

“Jesus in the Temple”

Part 1

Luke 2:41-46

Sept. 12, 2021

Timeline of Jesus in Luke 2 Birth – Age 30

Luke 2:1-39	Luke 2:40	Luke 2:41-51	Luke 2:52
Birth – 40-days	40 days – 12	12	12 - 30
Luke 2:7, 22 7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. 22 And when the days for their purification (40 days after birth) according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord.	Luke 2:40 40 The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.	Luke 2:41-51 41 Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when He became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast;	Luke 2:52 52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Luke 2:41-46

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42 And when He became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast;

43 and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it,

44 but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances.

45 When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him.

46 Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

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- Key: Verse 49 is the point of these 12 verses.
- The Law of Moses required Jewish males to go up to Jerusalem three times a year; for Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles (Ex. 23:14-17, Deut. 16:16).
- If you were poor and could only make 1 trip, it would be Passover.
- This shows how devoted both Mary and Joseph were (Circumcision, the Purification, and the Presentation). Every year they went. Mary did not have to go, but she did. She showed unusual spiritual devotion. They did more than the Law required. They were people of the Book. They obeyed the Book.
- This was the environment Jesus was raised in. This is where He learned the Word. Great example for parents. The ministry of “being there.” We stop everything – we go to worship God.
- The Feast of Passover was celebrated every Spring on Nisan 14, which is around our March-April. 1 day celebration. Was connected to the Feast of Unleavened Bread which was 7 days.
- Passover celebrated God’s deliverance of Israel from Egypt at the Exodus and it was connected with the Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- 80 mile trip. Could travel 15 - 20 miles a day. Would take 4-5 days. Traveled in a caravan.

41 Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

- When Mary and Joseph arrived in Jerusalem, they would do 3 things:
 1. Find a place to stay.
 2. Find where they could eat together as a family.
 3. Find the animals they would sacrifice.
- Jerusalem would be flooded with thousands for the Passover.

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“they went up” – higher elevation than the trip from Nazareth.

- The 12th year was the final year of preparation for a son before he entered full participation in the religious life of the synagogue.
- It was the father's duty to take his son to the Passover, particularly the two years before he reached thirteen, so that he would have a full understanding of the Passover.

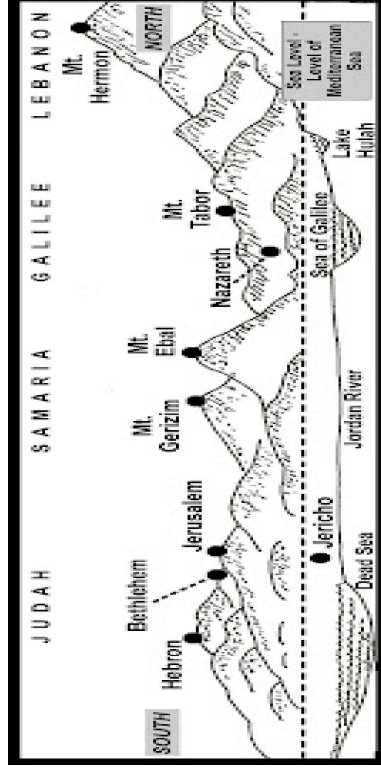
- So going to Passover for Jesus was to be a time of more intensive instruction.

1 Cor 5:7-8

7 Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For **Christ our Passover** also has been sacrificed.

8 Therefore let us celebrate the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.

- This is not a Bar Mitzvah, which began about 500 years after Christ.



Jerusalem

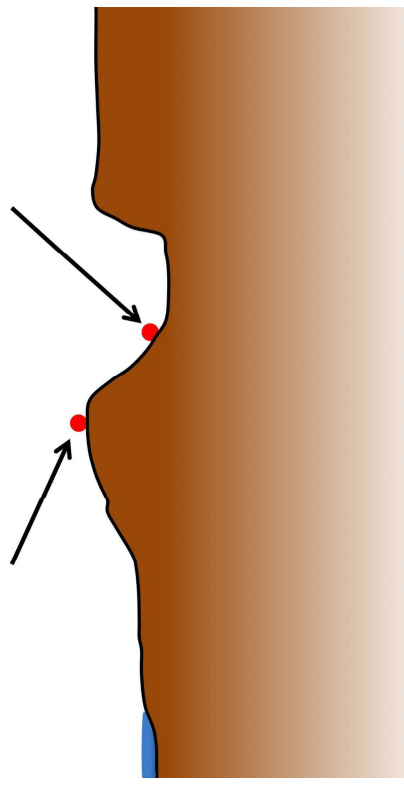
Elevation: 2700'

Rainfall: 26' per year

Jericho

Elevation: -850'

Rainfall: 6' per year



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“full number of days” – they stayed the full 8 days (1+7). Another sign of their devotion.

- They now pack up and start the 4-5 day journey back to Nazareth.
- Jesus stays behind. Mary and Joseph are unaware that Jesus is not with them.

• How should we view this?

1. Jesus was not at fault. Jesus is not being disobedient. He was not irresponsible. He is not rebellious. No hint of any of that here.
2. Mary and Joseph were not at fault here. They are not being negligent.
Think about it:
 - They trusted Jesus. They had never known Him to do anything but exactly what He should have done. They had never known Him to be anywhere other than exactly where He should have been.
 - He was responsible. He was obedient. He was sensitive. He was thoughtful. He was perfect.

