

# Luke 2

## Luke 2.1-7

**V1** – Purpose: To show how Jesus came to be born in Bethlehem, instead of Nazareth (Galilee)

- Notice the extreme simplicity of Luke's style: restraint of tremendous proportions
- What an event he was describing!
- Augustus Caesar reigned from 30 BC – 14 A.D. – a period of great peace in the Roman Empire
- "All the inhabited earth"* – A Greek phrase; they considered the rest of the world to be uncivilized
- So this is probably a reference to the Roman Empire only
- Why would Caesar want a census?** For the purpose of taxation

**V2** – Quirinius – governor 10-0 B.C. and 6-9 A.D.

**V3** – **"His own city"** – Shows concern of Augustus Caesar for observing local customs and respecting them

**V4** – **Why then did Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem?** From the tribe of Judah (not Levi) and the family of David – they went to David's birthplace  
-Also, Joseph and Mary might have known about *Micah 5.2*, which expressly said that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem

**V5** – Mary went with Joseph

**V6** – She was ready to give birth

**V7** – So much is packed into such few words

- Her "first-born" – **Message there?** There would be other children born to Mary (contrary to Catholic doctrine)
- See *Matt. 13.55, Mark 6.3, Luke 8.20*
- Luke could have used "only begotten" if Jesus was to be her only child
- H. Leo Boles: *"cloths"* – a medical term for bands of material used to wrap around babies at birth
- Where was the baby placed?** In a manger (food trough for animals)
- Why did Luke not give us the exact day of Christ's birth?** Because people would have turned it into a wild holiday and would have forgotten about the resurrection of Christ

## Luke 2.8-20

**V8** – **Name shepherds in the Old Testament:** Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, 12 sons of Jacob, David, and many other Old Testament characters

- David kept his sheep near Bethlehem (see *1 Sam. 17.34-35*)

**V9** – **The effect of the appearance of the angel?** The shepherds were afraid

**V10** – **Why "good news of great joy"?** The Messiah had finally come (*Genesis 3.15* and through *Malachi 4.2*)

**V 11** – **His titles?** Savior, Christ (Heb.: *Messiah*), Lord

**V 12** – **The sign?** In a manger

**V 13** – Many angels appeared

**V 14** – True peace and good will would be established in the kingdom of God

**V 15** – **Did the shepherds doubt the message?** No

**V 16** – What a contrast between the angels singing to them and Jesus lying in a feeding trough for animals

**V 17** – The shepherds told what happened to them

**V 18** – **Why did they wonder?** Birth under such humble circumstances

**V 19** – Stated another time in scripture: *Luke 2.51*

-Some have suggested the Luke interviewed Mary about all these events (it seems to be implied here)

**V 20** – The shepherds returned to their flocks

**-If we had been able to design the birth of God's son, how would it have been different?**  
Pomp, ceremony, splendor, etc.

## **Luke 2.21-35**

**V 21** – Circumcision 8 days after birth

**-Why was Jesus circumcised?** Because he was born under the Law of Moses, and circumcision went all the way back to Abraham

*-Matt. 3.15* – to fulfill all righteousness

**V 22** – 40 days of purification after birth – See *Lev. 12* for more details

**V 23-24** – The first-born had to have a sacrifice offered, going back to the Passover Angel

-The first-born was condemned to die and needed a sacrifice to be holy before God

*-Lev. 12.6-8* – The rich people gave a lamb for the burnt-offering; the poor could give pigeons

**-Conclusion?** Joseph and Mary were poor (the wise men from the East had not yet arrived to give them gifts)

**V 25** – Still some good people left in Israel

**-Characteristics of Simeon?** Righteous and devout

-*"The consolation of Israel"*: Jesus as the Messiah

**V 26** – **Prophecy made about Simeon?** He would see the Messiah (the "Lord's Christ")

*-See Psalm 2.2*

**V 27** – **"In the Spirit"** – The Holy Spirit told him to go to the temple

**V 28** – A beautiful verse! Like Jesus later with the children

**V 29** – He could die in peace now

**V 30-31** – **The reason he could die in peace?** He had seen the Messiah, the savior of the world

**V 32** – Notice that salvation would also be extended to the Gentiles

**V 33** – **The reaction of Joseph and Mary?** Amazed at what was being said about Jesus

**V 34** – **The "rise and fall"?** Eternal life and eternal punishment (no-one can remain neutral concerning Jesus Christ)

**V 35** – **Sword?** A reference to the crucifixion  
-Jesus could see into the hearts of all people

## **Luke 2.39-40**

**V 39** – **Which "law" was this?** The Old Testament (the Law of Moses)

**V 40** – **What do we find out about Jesus in this verse?** He was growing and getting stronger and increasing in wisdom and the grace of God  
-In other words, he was developing as a fine young man (human, as well as divine)

## **Luke 2.41-52**

**V 41** – **Why did they go to Jerusalem?** The feast of the Passover  
-It was required of every Jewish male (*Deut. 16.16*)

-**Why did Mary go (not required)?** To set a good example; she was a godly woman, so the whole family went together

**V 42** – **The age of Jesus?** 12

**V 43** – The feast lasted 7 days

-**Why did his parents not know where he was?** Maybe they had learned to trust him; maybe he was with his friends

**V 44** – **How long was it before they discovered he was missing?** A whole day

**V 45** – **What did they do?** Went back to Jerusalem

**V 46** – **Where was he and what was he doing?** He was in the temple, listening to the teachers and asking them questions – very unusual, especially for a boy of 12

**V 47** – **Besides asking questions, what else was he doing?** Answering questions – they were amazed!

**V 48** – **The reaction of Mary and Joseph?** Confused

**V 49** – **His answer?** I must be about my father's business  
-Mary should have known this (from the prophecies about Jesus)

**V 50** – **Did they understand the use of the term "father"?** No

**V 51** – He returned to Nazareth with them  
-**What did Mary do?** Remembered all these things

**V 52** – **Four ways that Jesus grew?** Intellectually, physically, socially, spiritually

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