



Come Follow Me 2023
Matthew & Luke 2





A brown paper bag is centered in the image. The text "Luke 2" is written across the middle of the bag in a blue, cursive font. The bag has a slightly textured appearance and a shadow on its left side, suggesting it is standing upright.

Luke 2

shalt go before the face of the Lord to ^aprepare his ways;

77 To give ^aknowledge of salvation unto his people by the ^bremission of their sins,

78 Through the ^atender mercy of our God; whereby the ^bdayspring from on high hath visited us,

79 To give ^alight to them that sit in ^bdarkness and *in* the shadow of ^cdeath, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

80 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.

CHAPTER 2

Heavenly messengers herald the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem—He is circumcised, and Simeon and Anna prophesy of His mission—At twelve years of age, He goes about His Father's business.

AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all ^athe world should be ^btaxed.

2 (*And this ^ataxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*)

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5 To be taxed with Mary his ^aespoused wife, being great with child.

6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7 And she brought forth her ^afirst-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the ^binn.

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the ^aglory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you ^agood tidings of great ^bjoy, which shall be to all people.

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16 And they came with ^ahaste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

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The Shepherds and the Angels

18 And all they that heard *it* ^awondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and ^apondered *them* in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

21 And when eight days were accomplished for the ^acircumcising of the child, his name was called ^bJESUS, which was so ^cnamed of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

22 And when the days of her ^apurification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present *him* to the Lord;

23 (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the ^awomb shall be called holy to the Lord;)

24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of ^aturtledoves, or two young pigeons.

25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name *was* Simeon; and the same man *was* just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

30 For mine eyes have seen thy ^asalvation,

31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

32 A ^alight ^bto lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this *child* is ^aset for the ^bfall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

35 (Yea, a sword shall ^apierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

36 And there was one Anna, a ^aprophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

37 And she *was* a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served *God* with ^afastings and prayers night and day.

38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for ^aredemption in Jerusalem.

39 And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

40 And the child grew, and ^awaxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the ^bgrace of God was upon him.

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the ^afeast of the passover.

42 And when he was twelve years

76a Luke 1:17.

77a Luke 11:52.

b TG Remission of Sins.

78a 1 Ne. 1:20.

b GR dawn; see Mal. 4:2.

138:50 (50–51).

2 1a JST Luke 2:1 . . . *his*

empire should be taxed.

b GR enrolled, registered

(also vv. 3, 5).

b JST Luke 2:7 . . . *inns*.

9a TG God, Glory of.

10a TG Gospel.

b TG Joy.

11a TG Jesus Christ,

18a OR marveled.

19a TG Meditation

32a TG Jesus Christ, Light of

the World

36a TG Woman.

37a TG Fast, Fasting

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43 And
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d John 7:

47a TG Un

49a OR kn

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New Testament Institute Manual

Caesar Augustus was a capable and energetic Roman ruler whose reign—from 31 B.C. to A.D. 14—was marked by order and lawfulness. The “taxing” mentioned in Luke 2:2 was actually an enrollment of persons for future taxation purposes, an enrollment that required the taxpayer to personally submit required information. Because both Joseph and Mary were descendants of King David, they were required to make the journey to Bethlehem, which was King David’s hometown. It is also possible that Joseph owned property in Bethlehem, further mandating him to register in Bethlehem. Ancient prophets had testified that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, in the land of Jerusalem (see Micah 5:2; Alma 7:10).

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New Testament Student Manual

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foreordained mission of John the Baptist, as announced by Gabriel and prophesied by Zacharias. [Luke 3](#) then records how John fulfilled his mission to prepare others to receive the Savior, and it preserves some of John’s teachings not recorded anywhere else in scripture.

