

Jesus--Matthew 2:13-23; Luke 2:39-52

Jesus' Youth

I. Additional Scriptures...

1. Hosea 11:1. Most likely this text, referred to here (Mt 2:15), is using the original prophecy that related to Israel coming out of Egypt as a type of Jesus coming out of Egypt.
2. Jeremiah 31:15-17.
3. "*He shall be called a Nazarene,*" (Mt 2:23). No single passage can be pointed to as a record of this prophecy. Likely the term NAZARENE is used in connection with the lack of esteem among the Jews for the place called Nazareth (Jn 1:46), and extending that lack of esteem to the residents of Nazareth. Notice that Matthew uses the plural form for the word prophet. Chumbley writes, "By using the plural 'prophets' he attributes the quote to the prophets collectively, which implies he is summarizing a prophetic theme rather than referencing a specific prophecy. In the obscurity of Nazareth the O T predictions of a humble, despised background for the Messiah found their fulfillment (Ps 22:6-8; Isa 49:7; 53:2-3; Zech 11:4-14)" [from Kenneth L. Chumbley, *The Gospel of Matthew*, p. 49].
4. Exodus 23:14-19.

II. Chronology.

BIBLE PERIOD: **The Period of the Christ.**

III. Summary.

After the wise men returned home the angel of the Lord warned Joseph to go to Egypt for the protection of the Child from Herod. They went by night into Egypt and thereby made possible the fulfillment of another prophecy about the Messiah. Herod, like many today, had no respect for human life and took the despicable step of murdering enough male babies (he thought) to be sure he would never hear from the Child of whose birth the wise men had informed him. This fulfilled another prophecy about Rachel crying over her children.

After Herod's death an angel sent the family back into Israel. Since the son of Herod reigned and receiving another warning, Joseph went to Galilee. Living here would allow Jesus to fulfill another general prophetic theme of being called a Nazarene.

The Luke passage gives to us a little more about the childhood of Jesus. As in the life of any Jewish boy, frequent trips to Jerusalem were made (3 times per year). When Jesus was a boy of twelve years He was left in Jerusalem at the temple. Joseph and Mary thought He was somewhere with them as they began to travel home. About a days journey out they discovered that Jesus was not with them and returned to find Him. They found Jesus in the temple discussing the Scriptures and He amazed those who heard Him. Mary gives a mild rebuke to Jesus and Jesus responds by asking her a question. Jesus was subject to Joseph and Mary as He grew up in Nazareth. His growth and development is mentioned.

IV. Outline.

1. Joseph and family are warned to flee to Egypt (Mt 2:13-15).
2. Herod caused the murder of Jewish boys (Mt 2:16-19).
3. Herod dies and Joseph brings the Child back into Israel to Nazareth (Mt 2:19-23).

4. Jesus grew and had the grace of God upon Him (Lk 2:39-40).
5. Joseph and family go to Jerusalem for the Passover (Lk 2:41-42).
6. Jesus is left behind in Jerusalem then found 3 days later in the temple (Lk 2:43-47).
7. Mary ask and Jesus asks her a question (Lk 2:48-50).
8. Jesus is subject to Joseph and Mary in the Nazareth home (Lk 2:51).
9. Jesus grew in a well balanced way (Lk 2:52).

V. Questions.

True or False

01. _____ Herod was trying to find Jesus to worship Him.
02. _____ There were two people sorrowing in the Luke reading.
03. _____ Herod felt that he was mocked by the wise men.
04. _____ The parents of Jesus made their first trip to Jerusalem for the Passover when Jesus was 12 years old.
05. _____ Jesus was a Nazarene.

Multiple Choice (Select the BEST Answer)

06. _____ Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Egypt: (a) to pay taxes; (b) by night; (c) reluctantly.
07. _____ Who wept for her children and would not be comforted: (a) Mary; (b) Elisabeth; (c) Rachel.
08. _____ Archelaus was what relation to the child-murdering Herod: (a) nephew; (b) cousin; (c) son.
09. _____ How far did Joseph and Mary travel before discovering that Jesus was not with them: (a) one day's journey; (b) three days' journey; (c) the text does not say.
10. _____ Which of the following is NOT mentioned as one of the ways Jesus grew and developed in His Nazareth home: (a) wisdom; (b) stature; (c) favor with God; (d) favor with man; (e) none of the above.

Fill in the Blanks

11. "... but His mother kept all these _____ in her _____."
12. The ones in whose midst Jesus was found asking questions were _____ or teachers of the law.
13. Hosea 11:____ "When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my _____ out of _____."
14. Isaiah ____:3 "He is _____ and _____ of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with _____: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not."
15. Exodus ____:14 _____ times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year."

Each Question is worth 7 Points

My Score is: _____

Answers will be given on next week's handout

ANSWERS to Lesson 01-24... [01--True, Mt 1:19; 02--True, Luke 2:8-9; 03--True, Micah 5:2, Luke 2:1-5; 04--False, Mt 1:21; 23; 05--True, Luke 2:4; 06--Caesar Augustus, Luke 2:1; 07--Mary, Luke 2:19; 08--Heavenly host, Luke 2:13; 09--Jesus, Mt 1:21; 10--Joseph, Luke 2:4; 11--7, virgin, Immanuel; 12--manger, Luke 2:16; 13--2, Bethlehem, ruler; 14--4, Savior, world; 15--haste, Luke 2:16.]

