



THE BIRTH OF THE MESSIAH

Chronologically Presented



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TRINITY BIBLE CHURCH-OKC
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The Birth of The Messiah

The Focus of the Gospels:

1. **Matthew: King emphasizing what He said—written to Jews, promised Messiah. (28 Chapters)**
2. **Mark: Servant emphasizing what He did – written to Romans, acts agreed with words. (16 Chapters)**
3. **Luke: Son of Man emphasizing His humanity – written to Greeks, God *and* man. (24 Chapters)**
4. **John: Son of God emphasizing His deity – written to the whole world, need for faith in Him. (21 Chapters)**
5. **There are 89 Chapters in the Gospels of a total of 249 in the New Testament or 36%.**

Outline of the Life of Christ:

1. **Jesus' Birth: Introduction**
 - A. **Preparation for His birth**
 - 1). **His Divine Title. Mark 1:1**
 - 2). **His Divine Flesh. John 1:1-18**
 - a. **The Word. John 1:1-5**
 - b. **John the Forerunner. John 1:6-8**
 - c. **The Arrival of the Word. John 1:9-13**
 - d. **The Word Made Flesh. John 1:14-18**
 - 3). **His Lineage. Matt 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38**
 - 4). **His Story. Luke 1:1-4**
 - B. **A New Born King is Worshipped**
 - 1). **An Answered Prayer. Luke 1:5-25**
 - a. **A Priest's Plight. Luke 1:5-7**
 - b. **A Priest's Rare Blessing. Luke 1:8-17**
 - c. **A Priest's Question. Luke 1:18-23**
 - d. **A Priest's Joy. Luke 1:24-25**
 - 2). **An Angel's Message to a Virgin. Luke 1:26-38**
 - 3). **Two Women Rejoice. Luke 1:39-56**
 - 4). **Clearing a Path. Luke 1:57-80**
 - 5). **Call Him Jesus. Matt 1:18-25**
 - 6). **Good News of Great Joy. Luke 2:1-20**
 - 7). **Simeon and Anna. Luke 2:21-39**
 - 8). **Gifts for a King. Matt 2:1-12**
 - 9). **Escape to Egypt. Matt 2:13-23**
 - 10). **A Missing Child. Luke 2:41-52**

Mark 1:1 His Divine Title

1. **Jesus' Birth: Introduction**
 - A. **Preparation for His birth**
 - 1) **His Divine Title. Mark 1:1**

Mark 1:1 = The Beginning of the Good News

The **(A)** beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of **(the)** God.

Principle: The greatest “beginning” given to man is about the good news of Jesus Christ.

John 1:1-5 The Word

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 - a. **The Word. John 1:1-5**

John 1:1 = God, the Word

In the **(a)** beginning was **(IPF EIMI = kept on being)** the Word, and the Word was **(IPF EIMI = kept on being)** with **(the)** God, and the Word was God **(God was the Word)**.

C.T. = In a beginning kept on being the Word, and the Word kept on being with the God, and God was the Word.

Summary:

1. **The Creator had no point of time beginning, He has always been.**
2. **Whatever this “Word” was, He was always God.**

John 1:2 = Enter the “He”

He was **(IPF EIMI = kept on being, eternal existence)** in the beginning with God.

Summary:

1. **The “He” is the “Word” who has always been God.**
2. **This “He” has always existed.**

John 1:3 = “He” Created Everything

All things came into being (**Aor Mid Ind GINOMAI = came into existence at a point of time**) by (**DIA = “through,” indicating the instrument or agent**) Him, and apart (**CHWRIS = exclusively**) from Him nothing came into being (**Aor Mid Ind GINOMAI**) that has come into being (**Perf Act Ind GINOMAI = completed with lasting results**).

C.T. = All things came into being (at a point in time) through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

Summary:

- 1. This particular “He” is the agent of all creation, to the exclusion of all else.**
- 2. The clear statement is that nothing came into existence by its own making or in any another way.**
- 3. “He” is the Uncaused Cause of all things.**
- 4. This verse, like others, clearly asserts that the universe is not eternal but created and has a Divine Cause. Cf Gen 1:1**

John 1:4 = “He” is the Source of Life

In Him was (**IPF EIMI = kept on being, eternal**) life, and the life was (**IPF EIMI = kept on being**) the light of (**the**) men.

Summary:

- 1. There has never been a time when His life did not exist.**
- 2. His life was the source of man’s illumination of personal self-consciousness.**

John 1:5 = His Light

And the light shines (**Pres Act Ind PHAINW = keeps shining**) in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend (**Aor Act Ind KATALAMBANW = point of time in the past; literally, “to receive down,” or overpower so as to make one’s own, comprehend**) it.

Summary:

- 1. The Light, the “light of men” is still shining and will continue to shine.**
- 2. The forces of darkness did not comprehend The Light at the First Advent, nor did they overpower it.**
- 3. The Light of Messiah is a common theme in the Gospel of John:**
 - A. Humanity is called to choose between His Light or the world’s darkness. John 3:18-21**

"He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 "And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their deeds were evil. 20 "For everyone who does evil hates the light, and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 "But he who

practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

- B. Jesus is the one who provides the "light of life." John 8:12**
Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world; he who follows Me shall not walk in the darkness, but shall have the light of life."
 - C. No one is like Him. John 9:5-6**
"While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."
 - D. Walking in the light is a matter of faith in Jesus, The Messiah. John 12:46-47**
"I have come as light into the world, that everyone who believes in Me may not remain in darkness."
- 4. Satan works all the time seeking to put a veil over this Light. 2 Cor 4:3-4**
And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God

Principle: The life-giving Creator lit the way through Jesus the Messiah.

John 1:6-8 John the Forerunner

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 - b. John the Forerunner. John 1:6-8**

John 1:6 = Enter the Messenger

There came a man, sent (**Perf Pas Ptc APOSTELLO = having been sent with authority to have lasting results**) from God, whose name was John.

Summary:

- 1. This is Jesus' cousin John, the son of Zacharias and Elizabeth. Luke 1:8-23**
- 2. He was sent with authority from God, as a type of Elijah, to tell of Messiah's coming. Mal 4:5-6**
"Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. 6 "And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse."

John 1:7 = John's Mission

He (**John**) came for a witness, that he might bear witness of the light, that all (**there's that "all" word again**) might believe (**Aor Act Sub PISTEUW = at a point of time believe**) through him.