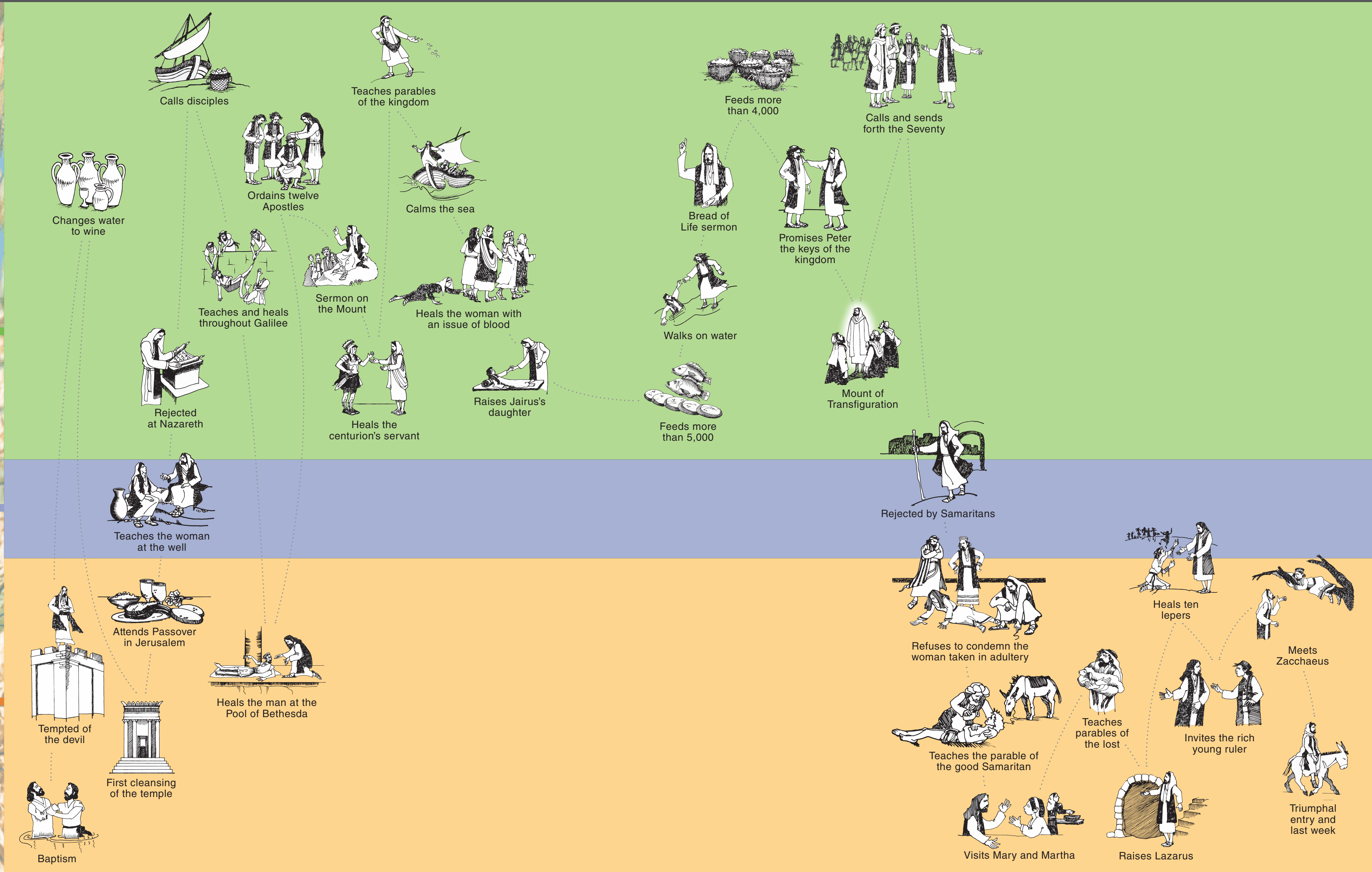
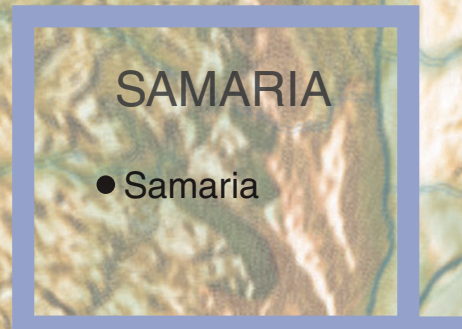


1. The angel Gabriel announced the birth of John the Baptist, and John was born in Judea.
2. The angel Gabriel announced the birth of Jesus Christ, and Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
3. Joseph and Mary presented the infant Jesus at the temple in Jerusalem.
4. Jesus Christ taught at the temple in Jerusalem at 12 years of age.
5. John the Baptist ministered in the wilderness of Judea.
6. Jesus Christ was baptized in the Jordan River.



Feedback

The Mortal Ministry of Jesus Christ at a Glance





Nazareth

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

He goes about His Father's business.

