

# Luke 2:41-52

- Up to this point Luke has made a note that Mary and Joseph, “Did everything as the Law required.”
  - Luke 2:27 – “...when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law...”
  - Luke 2:39 – “when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee.”
  - Circumcision – 2:21
  - Purification by Mary and Jesus – 2:22-24
  - Simeon, righteous and devout recognized Jesus – 2:25
  - Anna, always in the temple, fasting, praying, giving thanks recognized Jesus – 2:37-38
- Luke mentions Law 4x (2:22, 23, 24, 27) and “word” (“rhema”) 1x
- In Luke’s mind in 60 AD when he is writing this to Theophilus the piety of the Old Testament was still the guide for godly Christian behavior.
- Luke presents Jesus as the anticipated Christ was:
  - The source of Israel’s hope – 2:25-26; 2:29-32; 2:34; 2:38
  - Consolation of Israel – 2:25
  - Salvation 2:30
  - Glory 2:32
  - Redemption 2:38
  - Holy Spirit’s activity – 2:25-27
  - Fulfillment of prophetic hope - 2:26, 29, 38
  - Universal availability – 2:32
- The fact that Jesus was a 12-year-old boy does not introduce some new legal requirement for Jesus
  - Jesus is not becoming a man in these verses
  - Jesus is not becoming “a child of the law” (‘bar mitzvah’ in these verses
    - This ritual was a later development than NT time
    - This is not the point of the story

## 2:41-52

1. This ends the infancy narrative (1:5-2:52)
2. Jesus is presented here as trained in the Law (2:46-47)
3. Jesus is aware of his unique relationship to the Father
  - a. This relationship was not discovered by Jesus one day, but was always known.

- b. Psalm 40:6 quoted in Hebrews 10:5-6:

But in these sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

5 Consequently, **when Christ came into the world, he said,**

“Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired,  
but a body have you prepared for me;

6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings  
you have taken no pleasure.

7 Then I said, ‘Behold, I have come to do your will,  
O God,

as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.”

8 **When he said above**, “You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings” (these are offered according to the law), 9 then **he added, “Behold, I have come to do your will.”** He does away with the first in order to establish the second. 10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 And every priest stands daily at his service, offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But when Christ[b] had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, 13 waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet. 14 For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.

-Hebrews 10:3-14

- c. At the age of 12 (and, before, even from birth) Jesus knew who he was and had full memory recall of his eternal existence and past

- i. This matches his dialogue in John 8:56-59 -

*“Your father Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day. He saw it and was glad.” So the Jews said to him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and **have you seen Abraham?**” Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am.” So they picked up stones to throw at him, but Jesus hid himself and went out of the temple.”*

