



A Child is Born

Luke 2:1-39; Matthew 2:1-23

Isaiah 9:6

**“For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given: and the
government shall be upon his
shoulder: and his name shall be
called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God, The
everlasting Father, The Prince
of Peace.”**

Luke 2:1-7

1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. **2** This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. **3** And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. **4** Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, **5** in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. **6** While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. **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.

“A decree...from Caesar Augustus”

- **The trip to Bethlehem was necessary because of a taxation decree.**
- **However, I don't believe that Joseph is traveling to Bethlehem solely for the purpose of the census.**

It is Quite Probable...

That Joseph had discovered that life was intolerable in Nazareth (by reason of Mary's "scandalous" pregnancy), and because he had to travel to Bethlehem anyway (by reason of the decree), he decided to relocate to Bethlehem.

But in All of This:

- The prophecy of Micah 5:2 came to pass precisely:

**“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.”**

From A Short Life of Christ

“To the devout mind the enrollment under Augustus looms as one of the clearest indications in all history of the providential control of human affairs by an almighty hand. It is impressive to see how the administrative machinery of a vast empire was set in motion to fulfill the purpose of God in the advent of His Son.”

• Everett F. Harrison

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem

Joseph, Mary, and Jesus escape to Egypt

Joseph, Mary, and Jesus return to Nazareth



*The
Mediterranean
Sea*

GALILEE

NAZARETH

SAMARIA

JERUSALEM
BETHLEHEM

JERICO



Correct Understanding – Luke 2:7

“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.**”






Thanks to Dad Hengeveld (See Luke 2:1-16)

12-20-2001

SORRY FOLKS, WE'RE BOOKED SOLID ...
GOD HIMSELF COULDN'T GET A ROOM HERE
TONIGHT

κατάλυμα *katalyma*

- **Mark 14:14** – “and wherever he enters, say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher says, Where is My **guest room** in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’”
- **Luke 22:11** – “And you shall say to the owner of the house, ‘The Teacher says to you, ‘Where is the **guest room** in which I may eat the Passover with My disciples?’”

A meme featuring Dwight Schrute from the TV show 'The Office'. He is shown from the chest up, wearing his signature light blue dress shirt, dark tie, and glasses. He has a serious, somewhat skeptical expression. The background is a blurred office setting. The text is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif font with a black outline. At the top, it says 'THE BIBLE USES THE GREEK WORD KATALUMA, WHICH MEANS "SMALL HOTEL"'. At the bottom, it says 'FALSE — KATALUMA IS BEST TRANSLATED "GUEST ROOM"'. There is a small, faint watermark 'Sawntober's Thunder' on the right side of the image.

**THE BIBLE USES THE GREEK WORD
KATALUMA, WHICH MEANS "SMALL HOTEL"**

**FALSE — KATALUMA IS BEST
TRANSLATED "GUEST ROOM"**



∞ HAPPY DAY ∞



JOSEPH

AND

MARY



∞ HAPPY LIFE ∞

THE WEDDING DATE

(2/14/2017)





Joseph and Mary arrived in Bethlehem and appealed to members of Joseph's family for a place to stay, but because of the perceived dishonor associated with Mary's pregnancy, the family could not allow them to stay in the place of honor, the *katalyma*, or guest room.



Luke 2:8-20

Shepherds in the Fields

- Bethlehem was nearby Jerusalem, and many of the sheep used in the temple sacrifices came from there.
- The surrounding hills were prime grazing land, and shepherds worked in the area day and night, all year round.
- Notice the titles given to Jesus:
“A Savior (σωτήρ sōtēr) who is Christ (Χριστός Christos) the Lord (κύριος kyrios)”



Luke 2:21

“And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.”


Circumcision on the 8th Day

This underscores the piety of Jesus' family, their faithfulness to God, and their keeping of his law (Gen. 17:12–14; 21:4; Lev. 12:3).

And before we move on...



Luke 2:22-24

22 And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to  **Exodus 13:12** Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord **23** (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”), **24** and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

 **Leviticus 12:8**



Luke 2:25-35

Looking for the “consolation”

- “Consolation” (*paraklēsis*) is the hope that God would come to rescue and comfort his people.
- Others also eagerly waited with a similar expectation (v. 38; 23:50–51; Mark 15:43; Acts 10:22)
- And Luke’s expression ties in with the wording of messianic prophecies in Isaiah (Isa. 40:1; 49:13; 51:3; 57:18; 61:2).
- This hope involves salvation (Luke 2:30), the “forgiveness of ... sins” (1:77), and the saving of the lost (19:10).