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New Testament Institute Manual

Travelers typically stayed at quarters known as caravansaries, which were rectangular structures with open rooms overlooking a central courtyard, where the travelers' animals were kept. The Joseph Smith Translation indicates there was no room for Mary and Joseph in the "inns" at Bethlehem (Luke 2:7, footnote b). It is therefore likely that there were no openings in the rooms of the caravansaries, and on the night of the Savior's birth, the couple was required to stay in the crowded courtyard of a caravansary—where the travelers' animals, including donkeys, dogs, oxen, and camels, were kept.



Ezekiel 16:4

And as for thy nativity, in the day thou wast born thy navel was not cut, neither wast thou washed in water to supple thee; thou wast not salted at all, nor swaddled at all.



The Manger

The manger (from Anglo-French mangure meaning “to eat” - *Merriam-Webster Dictionary*), was a stone trough for animals to eat from. There is an interesting image here - Jesus is presented to us to symbolically feast upon, to consume. He is given to us as a heavenly gift to nourish and to become a part of us. There is also a sacramental element as we think of partaking of the tokens of his holy sacrifice.



Elder Bruce D. Porter

“His birth, like his life, teaches us that there is nothing wrong with humble origins, with poverty, simplicity, and obscurity. There is nothing to be ashamed of in being outcast from society, in being forced to dwell apart from the world, literally or figuratively. Poverty is no disgrace, and a shelter for animals may be a temple of God’s spirit as surely as any more elegant dwelling. ... Christ’s birth and simple upbringing are a reminder to us that we must never look down on anyone because of their origins or worldly status. If we scorn the humble, we may unwittingly scorn the chosen of God’s children on the earth” (The King of Kings [2000], 26).

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Savior - in the original Greek the word used for Savior also means deliverer or preserver. In Greek, the name "Jesus" means "savior".

Christ - the Greek version of Messiah - an Aramaic word meaning "the anointed." Used as the title of an office, it denotes the King and Deliverer [of the Jews]. (BD-Messiah).

Lord - The Greek ("Kyrios") is the term used throughout the Septuagint to translate the tetragrammaton, God's holy name (Heb. "YHWH"). (New Oxford Annotated Bible)

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President Boyd K. Packer

“It is not wise to continually talk of unusual spiritual experiences. They are to be guarded with care and shared only when the Spirit itself prompts you to use them to the blessing of others. ...

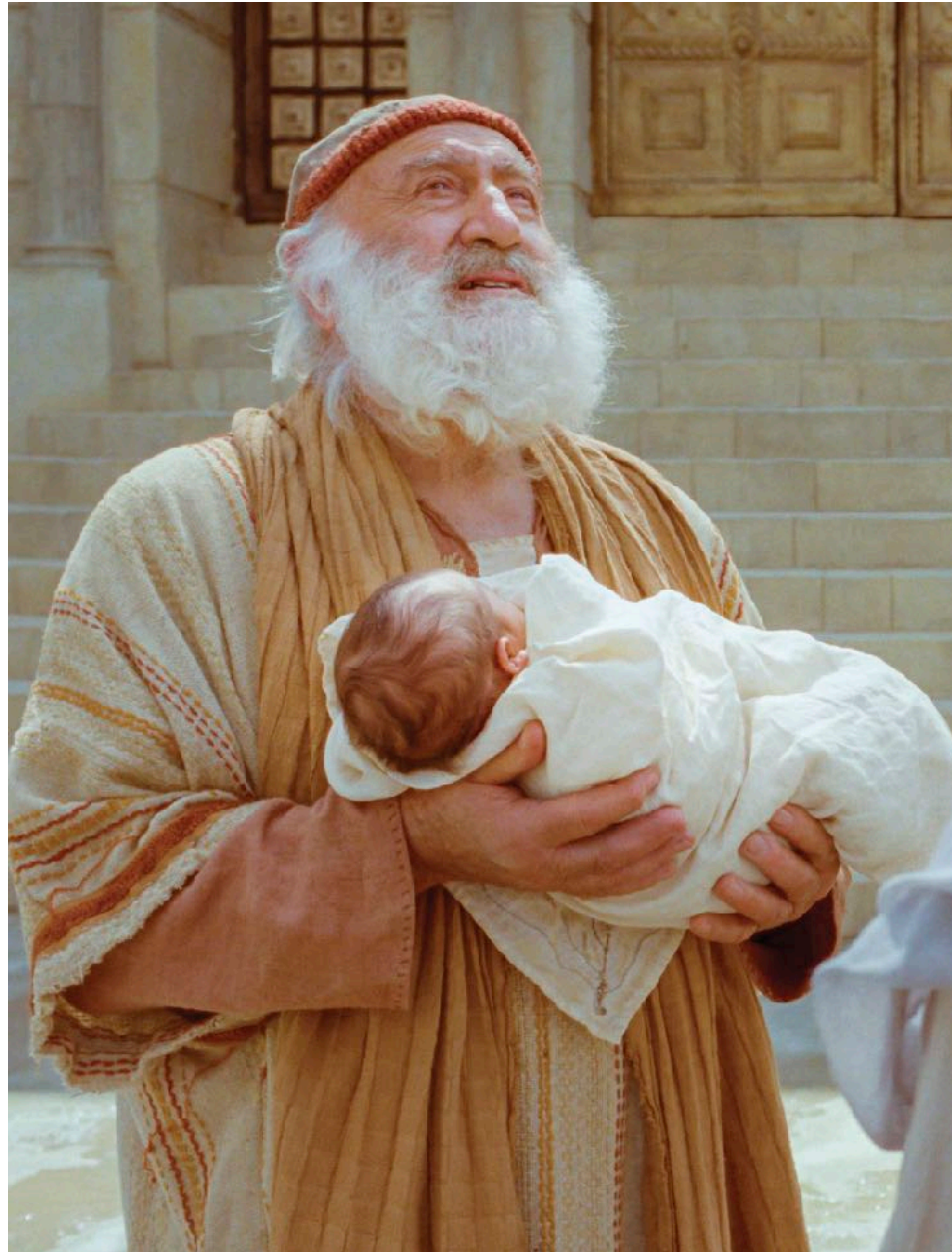
“I heard President Marion G. Romney once counsel mission presidents and their wives ... , ‘I found out that if I talked too lightly of sacred things, thereafter the Lord would not trust me.’