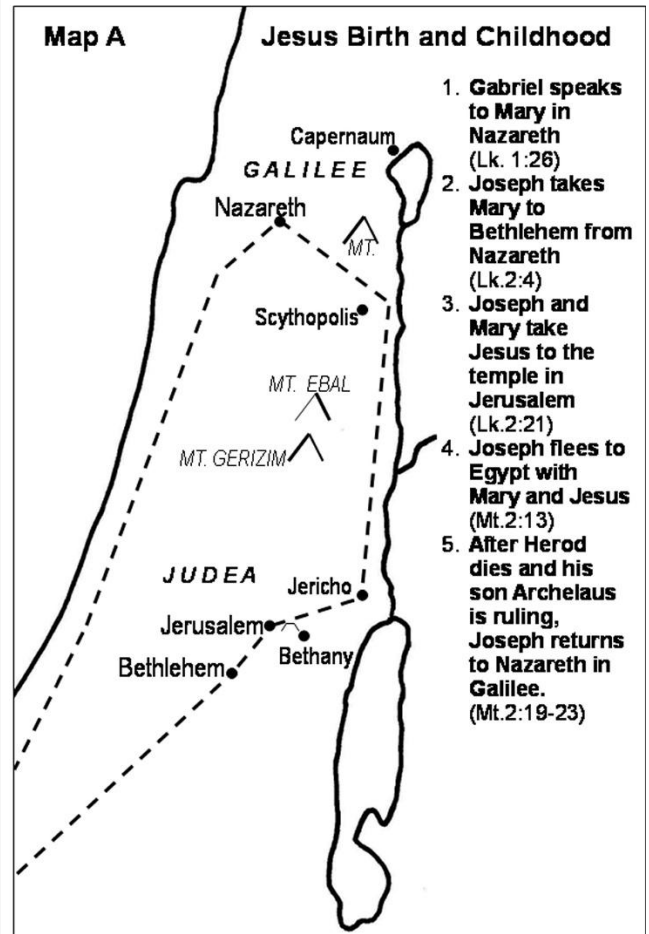
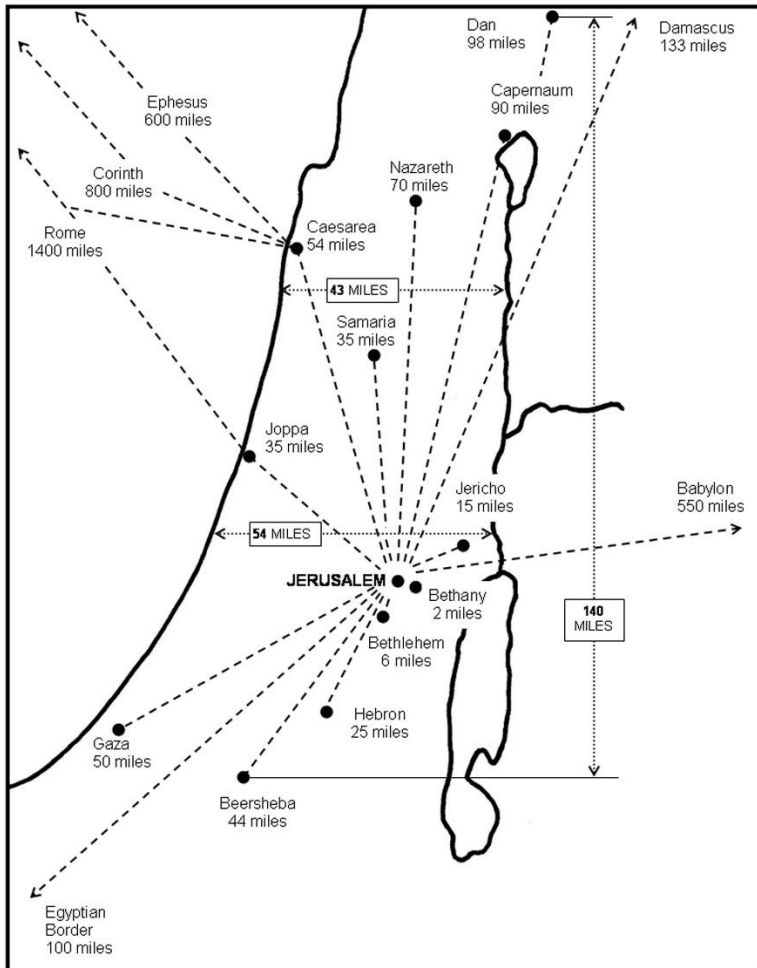
- d. Jesus explains his understanding of this to his mother and father in Luke 2:49

4. This account sets the stage for Jesus’ ministry and is a transition into his work as the Messiah in public ministry.

**Luke 2:41 – Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.**

1. “went” is iterative imperfect meaning Jesus’ family habitually went to Jerusalem for Passover.
2. “every year” emphasizes this Greek verb form.
3. Passover was one of three feast all Jewish men were to attend
  - a. Passover was the opening feast of a 7 (8) day festival called “feast of Unleavened Bread”
    - i. Also called “feast of Passover in Lk 22:1 and John 13:1
    - ii. The 3<sup>rd</sup> feast that must be attended by men was the Feast of Booths