Summary:

- 1. John's purpose was to tell people of the Light so that all would believe.**
- 2. His message would be presented through his witness.**
- 3. He would be quite clear about the One who is the Light. John 1:25-34**

And they asked him, and said to him, "Why then are you baptizing, if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them saying, "I baptize in water, but among you stands One whom you do not know. 27 "It is He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." 28 These things took place in Bethany beyond the Jordan, where John was baptizing. 29 The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! 30 "This is He on behalf of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.' 31 "And I did not recognize Him, but in order that He might be manifested to Israel, I came baptizing in water." 32 And John bore witness saying, "I have beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. 33 "And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' 34 "And I have seen, and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

John 1:8 = To Be Sure

He (**John**) was not the light, but came that he might bear witness of the light.

Summary:

- 1. So that no one misunderstands, including this man's own disciples, John the Baptizer was not the Light.**
- 2. He was simply to live the humble life of the Light as a type of Elijah who still is to come. Matt 17:10-13**

And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Why then do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?" 11 And He answered and said, "Elijah is coming and will restore all things; 12 but I say to you, that Elijah already came, and they did not recognize him, but did to him whatever they wished. So also the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands. " 13 Then the disciples understood that He had spoken to them about John the Baptist.

Principle: Messiah sent a Forerunner to tell people of His arrival.

John 1:9-13 The Arrival of the Word

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 - c. **The Arrival of the Word. John 1:9-13**

John 1:9 = The Real Deal

There was the true (**AL8THINOS = real, genuine, true**) light which, coming into the world, enlightens (**Pres Act Ind PHWTIDZW = is shedding light on**) every man.

Summary:

1. **No one can truly hide from the True Light.**
2. **The True Light is a beacon in the darkness.**

John 1:10 = The True Light in the World

He (**The Light**) was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know (**Aor Act Ind GINWSKW = to know at a point of time**) Him.

Summary:

1. **The "He" who has always existed, made the world and at the right time entered the world to become the "God-man."**
2. **The world did not realize who He was while He was walking on the earth.**

John 1:11 = Most of His People Missed It

He came to His own (**looks to his countrymen**), and those who were His own did not receive Him.

Summary:

1. **The "He" had a people that He called His own, the Jews, because He made them special.**
2. **They rejected the Messiah and His message.**

John 1:12 = Some Didn't

But as many as received (**Aor Act Ind LAMBANW = to receive Him at His advent**) Him, to them (**those who received Him**) He gave (**Aor Act Ind DIDWMI = gave at a point of time**) the right (**EXOUSIA = authority**) to become (**Aor Mid Inf GINOMAI = at a point of time**) children of God, even to those who believe (**Pres Act Ptc PISTEUW = looks at all those who believe at a point of time**) in His name,

Summary:

1. At the First Advent, those who accepted Him as Messiah were given “authority” to become part of God’s family.
2. The “grace-given authority” is received when a person “believes” in His name or reputation.

John 1:13 = The New Birth

who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Summary:

1. Salvation is not of:
 - A. Blood, meaning race. Jews were not automatically saved.
 - B. The “will of the flesh,” referring to decisions made from the Sin Nature, and especially the keeping of various legalisms.
 - C. The “will of man,” meaning to create one’s own salvation through self-will, believing one can save oneself.
2. Salvation is of God, meaning by grace through faith. John 1:12 (believe) Cf John 1:14 (grace).

Principle: The simple message is that salvation is by Grace through Faith.
Cf Eph 2:8-9

John 1:14-18
The Word Made Flesh

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 - c. The Arrival of the Word. John 1:9-13
 - d. The Word Made Flesh. John 1:14-18

John 1:14 = Identification

And the Word became (Aor Mid Ind GINOMAI = at a point of time; God became man) flesh, and dwelt (Aor Act Ind SK8NOW = tabernacled; pitched a tent and lived at a point of time) among us, and we (notice that it takes more than one witness to establish a fact, and there are more than sufficient witnesses) beheld (Aor Mid Ind THEAOMAI = from a seat in a theater; as spectators) His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Summary:

1. Jesus is The God who became man and sojourned among His creation.
2. Man did not assist in any way but just watched as a spectator.

3. **His glory as the God-man was given by the Father.**
4. **The markers of His glory were and are grace and truth, in perfect harmony.**
5. **Jesus remained God with all His attributes, but He chose to limit their independent use. Php 2:5-8**
6. **As an Omnipresent God, He simply chose to manifest His Essence in a finite place for a period of time.**
7. **This is much like a person “seeing their breathe” on a cold day. It is still the same air but in a visible form.**
8. **Jesus in a sense is “God-breathed” like His written Word was inspired to be done. 2 Tim 3:16**

John 1:15 = The Messenger’s Message

John bore witness (**Pres Act Ind MARTUREW = an historical present indicating that this Scripture was written after the fact but indicates that the writer was a witness of John**) of Him, and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'"

Summary:

1. **John the Baptizer knew specifics about the Messiah before He was unveiled in His earthly ministry. John 1:32-36**
And John bore witness saying, "I have beheld the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and He remained upon Him. 33 "And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.' 34 "And I have seen, and have borne witness that this is the Son of God." 35 Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked upon Jesus as He walked, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God!"
2. **John was six months older than his cousin in terms of human age.**
3. **John knew that Messiah would be both God and man because that had not been hidden. Psa 110; Isa 9:6-7**
For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.
4. **Jesus was God who became man, not a man who became God, like some religions believe can happen through various stages of reincarnation.**

John 1:16 = The Fullness of His Grace

For of His fulness (**PL8RWMA = a word that means the “result of filling;” He was filled with the Holy Spirit in full measure**) we have all received (**Aor Act Ind LAMBANW = at a point of time, which is identified as belief in Messiah and entry into the Family of God**), and grace upon grace.

Summary:

1. John is referring to the present Indwelling of the Holy Spirit, given on the first Day of Pentecost after Christ's Ascension to heaven.
Eph 3:19; 4:13; Col 1:19; 2:9
2. Beyond the grace given at salvation is the grace in which we now walk.
Cf Col 2:6

John 1:17 = The Tutor to the Truth

For the Law was given through Moses; **(the)** grace and **(the)** truth were realized **(Aor Mid Ind GINOMAI = came into existence at a point of time)** through Jesus Christ.

Summary:

1. The Mosaic Law was a tutor to point out the need for a Messiah. Gal 3:24
2. Jesus the Messiah displayed how Love and Justice could coexist.

John 1:18 = God in the Flesh

No man has seen **(Perf Act Ind HORAW = has taken a long look at)** God at any time **(Adv PWPOTE = 6x; at any time; ever)**; the only begotten God **(MONOGEN8S = 9x; only begotten; cf 1:14; 3:16,18; 1 John 4:9 cf Heb 11:17 where the term is used of Isaac)**, who is in the bosom **(KOLPOS = 6x; used of Abraham's Bosom in Luke 16:22,23 and of John leaning on the Lord's "bosom" during the last supper in John 13:23. This represents the place of dearest relationship.)** of the Father, He has explained **(Aor Mid Ind EX8GEOMAI = 6x; to unfold, exegete)** *Him*.