“We are, I believe, to keep these things and ponder them in our hearts, as Luke said Mary did of the supernal events that surrounded the birth of Jesus” (*“The Candle of the Lord,” Ensign, Jan. 1983, 53*).

Luke 2:21–24

After Jesus's birth, Mary and Joseph presented Him at the temple in accordance with Jewish law (see Exodus 13:2). As an aside, Mary and Joseph's offering indicates that they were not particularly wealthy. A new mother was to bring a lamb for a burnt offering. But as Leviticus 12:5-6 tells us: "And if she be not able to bring a lamb, then she shall bring two turtles [turtledoves], or two young pigeons". And this is what Mary brought.





ing to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of ^aturtledoves, or two young pigeons.

25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name *was* Simeon; and the same man *was* just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

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Gaye Strathearn

“In the ancient world, as in the modern, the fundamental purpose for attending the temple was and is to enter the presence of God. Thus, Elder Bruce R. McConkie describes the temple as “a holy sanctuary, set apart from the world, wherein the saints of God prepare to meet their Lord; where the pure in heart shall see God, according to the promises.” Yet, on this day, Anna was one of only two people, as Luke recorded, who recognized the presence of God.

*(“He that Hath the Scriptures, Let Him Search Them,”
Religious Educator, Apr. 2001).*