VI. Lessons & Applications.

1. **...for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him** (Mt 2:13). The thing that caused Herod problems with this little Baby which he learned about from the wise men was their description of Him as “*he that is born King of the Jews*” (Mt 2:2,3). Herod loved power so much that he would brutally react against any threat to his throne (v. 16). No cost was too high for Herod to insure that he would maintain his power. This lust for power causes men to sin in many ways even today and we should take note of and learn from this power-hungry tyrant.
2. **...Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted because they are not** (Mt 2:18). Ramah was near Bethlehem in the land allotted to the tribe of Benjamin. Ramah was the place where Rachel was buried after bearing a second son to Jacob (Gen 35:18-19). Rachel is figuratively seen raising her head from the tomb in Jeremiah 31:15 to shed tears from seeing the Babylonians take away her “sons,” no doubt killing some. Matthew, by inspiration, uses the same figure here at the murder of the innocents at Herod’s command. Try to imagine the tremendous sorrow produced in the hearts of the Jews at this action. Events such as this go far to explain the existence of the party of the Zealots (Lk 6:15), who worked to overthrow Roman rule in Palestine.
3. **that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.** The word NAZARENE is not found anywhere in the Old Testament. See the discussion under “Additional Scriptures” (I., 3.).
4. **And the child grew and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him** (Luke 2:40; cf., 2:52). There is not a great deal revealed to us regarding the youthful years of Jesus. This statement and the one in verse 52 along with the incident in the temple of this chapter are about all we have. The four areas in which it is said that Jesus INCREASED represent the four areas in which all parents ought to seek to help their own children to grow: WISDOM (intellectually); STATURE (physically); FAVOR WITH GOD (spiritually); and FAVOR WITH MAN (socially). Many parents do very well with three of these, but somehow seem to leave off the spiritual area. To grow in a balanced way, as Jesus did, requires attention in all four areas. Two other passages help us to see just a little more clearly what Jesus must have been doing during this time period (Mt 13:55; Mk 6:3).
5. **Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover** (Lk 2:41). There was a time during the Divided Kingdom when a great portion of the children of Israel did not obey the law regarding attendance at the feasts (Ex 24:14-19). Jeroboam had told the people IT IS TOO MUCH for you to have to travel to Jerusalem (1 Kings 12:28). Also, even during the period of Judah Alone, many disobeyed this law, but after the Babylonian Captivity, there was a renewed interest in obeying the statutes of the Law of Moses. The earthly parents of Jesus took seriously the law of God.
6. **...they turned back again to Jerusalem seeking him** (Lk 2:45). Here is an incident in which likely each parent thought the Child was with the other parent. They had lost the Child, Jesus. This text can be thought of in a figurative way in connection with the apostasy which the Bible plainly prophesies would come when men would turn away from the doctrine of Christ (1 Tim 4:1-3). When the doctrines of men are mixed in with the doctrine of Christ, the worship and service that comes from such admixture is VAIN (Mt 15:9). Anytime men find themselves in such a situation the cure for the problem is to go BACK AGAIN TO JERUSALEM. In other words, there is a need to go back to the doctrine of Christ that is found in the Word of God. That church which was established in Jerusalem can live today when men go back to the pattern given in Acts chapter 2, where we read about the church being established.

VII. Seek-A-Word Puzzle.

M P J U Y H N T G S U B J E C T G B R F
 F V A M A Z E D E D C W S T W E L V E X
 Q A Z S X S W E D C V F R T G B Y H M U
 J M K I S O P L O I K U J M Y H N T G B
 S S O R R O W I N G N H T H R E E Y T A
 O T G B R F V V E D C W S X Q A D Z A S
 U A Q S W S X E C D E R F V T G A G B T
 G B N H U Y U J R M K I O L P L Y O I O
 H I K M J P U Y H F E A S T N T S G B N
 T T G B R F P V E D C W S J X Q A Z I I
 X T S W E D C O R F V B T E G S B Y N S
 H A N Y H K I N S F O L K R H N N M C H
 U R J M I K O L P I I K U U J O M D R E
 Y R H N T G B R F V N E D S C I W O E D
 S I X Q A Z W S X E D G C A V T R C A T
 B E H I N D T G B N H Y U L U S J T S M
 M D J U Y H N B G T Y H V E F E R O E E
 D C W S X Q A Z L J K H G M F U D R D S
 A H E A R I N G R A S K I N G Q T S G B
 U J M T G B R F V E D C W S X Q A Z E D

[The words below come from the incident when Jesus was left in the Temple at Jerusalem. See if you can find them all up above.]

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| 01. Passover | 02. twelve |
| 03. Jerusalem | 04. feast |
| 05. tarried | 06. behind |
| 07. supposing | 08. kinsfolk |
| 09. three | 10. days |
| 11. doctors | 12. hearing |
| 13. asking | 14. questions |
| 15. astonished | 16. amazed |
| 17. sought | 18. sorrowing |
| 19. subject | 20. increased |