



WEEKLY
CHRISTIAN
FOCUS



JESUS' CHILDHOOD GOING BACKWARDS TO HIS BIRTH IN BETHLEHEM. (PART I)

**WARM GREETINGS!
CHRISTMAS IS ALMOST
UPON US AGAIN.**

THE TIMES IN WHICH I AM WRITING ARE PERILOUS. WHO KNOWS, PERHAPS SOMEONE TWO HUNDRED YEARS IN THE FUTURE WILL READ OR HEAR OR WHATEVER THIS ARTICLE AND THINK, 'MAN, THEY ARE EVEN MORE PERILOUS NOW!' That is hard to imagine to be the case, to be honest, but we must at least bear witness and lift up Jesus Christ in our own generation.

We are ONLY responsible to be a flaming light for Jesus in our own lives, and also pass on that legacy or witness to our families and friends, so that when we depart this life, people will at least know that this man or woman truly lived for God!

No man knows the hour or time of Jesus' return to this earth to take it over. In the meantime, we are warned in Scripture, about many things to come, some of which I am hoping to

share in the new year, in its old or current name of 2025

But for now let's talk about the childhood of Jesus. If there was no beginning, then there could be no end! And that is what Christmas means. God creates a baby to become a man and do a job; this is abundantly clear in the Holy Bible. When God has a job for a man or woman to do, HE ALWAYS STARTS WITH A BABY!

The 'world' for the most part has recognised the vital importance of Jesus' birth, approximately 2,024/5 years ago. Jesus changed everything. He was the GIFT AND SACRIFICE OF GOD who created with Jesus all natural things we see today!

In this edition, for some strange reason which I cannot explain, I am writing about his childhood, going **backwards** from about the age 12-ish to his birth in Bethlehem, 'The City of David.'

I am doing this because I have spent the last four days having an early morning Bible devotions with my son, aged 12, and we have been reading primarily the Gospel of Luke.

Fortunately, and thanks to your prayers, he has been quite hungry to know about this all. (Although he 'already knows all this!') So we have been having an interesting time in Luke chapters 1 and 2.

So let's go backwards, so that we may by God's grace, go forwards!

Luke chapter 2: 51-52

51 Then he (Jesus at 12 years old) went (back from Jerusalem) down to Nazareth with them (his mum and dad), and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart. **52** And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

Jesus was at the Bar-Mitvah age **, almost the age, when in Jewish teaching and tradition when he is considered a 'man' or at least able to decide for himself how he wishes to follow the Almighty and His Laws. He continued to obey his parents in all things, **and really, this is the last thing we know in the Bible about Jesus' childhood!**

Look at these three things of

vital importance about his life from 12 years age onwards:

1. And Jesus grew in **wisdom**
2. And stature, (**reputation**), and
3. in **favour with God and man.**

So, this is a good example for all of us adults, we can already see to some degree how our sons and daughters or children we are connected to, are going to develop by this pivotal and exceptional age. We, as older people, tend to look at age as much later than 12! We are mistaken! It all happens or mostly happens by the year 12, and after about 12-15 years old, well you are pretty much finished! (so to speak, and perhaps that is why the Bible does not feel it necessary to tell us how Jesus was getting along at 14, 15 or 16)

I believe this is a good 'rule' for today, although very few people have caught this important point!) We should also bear this in mind in the aspect of reaching young people with message of Salvation through Jesus.

Let's go further backwards in time to that trip to Jerusalem explained here:

Luke 2: 41 Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year to the Passover Feast.

42 And when He was twelve years [old], they went up, as was their custom.

43 And when the Feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem. Now His parents did not know this,

44 But, supposing Him to be in the caravan, they travelled on a day's journey; and [then]

they sought Him [diligently, looking up and down for Him] among their kinsfolk and acquaintances.

45 And when they failed to find Him, they went back to Jerusalem, looking for Him [up and down] all the way.

46 After three days they found Him [came upon Him] in the [court of the] temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

47 And all who heard Him were astonished *and* overwhelmed with bewildered wonder at His intelligence *and* understanding and His replies.



48 And when they [Joseph and Mary] saw Him, they were amazed; and His mother said to Him, Child, why have you treated us like this? Here your father and I have been anxiously looking for you [distressed and tormented].

49 And He said to them, how is it that you had to look for me? Did you not see *and* know that it is necessary [as a duty] for me to be in My Father's house *and* [occupied] about My Father's business?

50 But they did not comprehend what He was saying to them.

In a modern sense, this event at the temple of Jerusalem appears as a distressing event, probably even more so for his mother. Obviously, this was a very large migrant caravan of

people going back to Galilee.
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In the end his parents accepted this situation, although not fully understanding it. But here was the coming Messiah, already at just 12 years old, confounding some of the elders of Israel with 'his intelligence and understanding'. Jesus understood his commission and business and duty towards God, that only He knew about really, obviously his parents, as much as they loved Him, did not fully understand.

If God has called your son or daughter in a special way, there may be a time when they understand a lot more than you do about what they should be doing! I have seen this happening several times in my life and with the children of other missionaries.

The calling of God has been with (put into) most children since 'before they were in the womb'. They are placed here on Earth to get a job done for God. Unfortunately, we now think in the material world, which is saturated with a brainwashed education and exams and requirements and CAT tests and so much more distracting things, that we must fit them into a mould. Let's pray as parents or even as young people that we will only be about our Father's business, as Jesus gave the lead example here. If we try to get in the way of the calling of God on the lives of our children, we are doomed to disappointment, both ours and theirs.

It is inside the Kingdom of God and the Future world of Truth of His Word, that we will find the greatest Freedom, Joy and

Peace and Fulfilment! Praise the Lord. Again Jesus gave us the example. Let's follow Him, Amen?

Luke 2:40 **the Child grew and became strong *in spirit***, filled with wisdom; and the grace (favour and spiritual blessing) of God was upon Him.

From the age of 8 days old until 12 we are told almost the same things about Jesus as the last verse in this chapter, which we quoted earlier. He also became 'strong in Spirit'.

Strong in spirit means dedicated, clear-minded and focused.

Next time, God willing we will look at the birth and some of the miracles happening then in Luke chapter 1 and 2.

Here is a positive article with a lot more details than what I have shared today.

**Here's How Growth Happens:
Luke 2:40-52 | The SVCC
Pastor's Notebook**

Until next week, God willing,

Jerry for the WCF Team

**** Bar-Mitvah meaning - Google Search**

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In Bible times, the distance from Nazareth to Jerusalem was about 75 miles (120 km). The trip from Nazareth to Jerusalem and back home took about two weeks.

The usual route from Nazareth to Jerusalem was to travel along the Plain of Jezreel and down the western side of the Jordan Valley. The journey was dangerous, so families travelled together in caravans for safety.

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