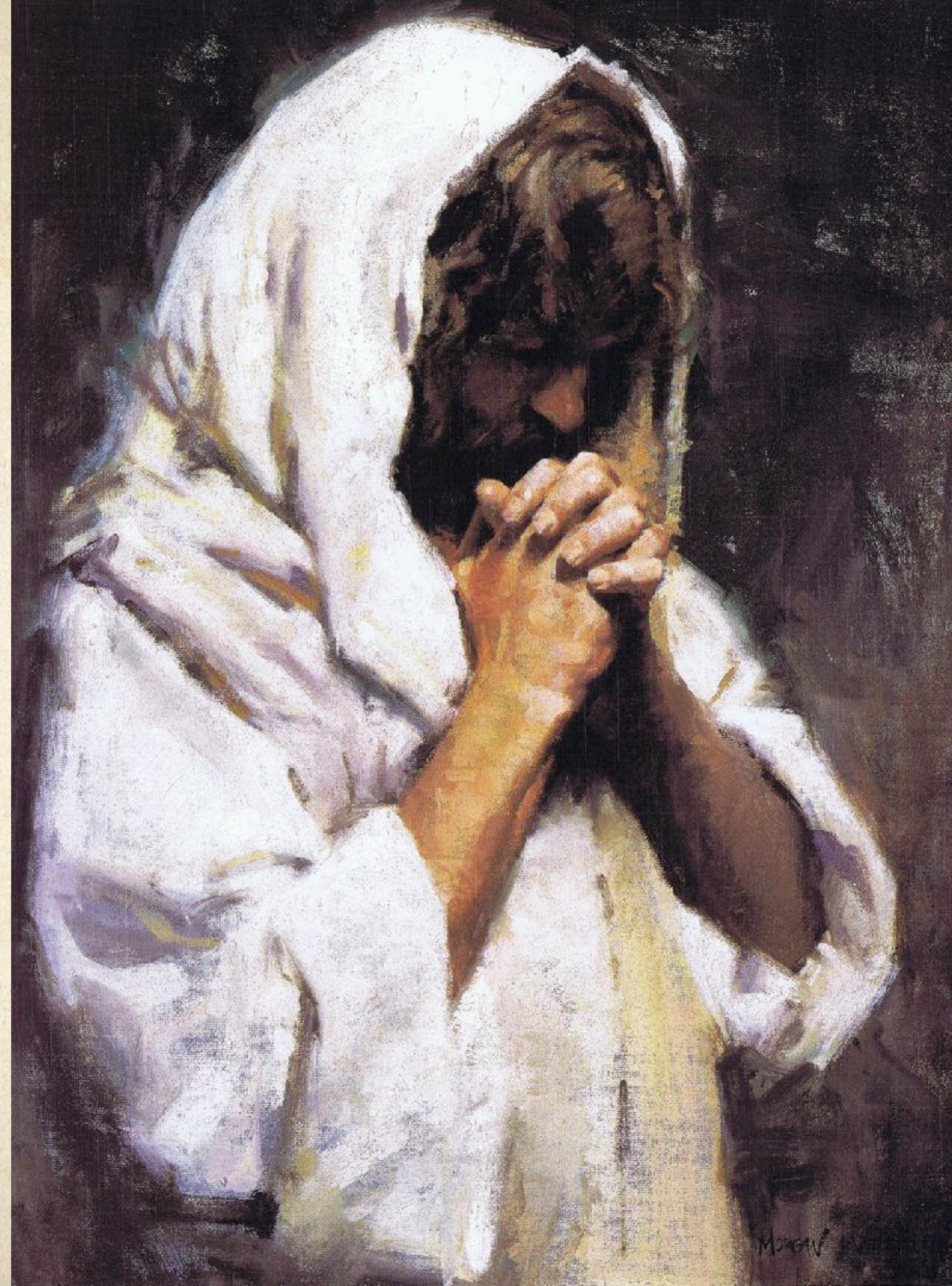
President Dallin H. Oaks

“Anna and Simeon were eyewitnesses to the infant, but, just like the [Savior’s] Apostles, their knowledge of his divine mission came through the witness of the Holy Ghost. ‘The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.’ (Rev. 19:10.) Therefore, we can properly say that when each received this witness, Simeon was a prophet and Anna was a prophetess. Each then fulfilled the prophetic duty to testify to those around them. As Peter said, ‘To [Christ] give all the prophets witness.’ (Acts 10:43.) This was what Moses meant when he expressed the wish ‘that all the Lord’s people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit upon them!’ (Num. 11:29.)” (“Witnesses of Christ,” GC Oct. 1990, Ensign, Nov. 1990, 30).

Russell M. Nelson

“The most important truth the Holy Ghost will ever witness to you is that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

(Russell M. Nelson, “Revelation for the Church, Revelation for Our Lives,” GC April 2018, Ensign or Liahona, May 2018, 96)





Matthew 2

Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not willing to make her a publick ^aexample, ^bwas minded to ^cput her away privily.

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a ^adream, saying, Joseph, thou son of ^bDavid, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the ^cHoly Ghost.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his ^aname ^bJESUS: for he shall ^csave his people from their sins.

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23 ^aBehold, a ^bvirgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his ^cname ^aEmmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his ^awife:

25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her ^afirstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

CHAPTER 2

The wise men are directed by a star to Jesus—Joseph takes the child to Egypt—Herod slays the children in

Bethlehem—Jesus is taken to Nazareth to dwell.

Now when Jesus was ^aborn in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

2 Saying, ^aWhere is he that is born ^bKing of the Jews? for we have seen his ^cstar in the east, and are come to ^dworship him.

3 When Herod the king had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 ^aAnd when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he ^bdemanded of them where Christ should be born.

5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet,

6 And thou ^aBethlehem, *in* the land of ^bJuda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a ^cGovernor, that shall ^drule my people Israel.

7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found *him*, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went

The Visit of the Wise Men

before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

11 ¶ And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and ^afrankincense, and myrrh.