**2:42 – And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom.**



**2:43 – And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it,**

1. “After the feast was over” means after the seven days in Jerusalem
2. Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but Luke does not say:
  - a. Accidental
  - b. Intentional
  - c. Communicated before hand
  - d. Parents just assumed their plans for Jesus were God the father’s plans for Jesus
3. Unaware because:

- a. Local villages traveled together so the city group from Nazareth left in the pack of pilgrims going to Nazareth and traveled in people groups: men, women, young men
- b. When they camped for the evening the family groups would reunited for food and sleep

2:44 – **but supposing him to be in the group they went a day’s journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances,**

1. Travel for one day would be 20-25 miles

2:45 – **and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.**

1. Day two was the return trip to Jerusalem. They would have arrived late in the afternoon.

2:46 – **After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.**

1. A lot happens in the temple and temple courts in Luke.
  - a. Already, Gabriel appeared to Zechariah
  - b. Simeon and Anna prophesied
  - c. Mary, Joseph and Jesus attended for purification
  - d. Mary, Joseph and Jesus (and, Jude, James, etc.) attended annually
  - e. Many other accounts in Luke occur on the Temple mount.

2:47 – **And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.**

1. Everyone who heard him were amazed
  - a. Jesus wisdom amazed Israel’s teachers (2:52)
  - b. The eternal son of God revealed his wisdom and understanding by:
    - i. Asking questions (2:46)
    - ii. Giving answers (2:47)
  - c. Luke often uses the terms “amazed” or “amazement” of people’s response to the supernatural (Luke 8:56; Acts 2:7, 12; Acts 9:21)

2:48 – **And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress.”**

2532 [e]	3708 [e]	846 [e]	1605 [e]	2532 [e]	2036 [e]	4314 [e]	846 [e]	3588 [e]	3384 [e]	846 [e]	5043 [e]	5101 [e]	4160 [e]
Kai	idontes	auton	exepлагēsan	kai	eipen	pros	auton	hē	mētēr	autou	Teknon	ti	epoiēsas
48 Καὶ	ἰδόντες	αὐτόν ,	ἐξεπλάγησαν ,	καὶ	εἶπεν	πρὸς	αὐτόν	ἡ	μήτηρ	αὐτοῦ ,	Τέκνον	τί	ἐποίησας
And	having seen	Him	they were astonished	and	said	to	Him	the	mother	of Him	Child	why	have You done
Conj	V-APA-NMP	PPro-AM3S	V-AIP-3P	Conj	V-AIA-3S	Prep	PPro-AM3S	Art-NFS	N-NFS	PPro-GM3S	N-VNS	IPro-ANS	V-AIA-2S

1473 [e]	3779 [e]	2400 [e]	3588 [e]	3962 [e]	4771 [e]	2504 [e]	3600 [e]	2212 [e]	4771 [e]
hēmin	houtōs	idou	ho	patēr	sou	kagō	odynōmenoi	ezētoumen	se
ἡμῖν	οὕτως	?	ἰδοὺ ,	ὁ	πατήρ	σου ,	καὶ γὰρ ,	ὁδυνώμενοι	ἐζητοῦμέν*
to us	thus	Behold	the	father	of You	and I	distressing	were seeking	You
PPro-D1P	Adv	V-AMA-2S	Art-NMS	N-NMS	PPro-G2S	PPro-N1S	V-PPMP-NMP	V-IIA-1P	PPro-A2S

1. When his parents saw him they were astonished”
  - a. Astonished at what? Luke does not say:
    - i. Jesus’ wisdom?
    - ii. Jesus with the teachers?
    - iii. Jesus still in the temple?