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- They assumed He was in the caravan.
 - Children were usually put at the front so that they could set the pace and not get left behind, then the women and then the men. Could be hundreds of people (men, women, children).
- They travel for a day back to Nazareth (15-20 miles).
- Now it is the end of the day. The families would then come together, find each other, eat and sleep.
- Joseph may have assumed Mary knew where Jesus was and Mary may have assumed Joseph knew where Jesus was.
- But neither of them knew where He was.
- With many relatives and neighbors and others traveling together, it was a good assumption that Jesus was among them.
- So they begin asking around, “Do you know where our son is?”
- I’m sure they thought He will show up some place or with someone. After all, this has never happened before.
- **“looking” – ἀναζήτησεν** – an intense search. Up and down – back and forth – inside and out.
- Panic is beginning to set in.

45 When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him.

“did not find” “returned” – aorist tenses. They made a quick and decisive decision.

“looking” – ἀναζήτησεν – same word as verse 44. Intense, thorough search.

- Can you imagine the night they spent? What could have happened to Him? A million things racing through their minds. They got no sleep.
- Morning can not get here soon enough.
- They no doubt feel the extra pressure - this is the Messiah, the Son of God, the Savior of the world.
- They are exhausted, but I’m sure they picked up the pace as they traveled.

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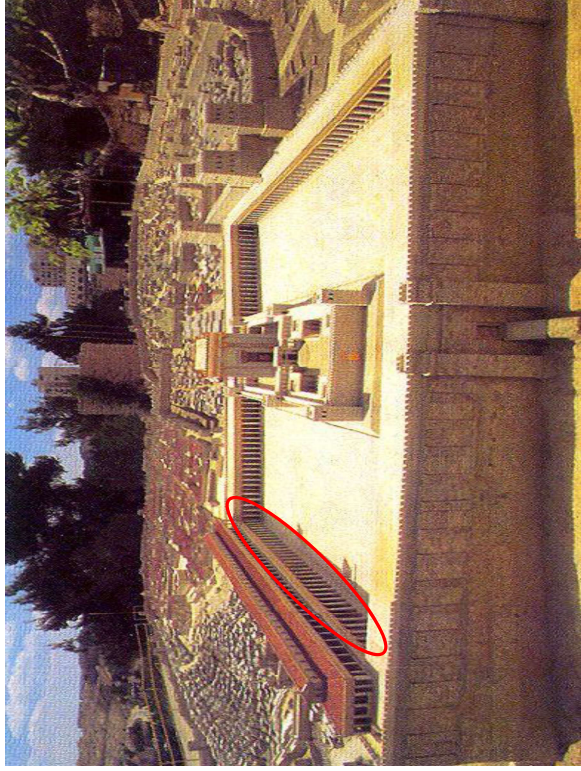
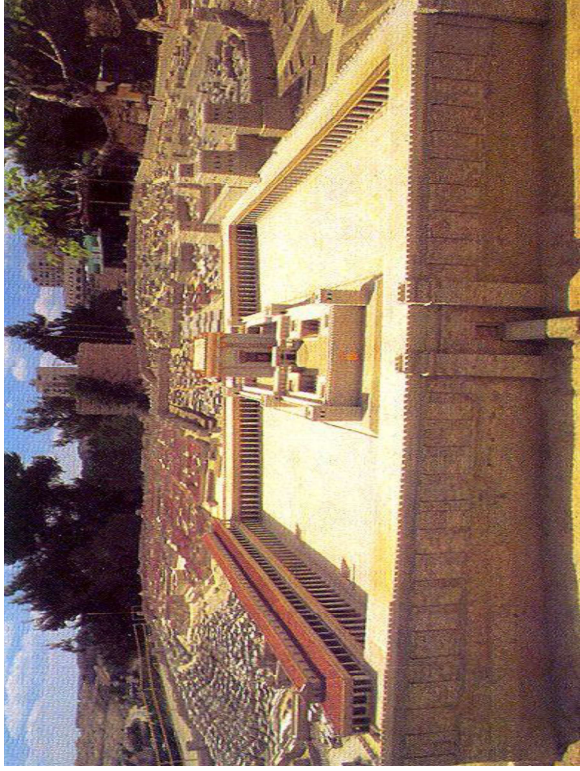
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“after three days” – day out, day back, and 3 days of searching.

- They no doubt looked in shops, markets, playgrounds, alleys, all kinds of buildings, where they had stayed, talking to people, house to house, stables – they found nothing.
- The Temple is probably the last place they would look. What interest would a 12 year old have in the Temple? Very intimidating place.



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 - But here He was – in the Temple.
 - **“teachers”** – some perhaps still there from Passover. Great Jewish teachers, those who are experts in the law, experts in the prophets, experts in the Old Testament the Pentateuch, the books of Moses. Some possibilities - Simeon, Gamaliel, Annas, Caiaphas, Nicodemus, Joseph of Arimathea, etc.
 - Here is an opportunity He would not have in Nazareth.
 - He had questions about how they viewed the Old Testament, questions as to how they viewed the prophecies regarding Messiah, how they understood the sacrificial system, how they interpreted the law of God.
 - This is the method Jewish teachers used – Q & A.
 - This is the only time Jesus is a student.

Something to think about -

- Jesus is interested in 1 thing, and that is to learn the Word of God. Its not music, nor is it buildings, nor is it secular philosophies. If you are going to have a ministry you need to be taught the Word.

Eph 4:11-12

11 And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ;

- If you want to grow in the things of God, like Jesus, you must have a thirst for spiritual truth, demonstrated by listening to those who teach the Word, asking questions, and interacting on these great truths.
- How much do you want to understand the Word of God?