12 And being warned of God in a ^adream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of ^aEgypt have I called my son.

16 ¶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was ^amocked of the wise men, ^bwas exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and ^cslew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the ^dcoasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.

17 Then was fulfilled that which

was spoken by ^aJeremy the prophet, saying,

18 In ^aRama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great ^bmourning, Rachel weeping *for* her ^cchildren, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

19 ¶ But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a ^adream to Joseph in Egypt,

20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the ^aland of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.

21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judæa in the ^aroom of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a ^bdream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:

23 And he came and dwelt in a city called ^aNazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was ^bspoken by the prophets, He shall be called a ^cNazarene.

CHAPTER 3

John the Baptist preaches in Judæa—Jesus is baptized, and the Father claims Him as His Beloved Son.

In those days came ^aJohn the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judæa,

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The Return to Nazareth

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4a JST Matt. 3:4–6 (Appendix).
b GR inquired

Herod Kills the Children The Flight to Egypt

11a Lev. 2:1.
12a TG Dream.
15a TG Jesus Christ,

TG Dream.
20a TG Israel, Land of.
22a GR place.

D&C 33:10.
b Luke 10:9.
TG Kingdom of God, in Heaven Kingdom of

Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not willing to make her a publick ^aexample, ^bwas minded to ^cput her away privily.

20 But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a ^adream, saying, Joseph, thou son of ^bDavid, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the ^cHoly Ghost.

21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his ^aname ^bJESUS: for he shall ^csave his people from their sins.

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23 ^aBehold, a ^bvirgin shall be with

Bethlehem—Jesus is taken to Nazareth to dwell.

Now when Jesus was ^aborn in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

2 Saying, ^aWhere is he that is born ^bKing of the Jews? for we have seen his ^cstar in the east, and are come to ^dworship him.

3 When Herod the king had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 ^aAnd when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he ^bdemanded of them where Christ should be born.

5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet,

6 And thou ^aBethlehem, *in* the land

ESV Study Bible Commentary

“The wise men would likely have been familiar with Old Testament prophecy through interaction with Jews in Babylon, and they may have remembered Balaam's prophecy that “A star shall come out of Jacob and a scepter shall rise out of Israel” (Numbers 24:17). This was understood by Jews to point to a Messianic deliverer (e.g., Dead Sea Scrolls, Damascus Document 7:18-21; Testimonia 9-13)... The wise men likely traveled with a large number of attendants and guards for the long journey, which would have taken several weeks. For example, if they had come from Babylon by the main trade route of about 800 miles, averaging 20 miles per day, the trip would have taken about 40 days.”

ESV Study Bible Commentary

“The movement of the star in verse 9 suggests that it is not a natural phenomenon (e.g., a comet, supernova, or conjunction of planets) but was supernatural, perhaps a guiding angel that appeared as a star or perhaps some specially created heavenly phenomenon that had the brightness of a star.”

Numbers 24:17

I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel...



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5 And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet,

6 And thou ^aBethlehem, *in* the land of ^bJuda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a ^cGovernor, that shall ^arule my people Israel.

7 Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found *him*, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

9 When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went

before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

11 ¶ And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and ^afrankincense, and myrrh.

12 And being warned of God in a ^adream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled

was spoken by the prophet saying,

18 In ^aRamathaim, heard, lame, and great ^bmiracles, saying for her ^ccomfort.

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20 Saying, Arise, and take the child and his mother, and flee into the ^aland of Egypt, which I have said by the prophet.

21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Egypt.

22 But when Herod was dead, the angel said to Joseph, Arise, and take the child and his mother, and return into the land of Israel: for I have said by the prophet, saying, I will bring the child and his mother into the land of Israel.

23 And he arose, and took the child and his mother, and came into the city called ^aNazareth, that the words of the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, He shall be called a Nazarene.



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16 ¶ Then Herod, when he saw that he was ^amocked of the wise men, ^bwas exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and ^cslew all the chil-

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18 In ^aRama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great ^bmourning, Rachel weeping *for* her ^cchildren, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

19 ¶ But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a ^adream to Joseph in Egypt,

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Jeremiah 31:15. Jeremiah is using a personification of the mother of Israel (Rachel) mourning for their children who had been removed from the land and carried off into exile, leaving Israel no longer a nation but considered as dead. Like the exile, the attempt on Jesus' life was intended to wipe out the chosen one of God.