Summary:

1. Moses got a glimpse of the Father, but did not get to take a long look at Him. Exo 33:18
2. Jesus was not a new God but the only "begetting," or manifestation in the flesh of The God.
3. Jesus "unfolded" the picture of His Father through Himself.
Heb 1:1-6 cf John 14:9

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they. 5 For to which of the angels did He ever say, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"? And again, " I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME"? 6 And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM." **John 14:8-9** Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." 9 Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know

Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how do you say, 'Show us the Father'?

Principle: The Forerunner of Messiah clearly knew his role in the Plan of God.

Matt 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38 His Lineage

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 - e. **His Lineage. Matt 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38**

Luke 3:23-38 = Jesus' Lineage to Mary–The Son of God–Promised Seed of the Woman. (This list extends from Mary to Adam to God)

- 23 And when He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being supposedly the son of Joseph (**not actually in the genetic line, but this is a list of men and excludes even the notable women like Naomi**), the son of Eli,
- 24 the son of Matthat, the son of Levi, the son of Melchi, the son of Jannai, the son of Joseph,
- 25 the son of Mattathias, the son of Amos, the son of Nahum, the son of Hesli, the son of Naggai,
- 26 the son of Maath, the son of Mattathias, the son of Semein, the son of Josech, the son of Joda,
- 27 the son of Joanan, the son of Rhesa, the son of Zerubbabel, the son of Shealtiel, the son of Neri,
- 28 the son of Melchi, the son of Addi, the son of Cosam, the son of Elmadam, the son of Er,
- 29 the son of Joshua, the son of Eliezer, the son of Jorim, the son of Matthat, the son of Levi,
- 30 the son of Simeon, the son of Judah, the son of Joseph, the son of Jonam, the son of Eliakim,
- 31 the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David,
- 32 the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon,
- 33 the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah,

- 34 the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,
35 the son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Heber, the son of Shelah,
36 the son of Cainan (**Genesis 11:12 does not list him; he is only found in the LXX and the LXX is loaded with information and numbers that occur no place else in any text. At some point Cainan was inserted into the genealogy and the error propagated. There is an ancient old manuscript or two that do not have him listed. This is far from proof that there are gaps in the genealogies, but rather further proof that the text used to translate the LXX was loaded with errors as it contains things no other ancient manuscripts contain.**), the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech,
37 the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalaleel, the son of Cainan,
38 the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

Matt 1:1-17 = Jesus' Lineage to Joseph-The King-The Promised Seed of Abraham.

- 1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.
2 To Abraham was born (**this list uses the Greek word GENNAW meaning to "be born"**) Isaac; and to Isaac, Jacob; and to Jacob, Judah and his brothers;
3 and to Judah were born Perez and Zerah by Tamar; and to Perez was born Hezron; and to Hezron, Ram;
4 and to Ram was born Amminadab; and to Amminadab, Nahshon; and to Nahshon, Salmon;
5 and to Salmon was born Boaz by Rahab; and to Boaz was born Obed by Ruth; and to Obed, Jesse;
6 and to Jesse was born David the king. And to David was born Solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah;
7 and to Solomon was born Rehoboam; and to Rehoboam, Abijah; and to Abijah, Asa;
8 and to Asa was born Jehoshaphat; and to Jehoshaphat, Joram; and to Joram, Uzziah;
9 and to Uzziah was born Jotham; and to Jotham, Ahaz; and to Ahaz, Hezekiah;
10 and to Hezekiah was born Manasseh; and to Manasseh, Amon; and to Amon, Josiah;
11 and to Josiah were born Jeconiah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.
12 And after the deportation to Babylon, to Jeconiah was born Shealtiel; and to Shealtiel, Zerubbabel;
13 and to Zerubbabel was born Abihud; and to Abihud, Eliakim; and to Eliakim, Azor;
14 and to Azor was born Zadok; and to Zadok, Achim; and to Achim, Eliud;
15 and to Eliud was born Eleazar; and to Eleazar, Matthan; and to Matthan, Jacob;

- 16 and to Jacob was born Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.
- 17 Therefore all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the time of Christ fourteen generations. **(From Adam to Abraham was 20 generations)**

Summary:

1. From the birth of Abraham to the birth of David (1950 B.C.-1040 B.C.) calculates a generation of 65 years.
2. From David to the Dispersion (1040 B.C.-586 B.C.) calculates a generation of 32.4 years.
3. From the Dispersion to Christ (586 B.C.-1 B.C.) calculates a generation of 41.8 years.
4. From Adam to Abraham (3960 B.C. to 1950 B.C. = 2010 years) calculates a generation of 100.5 years.
5. From Adam to Christ (3960 to 1 B.C. = 3959 years) is 62 generations which calculates to 63.9 years per generation.
6. Remember that the number of generations declared is the inspired word of God, so Biblically there is no room for any “gaps” in the genealogies.
7. Note that attempts to place a specific number on the length of a generation, like some do to try to calculate the date of the Rapture, are not Biblical.

Principle: Jesus is the “Promised Seed,” both of the Woman and of Abraham.

Luke 1:1-4 His Story

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 - 4). **His Story. Luke 1:1-4**

Luke 1:1 = The Calling to Write

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us **(as we will find out this is the traveling entourage of Paul, investigated and recorded by Luke, the physician),**

Luke 1:2 = The Credentials of the Writer

Just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants (**HUPER8TOS = an under rower, one who works in the belly of ship**) of the Word have handed them down to us (**Luke is functioning as an investigative reporter, interviewing those who actually saw the events and were changed by them, plus his extended time spent with Paul**),

Luke 1:3 = The Investigation of the Writer and Arrangement of the Writing

It seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully (**Perf Act Ptc PARAKOLUTHEW = 3x; having followed near to**) from the beginning, to write (**Aor Act Inf GRAPHW**) it out for you in consecutive order (**AKRIBWS = 4x; perfectly + KATH8Z8S = 5x; consecutive, following after; Luke is seeking to give a perfectly sequential account of the events that transpired**), most excellent Theophilus (**friend of God**);

Luke 1:4 = The Purpose of the Writing

So that you might know the exact truth (**ASPELEIA = 3x; certainty, security, accuracy**) about the things you have been taught.

Summary:

1. These four verses have been recognized for centuries as Classical Greek, instead of the usual Koine.
2. This would be used to get the readers attention that this is designed to be a scholarly work.

Principle: God wanted this message communicated chronologically and accurately.

