2) Not performing miracles. ([John 2:11](#))
 - 3) Not in India, but Nazareth. ([Luke 2:51; 4:16](#))
 - 4) Working as a carpenter. ([Mark 6:3](#))
 - 5) He was subject to His parents and increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man. ([Luke 2:51-52](#))
 - 6) Lived a life of pleasing God. ([Luke 3:22](#))
 - a) **NOTE:** Jesus was even an example for children to follow!