Coventry Carol

**“that woe is me, poor child,
for thee, and ever mourn and
may for thy parting neither
say nor sing, ‘bye bye, lully,
lullay.”**

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22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23 ^aBehold, a ^bvirgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his ^cname ^aEmmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

24 Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his ^awife:

25 And knew her not till she had brought forth her ^afirstborn son: and he called his name JESUS.

CHAPTER 2

The wise men are directed by a star to Jesus—Joseph takes the child to Egypt—Herod slays the children in

Bethlehem—Jesus is taken to Nazareth to dwell.

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The Visit of the Wise Men

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Nazareth

Jerusalem

Bethlehem

EGYPT

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claims Him as His Beloved Son.*

ESV Study Bible Commentary

Thus Matthew is saying that the Old Testament prophets foretold that the Messiah would be despised (Psalms 22:6; Isaiah 49:7; 53:3; cf. Daniel 9:26), comparable to the way in which the town of Nazareth was despised in the time of Jesus (cf. John 1:46; 7:41, 52).

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CHAPTER 3

*John the Baptist preaches in Judæa—
Jesus is baptized, and the Father ac-
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ESV Study Bible Commentary

Matthew may also have intended a word play connecting the word “Nazareth” to the Old Testament messianic prophecy in Isaiah 11:1, since “Nazareth” sounds like the word for “branch” in Hebrew, which was a designation for the Messiah.

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CHAPTER 3

*John the Baptist preaches in Judæa—
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claims Him as His Beloved Son.*

JST Matthew 3:24-26

24 And it came to pass that Jesus grew up with his brethren, and waxed strong, and waited upon the Lord for the time of his ministry to come.

25 And he served under his father, and he spake not as other men, neither could he be taught; for he needed not that any man should teach him.

26 And after many years, the hour of his ministry drew nigh.

Elder Bruce R. McConkie

“In our present state of spiritual understanding, it apparently is not intended that we have any appreciable knowledge of the life of Jesus prior to the commencement of his ministry. No doubt complete and full accounts will be available during the millennium, for in that day the Lord has promised to ‘reveal all things.’ (D. & C. 101:32.) Such knowledge as is now available, however, leads us to believe that the Son of Mary (1) participated in the normal activities and experiences of the time, and (2) was endowed with talents and spiritual capacities exceeding those of any other person who ever lived. That he was obedient and sinless is evident; yet, with it all, he was subject to the restrictions and testings of mortality, was in all points tempted as other men are (Heb. 2:10–18; [4:15]; 5:8–9), and having ‘continued from grace to grace,’ he finally (after the resurrection) ‘received a fulness of the glory of the Father,’ and perfected his own salvation. (D. & C. 93:6–16.)” (Doctrinal New Testament Commentary, 1:111).

A brown paper bag is centered in the image. The text "Luke 2" is written across the bag in a blue, cursive font. The bag is slightly wrinkled and has a soft shadow beneath it.

Luke 2

shalt go before the face of the Lord to ^aprepare his ways;

77 To give ^aknowledge of salvation unto his people by the ^bremission of their sins,

78 Through the ^atender mercy of our God; whereby the ^bdayspring from on high hath visited us,

79 To give ^alight to them that sit in ^bdarkness and *in* the shadow of ^cdeath, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

80 And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.

CHAPTER 2

Heavenly messengers herald the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem—He is circumcised, and Simeon and Anna prophesy of His mission—At twelve years of age, He goes about His Father's business.

AND it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all ^athe world should be ^btaxed.

2 (*And this ^ataxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.*)

3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called ^aBethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

5 To be taxed with Mary his ^aespoused wife, being great with child.

6 And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

7 And she brought forth her ^afirst-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the ^binn.

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the ^aglory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you ^agood tidings of great ^bjoy, which shall be to all people.

11 For unto you is ^aborn this day in the city of David a ^bSaviour, which is Christ the ^cLord.

12 And this *shall be* a ^asign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

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

14 ^aGlory to God in the highest, and on earth ^bpeace, good will toward men.

15 And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

16 And they came with ^ahaste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen *it*, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

The Shepherds and the Angels

18 And all they that heard *it* ^awondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and ^apondered *them* in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

21 And when eight days were accomplished for the ^acircumcising of the child, his name was called ^bJESUS, which was so ^cnamed of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

22 And when the days of her ^apurification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present *him* to the Lord;

23 (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the ^awomb shall be called holy to the Lord;)

24 And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of ^aturtledoves, or two young pigeons.

25 And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name *was* Simeon; and the same man *was* just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

26 And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

28 Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

29 Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

30 For mine eyes have seen thy ^asalvation,

31 Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

32 A ^alight ^bto lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

33 And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

34 And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this *child* is ^aset for the ^bfall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

35 (Yea, a sword shall ^apierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

36 And there was one Anna, a ^aprophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

37 And she *was* a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served *God* with ^afastings and prayers night and day.