Luke 1:5-7 A Priest's Plight

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Luke 1:5 = Zacharias and Elizabeth

In the days of Herod (**Antipas who ruled from 4 B.C. to 39 A.D. another of Herod the Great's sons, began as Tetrarch over Galilee and Perea. He was the ruling Herod during Jesus' life and ministry. Herod Antipas was first married to the daughter of Aretas, an Arabian king of Petrae. But he became infatuated with Herodias, the**

wife of his half-brother, Philip I. The two eloped together, although both were married at the time. This scandalous affair was condemned severely by John the Baptist), king of Judea, there was a certain priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

Luke 1:6 = Their Credentials

And they were both righteous (**DIKAIOS = saved**) in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirement of the Lord (**They were both saved and living their righteousness**).

Luke 1:7 = Their Problem(s)

And they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years.

Principle: God is aware of human problems.

Luke 1:8-17 A Priest's Rare Blessing

2. **Jesus' Birth: Introduction**
 - A. **Preparation for His birth**
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 - 1). **An Answered Prayer. Luke 1:5-25**
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Luke 1:8 = Zacharias' Ministry.

Now it came about, while he was performing the priestly service before God in the *appointed* order of the division (**There were a lot of priests, so they developed a rotation where individuals would get the opportunity to serve in the Temple. It was usually a once-in-a-lifetime event.**),

Luke 1:9 = His Big Day

according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. (**This was symbolic of prayer because the incense would permeate the entirety of the Holy Place and Holy of Holies, symbolizing bringing prayer before the throne of God. Cf Heb 4:16**)

Luke 1:10 = People Were Praying

And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering.

Luke 1:11 = An Angel of the Lord Appears

And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense. **(They were in the Holy Place by themselves. This had to startle him. Notice the precision of the description.)**

Luke 1:12 = His Fear

And Zacharias was troubled **(Aor Pas Ind TARASSW = shaken, troubled)** when he saw *him*, and fear gripped him.

Luke 1:13 = The Announcement of a Coming Miracle.

But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid **(M8 + Pres Pas Imp PHOBEW = Fear not, “Stop being afraid.”)**, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John. **(This prayer was taken in right before the Lord. What if an angel were to show up during your prayers? Cf Heb 13:2; Would you question him? Remember Abraham?)**

Luke 1:14 = The Miracle Will Bring Personal and Corporate Joy.

And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his (John’s) birth.

Luke 1:15 = His Son’s Calling.

For he **(John)** will be great in the sight of the Lord, and he will drink no wine or liquor; and he will be filled **(Fut Pas Ind PL8ROW = he will receive a filling)** with the Holy Spirit, while yet in **(lit: even out from [EK])** his mother’s womb. **(He will take the Nazarite vow, becoming a reproach among men and he will receive a filling of the Holy Spirit, which is recorded to only being given to a few in history up to this point; Bezelel [Exo 31:3; 35:31]; Joshua [Deut 34:9]),**

Luke 1:16 = His Son’s Impact

And he **(John)** will turn back many of the sons of Israel to the Lord their God.

Luke 1:17 = A Son of Prophecy

And it is he who will go *as a forerunner* before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah **(not Elijah and not the prophecy referred to in Mal 4, but a shadow)**, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous **(like his mom and dad)**; so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. **(John will be the shadow fulfillment of Mal 4:4-5)**

Principle: Some of our personal problems The Lord chooses to solve.

Luke 1:18-23 A Priest's Question

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Luke 1:18 = Asking For a Sign and Questioning the Announcement

And Zacharias said to the angel, "How shall I know this *for certain?* For I am an old man, and my wife is advanced in years." **(Ever question an answered prayer? Usually we just question unanswered prayers.)**

Luke 1:19 = The Answer

And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel (**his name means "Champion of God," Dan 8:16; 9:21; Gabriel spoke to the prophet Daniel. Zacharias knew who he was.**), who stands in the presence of **(the) God (wow!)**, and I **(Gabriel)** have been sent to speak to you **(Zachariah)**, and to bring you this good news.

Luke 1:20 = The Sign

And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which shall be fulfilled in their proper time. **(Sometimes the signs we are hoping for are not what we are expecting, especially when given in spite of our unbelief. This is a great prayer answered but no one can be told immediately because of unbelief.)**

Luke 1:21 = Why the Delay?

And the people were waiting for Zacharias, and were wondering at his delay in the temple. **(Was he struck dead?)**

Luke 1:22 = The Sign Fulfilled

But when he came out, he was unable to speak to them; and they realized that he had seen a vision in the temple; and he kept making signs to them, and remained mute. **(Is this the first attempt at "sign language?")**

Luke 1:23 = The Return Home

And it came about, when the days of his priestly service were ended, that he went back home.

Principle: Sometimes we question the Lord's solutions even when He fills our desires.

Luke 1:24-25 A Priest's Joy

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 - c. **A Priest's Question. Luke 1:18-23**
 - d. **A Priest's Joy. Luke 1:24-25**

Luke 1:24 = The Message is Conceived

And after these days Elizabeth his wife became pregnant; and she kept herself in seclusion for five months, saying,

Luke 1:25 = Elizabeth Understood

"This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked *with favor* upon me, to take away my disgrace among men."

Principle: God keeps His word, even in the face of unbelief. 2 Tim 2:13

Luke 1:26-38 An Angel's Message to a Virgin

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 - 2). **An Angel's Message to a Virgin. Luke 1:26-38**

Luke 1:26 = Gabriel Again

Now in the sixth month (**of Elizabeth's pregnancy**) the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee, called Nazareth,

Luke 1:27 = This Time to a Virgin

To a virgin (**PARTHENOS = never used in the New Testament for one of the Temple prostitutes who were promoted as "virgins;" this is in fulfillment of Isa 7:14**) engaged (**Perf Pas Ptc MN8STEUW = 3x; to be promised to for marriage; betrothed, engaged; Matt 1:18; Luke 2:5**) to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David (**in the line of kings**); and the virgin's name was Mary.

Luke 1:28 = The Announcement

And coming in, he (**Gabriel**) said to her, "Hail (**Pres Act Imp CHAIRW = rejoice!**), favored one (**Perf Pas Ptc CHARITOW = 2x; recipient of lasting grace**)! The Lord is with you."

Luke 1:29 = Mary's Response

But she was greatly troubled at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation (**ASPASMOS = a salute, a recognition of greatness**) this might be. (**What would you do? An angel appears in your house?**)

Luke 1:30 = Relieving Her Fear—God's Grace

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid (**2nd time: Fear not, "Stop being afraid."**), Mary; for you have found favor (**CHARIS = grace**) with God.

Luke 1:31 = Her Assignment

"And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

Luke 1:32 = Her Child

"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;

Luke 1:33 = His Ministry

and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end."