2. "Your father and I" is Mary speaking, not Joseph.
  - a. These accounts most likely are personal testimonies of Mary to Luke 57-60 AD.
  - b. "father" to be understood in light of chapter one, Joseph, so, "father" does not nullify the virgin birth testimony

2:49 – And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"

2532 [e]	2036 [e]	4314 [e]	846 [e]	5101 [e]	3754 [e]	2212 [e]	1473 [e]	3756 [e]	1492 [e]	3754 [e]	1722 [e]	3588 [e]	3588 [e]	3962 [e]
Kai	eipen	pros	autous	Ti	hoti	ezeteite	me	ouk	edeite	hoti	en	tois	tou	Patros
49 Καὶ	εἶπεν	πρὸς	αὐτούς	, Τί	ὅτι	ἐζήτεῖτέ	με ?	οὐκ	ᾔδειτε	ὅτι	ἐν	τοῖς	τοῦ	Πατρὸς
And	He said	to	them	Why [is it]	that	you were seeking	Me	Not	knew you	that	in	the [house]	of the	Father
Conj	V-AIA-3S	Prep	PPro-AM3P	IPro-ANS	Conj	V-IIA-2P	PPro-A1S	Adv	V-LIA-2P	Conj	Prep	Art-DNP	Art-GMS	N-GMS

1473 [e]	1163 [e]	1510 [e]	1473 [e]
mou	dei	einai	me
μου	δεῖ	εἶναι	με ?
of Me	it behooves	to be	Me
PPro-G1S	V-PIA-3S	V-PNA	PPro-A1S

emphatic

"the"  
Article, Dative,  
Nueter, Plural

1. This is the POINT of this account, the culminating verse:
  - a. The emphasis of this story is NOT Jesus' wisdom, but Jesus' STATEMENT here.
  - b. Jesus statement shows:
    - i. He knows who he is
    - ii. Jesus has a unique, functioning relationship with God that is different from any man
    - iii. Jesus statement confirms the angelic message that Jesus IS God's son (1:32, 35)
    - iv. Now, the boy Jesus appears as the promised Son of God.
2. "Why...? Didn't you know?"
  - a. Jesus is referring to the several messages and testimonies from angels, shepherds, Simeon Anna, and more including the virgin birth itself.
  - b. Mary and Joseph should not be surprised since they had been told
  - c. Mary and Joseph knew. The information had been provided
  - d. Mary (like the disciples) does not appear to have the perspective to process and apply:
    - i. the words given
    - ii. the person of Jesus
    - iii. the mission of Jesus
  - e. This confusion by people is understandable
    - i. This is natural man not perceiving
    - ii. And, it has been 10+ years since the last recorded word or sign from God
3. "Why were you searching for me?"
  - a. Jesus is as surprised at his parents behavior and misunderstanding as they were at his
  - b. Two ways of understanding this question, "Why were you searching for me?"
    - i. Why were you searching all over for me? Didn't you know I'd be in the temple? (WRONG)

- ii. Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know I'd be in my Father's House?"  
(MOST PROBABLE)
  - 1. Focuses on why
  - 2. Fits the rest of Jesus' answer
  - 3. Jesus is not rebuking his parents, but Jesus is surprised with his parents' response since they had repeatedly been given this perspective.
  - 4. Jesus' explanation uses emphatic "I" and "my"
- c. "house" is a translated article "the \_\_\_\_\_" and could also be things, affairs, people
  - i. Luke 6:4 – God's house
  - ii. Luke 19:46 – God's house
  - iii. John 2:16 – "my fathers house" is said by Jesus when he cleanses the temple
  - iv. Jesus calls God "my father" in Luke 10:22; 22:29; 24:49

**2:50 – And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them.**

**2:51 – And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.**

- 1. Third time it says Mary "treasured" or kept thinking and processing these events and words:
  - a. Luke 2:19 – But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.
  - b. Luke 1:66 - all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, "What then will this child be?" For the hand of the Lord was with him.

**2:52 – And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.**