38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for ^aredemption in Jerusalem.

39 And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

40 And the child grew, and ^awaxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the ^bgrace of God was upon him.

41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the ^afeast of the passover.

42 And when he was twelve years

76a Luke 1:17.

77a Luke 11:52.

b TG Remission of Sins.

78a 1 Ne. 1:20.

b GR dawn; see Mal. 4:2.

138:50 (50–51).

2 1a JST Luke 2:1 . . . *his*

empire should be taxed.

b GR enrolled, registered

(also vv. 3, 5).

b JST Luke 2:7 . . . *inns*.

9a TG God, Glory of.

10a TG Gospel.

b TG Joy.

11a TG Jesus Christ,

18a OR marveled.

19a TG Meditation

32a TG Jesus Christ, Light of

the World

36a TG Woman.

37a TG Fast, Fasting

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42 And when he was twelve years

old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

43 And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not *of it*.

44 But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among *their* kinsfolk and acquaintance.

45 And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the ^atemple, sitting in the midst of the ^bdoctors, ^cboth hearing them, and ^dasking them questions.

47 And all that heard him were astonished at his ^aunderstanding and answers.

48 And when they saw him, they

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New Testament Institute Manual

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that as a boy, Jesus Christ possessed superior intelligence to all mortals: “When still a boy He had all the intelligence necessary to enable Him to rule and govern the kingdom of the Jews, and could reason with the wisest and most profound doctors of law and divinity, and make their theories and practice to appear like folly compared with the wisdom He possessed” (in History of the Church, 6:608).



47 And all that heard him were astonished at his ^aunderstanding and answers.

48 And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

49 And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? ^awist ye not that I must be about my ^bFather's business?

50 And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

51 And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was ^asubject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her ^bheart.

52 And Jesus ^aincreased in ^bwisdom and stature, and in ^cfavour with God and man.

46a TG Temple.

b GB teachers

b TG Heart.

52a 1 Sam. 2:26; 3:10

Elder Cecil O. Samuelson Jr.

“Sometimes you might feel that your parents and leaders respond like Mary and Joseph did. After Jesus answered by asking His important question about His Father’s business, Luke records, ‘They understood not the saying which he spake unto them’ [Luke 2:50].

“Nevertheless, please pay close attention to what Jesus did! It is an example for what we must do if we are really to fulfill our duty to God. ‘And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them ...’ [Luke 2:51–52].

“You must remember that your duty to God is very clearly linked to your duties to your own family members, particularly your parents. It is not only in being properly subject or submissive to God, but also to parents and priesthood leaders, that we can truly fulfill our duty to God” (“Our Duty to God,” Oct 2001 GC, Ensign, Nov. 2001, 43).

Descriptions of Jesus' development:

- Develop wisdom.
- Develop physically - stature
- Develop spiritually - favour with God
- Develop socially - favour with man

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President Ezra Taft Benson

“What manner of man was Jesus during those thirty years when He was personally preparing Himself for His three-year public ministry? Turning to the book of Luke in the New Testament, we read these words: ‘And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.’ (Luke 2:52.)

“From modern-day revelation we learn that Jesus ‘received not of the fulness at first, but continued from grace to grace ... , until he received a fulness.’ (D&C 93:13.)

“We, too, should be moving from grace to grace in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man. ... May we all follow our leader, Jesus Christ, and increase in stature mentally, physically, spiritually, and socially” (“In His Steps,” Ensign, Sept. 1988, 4, 6).

THE NATIVITY

MATTHEW 1-2

- Genealogy: Abraham - David - Jesus
- Joseph sees an angel in a dream
- Jesus born in Bethlehem
- New star, wisemen, kingly gifts
- Joseph and Mary in a house
- Jesus more than a year old
- Joseph flees to Egypt
- Herod kills children
- Joseph returns
- Jesus grows up in Nazareth

LUKE 1-3

- Genealogy: Jesus to Adam
- John the Baptist
- Mary sees an angel
- Nazareth to Bethlehem
- Jesus born in Bethlehem
- Joseph and Mary in a manger
- Angels appear to shepherds
- Jesus brought to the temple
- Prophecies of Simeon & Anna
- Jesus grows up in Nazareth