Luke 1:34 = A Valid Question

And Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" (**Some would have people believe that Mary had been fornicating and had gotten pregnant.**)

Luke 1:35 = The Divine Answer

And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you (**Fut Mid Ind EPERCHOMAI**), and the power of the Most High will overshadow you (**Fut Act Ind EPISKIADZW = 5x; to cast a shadow over; used in Matt 17:5 & Mark 9:7 & Luke 9:34 of the Transfiguration cloud and Acts 5:15 of Peter's shadow that some people thought would bring healing to them**); and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God. (**Talk about miracle births.**)

Luke 1:36 = Another Miracle

"And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. (**Mary is told this so that she could verify the announcement to her aunt. Both will be witness to another miracle. Mary would know that her relative is old and childless and past the age of child bearing, similar to Sarah. So what when God is involved?**)

Luke 1:37 = Remember?

"For nothing will be impossible with God." (**Don't ever forget this one.**)

Luke 1:38 = Mary's Acceptance.

And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her. (**Mary agreed to this**)

Principle: God uses prepared people to accomplish marvelous things.

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 - 3). **Two Women Rejoice. Luke 1:39-56**
 - 4). **Clearing a Path. Luke 1:57-80**

Luke 1:57 = Elizabeth's Delivery

Now the time had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she brought forth a son. (**just as Gabriel told her**)

Luke 1:58 = A Cause of Rejoicing in the Neighborhood

And her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had displayed His great mercy toward her; and they were rejoicing with her. **(share our joy with one another)**

Luke 1:59 = Almost a Mistake

And it came about that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him Zacharias, after his father. **(Fathers usually named their children, but Zacharias could not talk so others were going to step in for him. Notice they were following the Law of Moses.)**

Luke 1:60 = Elizabeth Steps in

And his mother answered and said, "No indeed; but he shall be called John."

Luke 1:61 = The Argument

And they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by that name."

Luke 1:62 = Dad Consulted

And they made signs to his father, as to what he wanted him called.

Luke 1:63 = Dad Writes His Name

And he asked for a tablet, and wrote as follows, "His name is John." And they were all astonished. **(Astonished at what? Agreeing with his wife? Not naming him after himself? Not going along with public opinion?)**

Luke 1:64 = Time to Talk Now

And at once his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he began to speak in praise of God. **(I'll bet the first word out of his mouth was not "finally!" expressing any disapproval. "Dumbness" was actually a sign of John's miraculous and important birth.)**

Luke 1:65 = The Talk on the Hill

And fear came on all those living around them; and all these matters were being talked about in all the hill country of Judea. **(John was a miracle baby and his father had an unusual miracles that limited a physical ability until the appointed time. Then when he stopped questioning God and proclaimed the name of his son to be John, things changed. Also, if he was faking it, it would take a "miracle" to be able to stay quiet for this long.)**

Luke 1:66 = John Was a Hot Topic

And all who heard them kept them in mind, saying, "What then will this child turn out to be?" For the hand of the Lord was certainly with him.

Luke 1:67 = A Special Empowering for Prophecy

And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit (**This is quite unusual for a believer before the Day of Pentecost after the Cross to be “filled” with the Holy Spirit. This appears to be a shadow of the coming age, which at this time is still a “mystery.”**), and prophesied, saying: (**Remember what follows is a prophecy.**)

Luke 1:68 = The Content–Redemption Will Be Accomplished

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people,
(**“Accomplished is in the Aorist indicating a completed point of time in the past, but as with the case of prophecy he is speaking of a future event as an accomplished fact.**)

Luke 1:69 = Salvation Has Its Power

And has raised up a horn (**denotes power**) of salvation (**Rom 1:16**) for us
In the house of David His servant—
(**The power of salvation will come, through the prophesied line. Isa 11:1**)

Luke 1:70 = Prophecies Will Be Fulfilled

As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old—
(**numerous references**)

Luke 1:71 = Deliverance Is Assured (Psa 106:10)

Salvation from our enemies,
And from the hand of all who hate us;
(**first spiritual then physical with a Millennial fulfillment**)

Luke 1:72 = Promises Will Be Kept (Mic 7:20; Psa 105:8f; 106:45)

To show mercy toward our fathers,
And to remember His holy covenant,
(**God’s Word is The Word which is the Assured Word**)

Luke 1:73 = Especially to Abraham (Gen 22:16f)

The oath which He swore to Abraham our father, (**in your seed...**)

Luke 1:74 = The Freedom to Serve without Fear

To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
Might serve Him without fear,
(Freedom is not to be served but to serve. Gal 5:13 We are to serve Him even when we are in situations that strike fear in most people.)

Luke 1:75 = The Means to Serve

In holiness and righteousness before Him all our days.
(The standard of service for the entirety of one's life. That which the scribes and Pharisees lacked.)

Luke 1:76 = John the Prophet (Matt 11:9; Luke 11:32; Mal 3:1; Luke 1:17)

"And you, child (**John**), will be called the prophet of the Most High;
For you will go on before the Lord to prepare His ways;
(This is one prophet introducing and blessing another prophet.)

Luke 1:77 = John the Messenger (Jer 31:34; Mark 1:4)

To give to His people the knowledge of salvation
By the forgiveness (**APHESIS = removal**) of their sins,
(John's Message is forgiveness and what they must do to be saved.)

Luke 1:78 = The Message of Mercy and Victory (Mal 4:2; Eph 5:14; 2 Pet 1:19)

Because of the tender mercy of our God,
(I am a Compassionate God, slow to anger...)
With which the Sunrise from on high shall visit us, **(Mal 4:1-3)**
"For behold, the day is coming, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and every evildoer will be chaff; and the day that is coming will set them ablaze," says the Lord of hosts, "so that it will leave them neither root nor branch." 2 "But for you who fear My name the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall. 3 "And you will tread down the wicked, for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day which I am preparing," says the Lord of hosts.

Luke 1:79 = The Message of Light and Guidance (Isa 9:1,2; 59:8; Matt 4:16)

To shine upon those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,
(i.e., those under the darkness of Satan and condemned by the Sin of Adam.)
To guide our feet into the way of peace. "

(We need help to find the True Peace, which is Jesus Christ and then to walk in His way.)

Luke 1:80 = John's Preparation for His Ministry

And the child continued to grow, and to become strong in spirit, and he lived in the deserts until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Principle: God blesses repentance from past doubts to a faithful life with amazing testimonies. (consider not just Zacharias but Thomas et al)

Matt 1:18-25 Call Him Jesus

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 - 5). **Call Him Jesus. Matt 1:18-25**

Matt 1:18 = The Virgin Mary with Child

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together (**no sex**) she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.

Matt 1:19 = Joseph's Evaluation the Circumstances

And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her (**Aor Act Inf DEIGMATIDZW = to make a public example of her; 2x; Col 2:15 like the Lord did with the victorious proclamation**), desired to put her away secretly (**this word used in Matt 5:31 of divorce, indicates breaking of the engagement; Joseph did love her and desired not to disgrace her**).

