



Tell Me the Story of Jesus

Lesson 2 – Luke 2

People — Who is involved?

Joseph – Mary’s husband; Jesus’ male guardian
Mary – Jesus’ mother; Joseph’s wife
Angels – Sent to praise Jesus at His birth
Shepherds – Those told of Jesus’ birth
Simeon – A devout believer who blesses them
Anna – An old prophetess who gives thanks

Places — Where does it happen?

Bethlehem – where Jesus is born
Fields near there – where angels appear to the shepherds
Jerusalem – where they go to the Temple
Nazareth in Galilee – where Jesus grew up
Jerusalem – for the Passover Feast at age 12

Pearls — What information will help me to understand better?

Vs. 1 – Caesar Augustus was the Roman Emperor, Octavius, who ruled from 27 B.C. to A.D. 14.
Vs. 2 – Quirinius (or Cyrenius) was the governor of Syria who oversaw the taxation for this region.
Vs. 4 – Galilee was the northern region of Palestine (Israel). Nazareth was west of the Sea of Galilee.
– Bethlehem was in Judea, the southern region of Palestine. They traveled the 85 to 90 miles because their ancestral and tribal land allotment were determined by their relationship to David.
Vs. 7 – We are not told the day or month when Jesus was born.
– Jesus was Mary’s “firstborn” son; Mary’s other children are mentioned in the Bible (Mt. 12:46-47; 13:55-56; Mark 3:31-32; 6:3; Luke 8:19-20; John 2:12; 7:3-5, 10; Acts 1:14).
Vs. 12 – “Swaddling cloths” were strips of soft cloth wrapped around a baby to keep it warm and safe.
Vs. 12 – A “manger” was a feeding trough for animals, often in a stable and hewn from stone
Vs. 21 – Circumcision was one of two symbols of God’s covenant with Israel. It was the “personal” sign (Gen. 17:9-14; Rom. 4:11). The “national” sign was observance of the Sabbath (Ex. 31:12-18).
Vs. 22 – “Purification” was a Jewish ritual 40 days after the birth of a son (see Lev. 12:1-4)
– “Presentation” is explained in verse 23 and involved the child’s life being dedicated to God.
Vs. 25 – “The Consolation of Israel” refers to the fulfillment of prophecy in the coming of Messiah.
Vs. 34 – Many would reject Christ and fall; many of them would rise again spiritually by receiving Him.
Vs. 35 – Mary’s soul would be pierced with grief when she saw Jesus rejected and then crucified.
Vs. 49 – Some versions read: “...in my Father’s house.” Literally it says, “...in the things of my Father.”
Vs. 52 – With this, Luke ends his account of the life of Jesus from birth to beginning of ministry.

Perspectives — What may I learn from this chapter?

1. Mary and Joseph were conscientious, law-abiding, religious people. They went under extreme circumstances to pay taxes. They observed all Jewish laws concerning Jesus’ birth and early life.
2. Jesus’ coming into the world was the fulfillment of prophecy and a source of glory to God.
3. In his young life, Jesus was concerned about doing right toward both God and his parents.