Simeon's Spirit-led Prophecies

33 And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him. **34** 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— **35** and **a sword will pierce** even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

Luke 2:36-38

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, **37** and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. **38** 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 of Jerusalem.

The Faithfulness of Anna

**“She never left the temple,
serving night and day with
fastings and prayers.”**

**God reveals his secret purposes in
history to humble servants who
continually live in his presence.**

Luke 2:39 Presents an Issue

“When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.”

Whether this return to Nazareth came before or after the events of Matthew 2:1-18 is not easily determined.

I think we have a couple options.

Option #1

- The family returned immediately to Bethlehem because the parents thought it most appropriate to rear the Son of David in the city of David. (Plummer, *A Critical and Exegetical Commentary on the Gospel According to Luke*)
- If this is true, the return of Luke 2:39 came after the visit of the Magi and the flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:1-18).

Option #2

- The family returns to Nazareth from Jerusalem, as the wording of Luke 2:39 implies, as their purpose was to fetch as many of their personal belongings as possible and move their home to Bethlehem, which they did.
- **Matthew 2, then, finds them in their own home (Matt. 2:11) some time after they have been back to Nazareth (Luke 2:39).**
- That they had already transported their household goods to Bethlehem is seen from Joseph's initial plan to return to Bethlehem, not Nazareth, from Egypt (Matt. 2:21-22).

Matthew 2:1-2

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, **2** “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”

We Have a Number of Questions:

- 1. Who were these “magi”?**
- 2. From what country had they come?**
- 3. How many “magi” were there?**
- 4. When did they come to Bethlehem?**
- 5. How did they know that a king had been born?**
- 6. What was the star that had alerted and then guided them?**



ANATOLIA

TURKEY

Caspian Sea

Mediterranean Sea

IRAN

SYRIA

Nineveh

Kalhu

ASSYRIA

Assur

Zagros Mountains

CANAAN
LEBANON

Jerusalem
Dead Sea

MESSOPOTAMIA
AKKADAMIA
BABYLONIA

Sippar

Tell Asmar

Babylon

IRAQ

SUMER

Susa

Girsu

Lagash

Uruk

Ur

Eridu

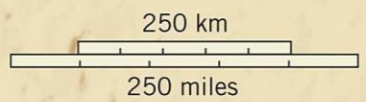
CHALDEA

JORDAN

SAUDI ARABIA

modern-day coastline

Persian Gulf



Fertile area of early agriculture

The “Wise Men”

- Probably from Persia (“from the east”)
- Familiar with Daniel and his writings
- Magi, not kings (not until the 12th c.)
- Their number is not specified in Scripture
- Three men would never have traveled alone
- Did not arrive the night of the birth



The Matter of Importance

Gentile wise men, probably nobles from Eastern countries, travel to Palestine to pay homage to this new-born child, whom they acknowledge as a king worthy of their worship.



Matthew 2:3-8

3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. **4** Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. **5** They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: **6** ‘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.’” **7** Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. **8** And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.”

Look at Matthew 2:7

“Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared.”

What can we learn from this question?

More Clues

- **Luke 2:12** – “This will be a sign for you: you will find a **baby** wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”
 - “**baby**” – *brephos* (unborn or newborn child)
- **Matthew 2:8** – And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the **Child**; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.”
 - “**Child**” – *paidion* (a young child)

Matthew 2:9-12

9 After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. **10** When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. **11** After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. **12** And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

Matthew 2:13-15

13 Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! 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.” **14** So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. **15** He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called My Son.”



Hosea 11:1

Matthew 2:16-18

16 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 all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi. **17** Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: **18** “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.”



Jeremiah 31:15

Matthew 2:19-23

19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said, **20** “Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child’s life are dead.” **21** So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. **22** But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee, **23** and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”



Herod Archelaus (4 B.C. – 6 A.D.)

Matthew 2:23

**This was to fulfill what was
spoken through the prophets:
“He shall be called a
Nazarene.”**

What is the issue at hand?

Isaiah 11:1

“Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a **branch** from his roots will bear fruit.”

נֵצֶר

netser



Next Week:
Jesus, The Early Years