Matt 1:20 = Angelic Enlightenment–The Holy Spirit is the Father

But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid (**3rd use of this command**) to take Mary as your wife; for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

Matt 1:21 = This Is the Plan

"And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins." **(This is quite an announcement. Was it Gabriel? He was sent to Zacharias and Mary but we do not know if he carried this message to Joseph.)**

Matt 1:22 = The Explanation

Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying,

Matt 1:23 = The Quotation (Isa 7:14)

"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."

Matt 1:24 = The Obedience

And Joseph arose from his sleep, and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took her as his wife, **(Joseph lived his righteousness)**

Matt 1:25 = The Honor

and kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

Principle: Honorable people adjust their thinking when they find out they are wrong.

Point: Mary and Joseph had other children after the birth of Jesus. John 2:11

After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother, and His brothers, and His disciples; and there they stayed a few days. **Luke 8:19-21** And His mother and brothers came to Him, and they were unable to get to Him because of the crowd. 20 And it was reported to Him, "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, wishing to see You." 21 But He answered and said to them, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."

Luke 2:1-20 Good News of Great Joy

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- 5). Call Him Jesus. Matt 1:18-25
- 6). Good News of Great Joy. Luke 2:1-20

Luke 2:1 = A Royal Decree

Now it came about in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus (**ruled from 27 B.C.-14 A.D.**), that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

Luke 2:2 = The Timing

This was the first census taken while Quirinius (**KJV = Cyrenius**) was governor of Syria. (**According to historians, the governor of Syria at this time was Quintilius Varus. Quirinius was probably just another name for him. This was misunderstood for a number of years. When Pope Gregory I commissioned the making of a calendar to denote the birth of the Lord and to arrange all dates from that point, both "Before Christ," B.C., and "In the Year of our Lord" Anno Domini or A.D., they aligned all the years to Messiah's birth. After this project was all done some "scholars" argued that the birth of Jesus was not 1 B.C.-1 A.D. but rather that this census was done in 4-5 B.C. Instead of changing all the other dates, many decided to just say Jesus was born in 4-5 B.C. In the 20th century it was discovered that the original date used was correct, as per an article in *Biblical Archaeology Review*.¹ Many documents have still used the old date since they were printed and could not be easily corrected. Doctrinally, it is most important to note the fact of His birth, rather than argue and divide over the date of it, since the Bible doesn't specifically tell us.)**

Luke 2:3 = Compliance with Authorities

And all were proceeding to register for the census, everyone to his own city.

Luke 2:4 = Joseph Heads for Bethlehem

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (**Gen 35:19, this is where Rachel was buried; 1 Sam 16:1 where David was born**), because he was of the house and family of David, (**Micah 5:2-5 But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity." Therefore He will give them up until the time When she who is in labor has borne a child. Then the remainder**

¹ *Biblical Archaeology Review*, Herod's Death, Jesus' Birth and a Lunar Eclipse, 10/7/2017.

of His brethren Will return to the sons of Israel. And He will arise and shepherd His flock In the strength of the Lord, In the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they will remain, Because at that time He will be great To the ends of the earth. This One will be our peace.)

Luke 2:5 = The Purpose and Circumstances

in order to register, along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

Luke 2:6 = The Fullness of the Times

And it came about that while they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. (This is a picture of an obedience to authority that led to a prophetic fulfillment. The indication was that Joseph was forced to go, not that he was trying to fulfill prophecy.)

Luke 2:7 = No Room at the Inn

And she gave birth (Aor Act Ind TIKTW = to give birth at a point of time; the prophecies were fulfilled) to her first-born son (kind of redundant but the Lord is going to great lengths to make it clear that Mary had no other children before Jesus); and she wrapped Him in cloths (Aor Act Ind SPARGANAW = 2x; verse 12; to wrap in swaddling clothes), and laid Him in a manger (PHATN8 = 4x; 2:7,12,16; Luke 13:15; a water trough), because there was no room for them in the inn. (The oriental swaddling clothes consisted of a square of cloth and two or more bandages. The child was laid on the cloth diagonally and the corners are folded over the feet and body and under the head, the bandages then being tied so as to hold the cloth in position. This device formed the clothing of the child until it is about a year old, and its omission (Eze 16:4) would be a token that the child had been abandoned.)

Luke 2:8 = Life As Usual

And in the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields, and keeping watch over their flock by night. (lowly shepherds, doing their job)

Luke 2:9 = And Then...

And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

Luke 2:10 = The Angelic Announcement

And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid (4th command to "Fear not;" given to Zacharias [Luke 1:13], then Mary [Luke 1:30], then Joseph [Matt 1:20] now the

Shepherds); for behold (**why to not be afraid**), I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people;

Luke 2:11 = Enter The Messiah

for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior (**SWT8R**), who is Christ the Lord (**CHRISTOS-KURIOS = Christ-Lord**).

Luke 2:12 = The Sign for the Shepherds

"And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger."

Luke 2:13 = The Heavenly Hosts' Chorus

And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

Luke 2:14 = The Content of Their Message

"Glory to God in the highest,
And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased
(**lit: to men of good thinking**)."

Luke 2:15 = The Shepherds Respond to the Events

And it came about when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us." (**Notice that the message was plain enough that it was not questioned.**)

Luke 2:16 = They Find the Sign

And they came in haste and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

Luke 2:17 = The Shepherds' Report

And when they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.

(These lowly shepherds are the first to be blessed with the message and the first to report it)

Luke 2:18 = Not Many Understood

And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. (There was a massive group of people who did not understand the times.)

Luke 2:19 = Mary's Memories and Thoughts

But Mary treasured (**SUNT8REW = 3x; to guard with, treasure**) up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

Luke 2:20 = The Shepherd's Response

And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

Principle: God marvelously blesses obedient people.

Comment: It does not mean that your life will be all smiles, but that there is an opportunity for a blessing in time that is indeed amazing and probably somewhat miraculous. The Lord is the example of perfect obedience and yet with unimaginable pain. The point is that we are to try to get this Christian life right. Strive to the point of shedding blood against sin (Heb 12:4). Seek to be pleasing in His sight (2 Cor 5:9).

Luke 2:21-39 Simeon and Anna

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 - 4). **Clearing a Path. Luke 1:57-80**
 - 5). **Call Him Jesus. Matt 1:18-25**
 - 6). **Good News of Great Joy. Luke 2:1-20**
 - 7). **Simeon and Anna. Luke 2:21-39**
(Two Who Paid Attention)

Principle: Pay Attention To God's Timing. 1 Chr 12:32

And of the sons of Issachar, men who understood the times, with knowledge of what Israel should do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their kinsmen were at their command.

Luke 2:21 = The Background

And when eight days were completed before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

Luke 2:22 = Background continued

And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord

Luke 2:23 = Background continued

(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every first-born male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"),

Luke 2:24 = Background continued

and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

Simeon Luke 2:25-35

Luke 2:25 = Simeon's Qualifications

And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous (**DIKAIOS = lived what was given to him**) and devout (**EULAB8S = "taking hold well" [EU, "well," LAMBANO, "to take hold"], "careful as to the realization of the presence and claims of God, reverencing God, pious, devout"**), looking for the consolation (**PARAKL8SIS = comfort, encouragement**) of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him (**This was the common description of the ministry of the Holy Spirit to Age of Israel believers**).

Simeon's Three Qualifications:

- 1. Had Life and lived what was given to him.**
- 2. Had a true Relationship with the Living God.**
- 3. Had the Holy Spirit.**

Eight Principles of Life from Simeon:

Luke 2:26 = The Revelation to Simeon–The Promise

And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

Summary:

1. This was a personal ministry of the Holy Spirit to this individual.
2. Our response should be the same for the promises God gives to us.

Principle #1: Have FAITH in the promises of God.

Luke 2:27 = The Leading of Simeon–The Practice

And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law,

Principle #2: FOLLOW the Holy Spirit's lead.

Luke 2:28 = The Fulfillment to Simeon–The Presentation

then he took Him into his arms, and blessed (**EULOGEW**) God, and said,

Principle #3: FILL your life with Jesus the Messiah.

Luke 2:29 = Simeon's Joy–God's Fulfilled Word

"Now Lord, Thou dost let Thy bond-servant depart in peace, according to Thy word;

Principle #4: FULFILL your calling.

Luke 2:30 = Simeon's Personal Blessing

For my eyes have seen Thy salvation,

Principle #5: FIX your eyes upon Jesus.

Luke 2:31 = Simeon's Awe

Which Thou hast prepared (**HETOIMADZW = to prepare**) in the presence of all peoples,

Principle #6: FEAST on what God has prepared. Cf 2 Tim 2:21

Therefore, if a man cleanses himself from these things, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified, useful to the Master, prepared for every good work.

Luke 2:32 = Simeon's Scope of Understanding

A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel."

Principle #7: FOCUS on the Light.

Luke 2:33 = Not All Had this Understanding

And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him.

Principle #8: FIGHT unbelief.

Luke 2:34 = Simeon's Blessing and Prophecy

And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed--

Luke 2:35 = Continued

and a sword will pierce even your own soul -- to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

To Mary: Your son will be an issue to Israel. (fall and rise of many)

- 1. Your Son will be attacked, so prepare for it.**
- 2. Your Son will undergo incredible pain - and you will watch.**
- 3. Your Son will be the standard of Truth. Cf John 14:6**

Principle: We need people to REMIND us.

Anna The Prophetess Luke 2:36-38

Luke 2:36 = Anna The Prophetess

And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with a husband seven years after her marriage,

Principle #1: SAVOR your gift within your circumstances.

Luke 2:37 = Anna The Servant

and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. And she never left the temple, serving (**LATREUW = to serve as a priest-unusual word use in Age of Israel-she had the attitude without the ceremony**) night and day with fastings and prayers.

Principle #2: SERVE as a priest to God.

Luke 2:38 = Anna The Proclaimer

And at that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption (**LUTRWSIS = to release because a ransom has been paid**) of Jerusalem.

Principle #3: SAY thanks to God and tell others of your Redeemer.

SIMEON:

Principle #1: Have FAITH in the promises of God.

Principle #2: FOLLOW the Holy Spirit's lead.

Principle #3: FILL your life with Jesus Christ.

Principle #4: FULFILL your calling.

Principle #5: FIX your eyes upon Jesus.

Principle #6: FEAST on what God has prepared.

Principle #7: FOCUS on The Light.

Principle #8: FIGHT unbelief.

ANNA:

Principle #1: SAVOR your gift within your circumstances.

Principle #2: SERVE as a priest to God.

Principle #3: SAY thanks to God and tell others of your Redeemer.

Summary:

1. Are we a humble voice for God?
2. Do we pay attention to God's voice?
("My Beloved Son" echoes down the ages)
3. Do we listen to Satan's voice?
4. Are we humbled by our position?
5. Do we hear Jesus' call to be a disciple?

**Matt 2:1-12
Gifts for a King**

1. Jesus' Birth: Introduction
 - A. Preparation for His birth
 - B. A New Born King is Worshipped
 - 1). An Answered Prayer. Luke 1:5-25
 - a. A Priest's Plight. Luke 1:5-7
 - b. A Priest's Rare Blessing. Luke 1:8-17
 - c. A Priest's Question. Luke 1:18-23
 - d. A Priest's Joy. Luke 1:24-25
 - 2). An Angel's Message to a Virgin. Luke 1:26-38
 - 3). Two Women Rejoice. Luke 1:39-56
 - 4). Clearing a Path. Luke 1:57-80
 - 5). Call Him Jesus. Matt 1:18-25
 - 6). Good News of Great Joy. Luke 2:1-20
 - 7). Simeon and Anna. Luke 2:21-39
 - 8). Gifts for a King. Matt 2:1-12

Matt 2:1 = Arrival of the Magi

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east **(They are probably from Persia and are Gentiles. Although it does not say there were three of them, it is assumed based on the number of gifts given.)** arrived in Jerusalem **(Headquarters for the Jewish Nation)**, saying,

Matt 2:2 = Their Question

"Where is He who has been born **(he is already born when they arrive)** King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him."

Comment: This strongly implies that they knew that the "King of the Jews" would be the Savior of all and thus worthy of worship.

Matt 2:3 = Herod Is Shaken by the Question

And when Herod the king heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. **(Why should "all Jerusalem" be troubled unless they knew they were living in unbelief and that one day the Lord would come and discipline all unbelief?)**

Matt 2:4 = A Political Investigation

And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he began to inquire of them where the Christ was to be born.

Matt 2:5 = The Jews Knew the Prophecy

And they **(Chief Priests and scribes)** said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet,

Matt 2:6 = They Quote The Prophecy (Micah 5:2)

'And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah,
Are by no means least among the leaders of Judah;
For out of you shall come forth a Ruler,
Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

Matt 2:7 = Herod's Secrecy

Then Herod secretly called the magi, and ascertained from them the time the star appeared. **(He was asking so he could find out how many babies to kill.)**

Matt 2:8 = Herod's Plan

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, "Go and make careful search for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, that I too may come and worship Him."

Matt 2:9 = Guidance for the Magi

And having heard the king, they went their way; and lo, the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them, until it came and stood over where the Child was. **(They were moving south.)**

Matt 2:10 = They Knew

And when they saw the star **(stopped)**, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

Matt 2:11 = Gentiles Worship the King of the Jews

And they came into the house and saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell down and worshiped Him; and opening their treasures they presented to Him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh.

Summary:

1. **We have seen in the Scriptures that gold is a reference to Deity, so the Magi were recognizing the Source of this child. (His Source)**
2. **Frankincense is one of the ingredients found in the mixture used for the Altar of Incense, signifying prayer. This child is the real High Priest who is worthy to receive our prayers. Exo 30:34 (His Service)**
3. **Myrrh is one of the ingredients used in embalming, which signified that this child would die. John 19:39 (His Sacrifice)**
4. **The gifts implied that they knew quite a bit about this special child.**

Matt 2:12 = Divine Guidance for the Magi

And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, they **(the Magi)** departed for their own country by another way.

Summary:

1. **What we know about “The Star” from this paragraph.**
 - A. **It was a sign of the birth of Messiah.**
 - B. **King Herod did not know about it.**
 - C. **It had to do with Israel.**
 - D. **It had to do with the known arrival of a King of Israel.**
 - E. **The Magi knew who they were looking for, “The King of the Jews.”**
 - F. **It came from the east.**
 - G. **It “stopped” over Bethlehem, 5 miles south of Jerusalem.**
 - H. **It did not follow the normal characteristics of a star, asteroid or comet.**
 - I. **Some believe it was a conjunction between Jupiter, Saturn and Mars, but planets don’t move in this fashion.**
2. **It is reasonable to look for another explanation that is more spiritual than physical.**

3. For more explanation see the discussion on the Star of Bethlehem.²
4. A possible solution that does not violate Scripture nor the Laws of Physics as we know them.
 - A. It was prophesied by Balaam that “A star shall come forth from Jacob.” This “star” has been recognized as Messiah for Millennia. **Num 24:15-190**
 "The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, And the oracle of the man whose eye is opened, 16 The oracle of him who hears the words of God, And knows the knowledge of the Most High, Who sees the vision of the Almighty, Falling down, yet having his eyes uncovered. 17 "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob, And a scepter shall rise from Israel, And shall crush through the forehead of Moab, And tear down all the sons of Sheth. 18 "And Edom shall be a possession, Seir, its enemies, also shall be a possession, While Israel performs valiantly. 19 "One from Jacob shall have dominion, And shall destroy the remnant from the city."
 - B. **Satan was once known as a “star” but fell from that position. Isa 14:12-15**
 "How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning (**Lucifer**), son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the earth, You who have weakened the nations! 13 "But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, And I will sit on the mount of assembly In the recesses of the north. 14 'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' 15 "Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, To the recesses of the pit.
 - C. **Angelic beings are frequently referred to as “stars.” Exo 32:13; Deut 1:10; 4:19; 10:22; 28:62; 1 Chr 27:23; Neh 9:23; Job 25:5; 38:7**
 - D. **As Christians we should seek the “morning star arising in our hearts,” by being properly oriented to prophecy. 2 Pet 1:19-21**
 And so we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.
 - E. **The “Morning Star” is none other than Jesus, Himself. Rev 22:16**
 "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star."
 - F. **Therefore, the “Star of Bethlehem” could very well be the “SHEKINAH GLORY” or the Lord Himself, like He led the Jews in the dessert for 40 years.**

² <https://bible.org/article/star-bethlehem>

Matt 2:13-23

The Escape to Egypt

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 - 3). **Two Women Rejoice. Luke 1:39-56**
 - 4). **Clearing a Path. Luke 1:57-80**
 - 5). **Call Him Jesus. Matt 1:18-25**
 - 6). **Good News of Great Joy. Luke 2:1-20**
 - 7). **Simeon and Anna. Luke 2:21-39**
 - 8). **Gifts for a King. Matt 2:1-12**
 - 9). **Escape to Egypt. Matt 2:13-23**

Matt 2:13 = Divine Guidance for Joseph

Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise and take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him."

Matt 2:14 = Joseph's Obedience

And he arose and took the Child and His mother by night, and departed for Egypt; **(Notice that every time we see Joseph he is obeying the Lord's instructions.)**

Matt 2:15 = Another Prophecy Fulfilled

and was there until the death of Herod, that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "Out of Egypt did I call My Son." **(Exo 4:22-23 cf Hos 11:1)**

Matt 2:16 = Herod's Vicious Anger

Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its environs, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the magi.

Matt 2:17 = Another Prophecy Fulfilled

Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled, saying,

Matt 2:18 = The Content (Jer 31:15)

"A voice was heard in Ramah,
Weeping and great mourning,
Rachel weeping for her children;
And she refused to be comforted,
Because they were no more."

Matt 2:19 = More Divine Guidance

But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying,

Matt 2:20 = Specifics

"Arise and take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead."

Matt 2:21 = Obedience—Again

And he arose and took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

Matt 2:22 = More Instructions and Wisdom

But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he departed for the regions of Galilee,

Matt 2:23 = And Still More Prophecy (Isa 9:6; 11:1)

and came and resided in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene **(A consecrated one; no prophecy calls Him a "Nazarene" but many say that He is consecrated and set apart. Isa 9:6; 11:1-2 and the term Messiah itself, means "anointed" or "consecrated" one.)**" He is called "Jesus the Nazarene" thirteen times in the New Testament.)."

**Luke 2:41-52
A Missing Child**

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- 7). Simeon and Anna. Luke 2:21-39
- 8). Gifts for a King. Matt 2:1-12
- 9). Escape to Egypt. Matt 2:13-23
- 10). A Missing Child. Luke 2:41-52

Luke 2:41 = Family Time

And His parents used to go to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. **(This indicates that Joseph was still alive here, plural of parents.)**

Luke 2:42 = Jesus at Twelve Years of Age

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

Luke 2:43 = Jesus Stays

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

Luke 2:44 = The Family's Discovery

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.

Luke 2:45 = The Return to Jerusalem

And when they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem, looking for Him.

Luke 2:46 = Jesus the Student

And it came about that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them, and asking them questions. **(Why didn't they look there first?)**

Luke 2:47 = Jesus the Prodigy

And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

Luke 2:48 = Mary's Question

And when they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." **(Joseph just "disappears" after this in the narrative. We'll find out what happened in eternity.)**

Luke 2:49 = Jesus' Response

And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" **(Mary should have understood this statement.)**

Luke 2:50 = The Teachers' Confusion

And they **(mom and dad)** did not understand the statement which He had made to them.

Luke 2:51 = Life in Nazareth

And He went down with them, and came to Nazareth; and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart. **(It would one day register in her soul.)**

Luke 2:52 = Jesus' Growth

And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

(He was not only wise and strong but good and gracious with integrity)

What an amazing record of a series of miraculous events, many prophesied and over which Jesus had no human control.