

Ensure fellowship with God through 1 John 1:9

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

We are studying the Gospel of Matthew.

- Time gaps in both Matthew and Luke can be filled in by references to each other.

We've been studying the **seven events** in Luke 2:21-40.

- **1st event** of Luke 2:21-40 – **the circumcision and naming of Messiah** (verse 21)

Luke 2:21-22

(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.

(22) 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

- The circumcision had to be in accordance with the Abrahamic Covenant and the Mosaic Law (Gen 17:10-14 and Lev 12:1-8).

Genesis 17:10-14

(10) "This is My covenant, which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: every male among you shall be circumcised.

(11) "And you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskin, and it shall be the sign of the covenant between Me and you.

(12) "And every male among you who is eight days old shall be circumcised throughout your generations, a servant who is born in the house or who is bought with money from any foreigner, who is not of your descendants.

(13) "A servant who is born in your house or who is bought with your money shall surely be circumcised; thus shall My covenant be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.

(14) "But an uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant."

Leviticus 12:1-8

(1) Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

(2) "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying: 'When a woman gives birth and bears a male child, then she shall be unclean for seven days, as in the days of her menstruation she shall be unclean.

(3) 'On the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.

(4) 'Then she shall remain in the blood of her purification for thirty-three days; she shall not touch any consecrated thing, nor enter the sanctuary until the days of her purification are completed.

(5) 'But if she bears a female child, then she shall be unclean for two weeks, as in her menstruation; and she shall remain in the blood of her purification for sixty-six days.

(6) 'When the days of her purification are completed, for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the doorway of the tent of meeting a one year old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering.

(7) 'Then he shall offer it before the LORD and make atonement for her, and she shall be cleansed from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who bears a child, whether a male or a female.

(8) 'But if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, the one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean.'

Luke 2:21-40

(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.

- Next, there is a period of 33 days that transpire between verses 21 and 22

8th
Birth _____ 7 _____ 40
(Day 1) circ. 33 days Mary

- The 8th day – best day for circumcision due to level of Vitamin K needed for blood coagulation
 - The father gives the official naming of the baby after circumcision (probably in Bethlehem)
- The **2nd event** of Luke 2:21-40 – **Mary's purification**
- Done in accordance with Lev 12:1-8
 - She was supposed to offer a Lamb for a burnt offering and a turtledove for a sin offering.
 - Since Joseph and Mary were of humble means, the law allowed substitution of a turtledove for a lamb, thus two turtledoves were used.
 - Once Mary is purified, she is considered ceremonially clean.
 - Once clean, she could participate in the 3rd event - the redemption of the 1st born son.

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- The **3rd event** of Luke 2:21-40 – **The redemption of the first born son**

- Had to be done in accordance with Ex 13:1-16 and Deut 18:15-16
- The firstborn son was considered God's possession and had to be redeemed from God.
- The ceremony was very special and brought the Israelite all the way back to the Exodus.
- With the Exodus generation, God had destroyed all the firstborn of Egypt, but spared all the firstborn of Israel.
- This was a reminder that the firstborn belonged to God.
- God made a provision for the father to purchase his firstborn son back from the service of the Lord.

- After circumcision and naming, the priest at the temple was paid a price.
- Numbers 8:16– the payment price was 5 shekels of silver (Luke 2:22 and following).

Luke 2:22

(22) 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.

Exodus 13:1-16

(1) Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

(2) "Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me."

(3) Moses said to the people, "Remember this day in which you went out from Egypt, from the house of slavery; for by a powerful hand the LORD brought you out from this place. And nothing leavened shall be eaten.

(4) "On this day in the month of Abib, you are about to go forth.

(5) "It shall be when the LORD brings you to the land of the Canaanite, the Hittite, the Amorite, the Hivite and the Jebusite, which He swore to your fathers to give you, a land flowing with milk and honey, that you shall observe this rite in this month.

(6) "For seven days you shall eat unleavened bread, and on the seventh day there shall be a feast to the LORD.

(7) "Unleavened bread shall be eaten throughout the seven days; and nothing leavened shall be seen among you, nor shall any leaven be seen among you in all your borders.

(8) "You shall tell your son on that day, saying, 'It is because of what the LORD did for me when I came out of Egypt.'

(9) "And it shall serve as a sign to you on your hand, and as a reminder on your forehead, that the law of the LORD may be in your mouth; for with a powerful hand the LORD brought you out of Egypt.

(10) "Therefore, you shall keep this ordinance at its appointed time from year to year.

(11) "Now when the LORD brings you to the land of the Canaanite, as He swore to you and to your fathers, and gives it to you,

(12) you shall devote to the LORD the first offspring of every womb, and the first offspring of every beast that you own; the males belong to the LORD.

(13) "But every first offspring of a donkey you shall redeem with a lamb, but if you do not redeem it, then you shall break its neck; and every firstborn of man among your sons you shall redeem.

(14) "And it shall be when your son asks you in time to come, saying, 'What is this?' then you shall say to him, 'With a powerful hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of slavery.

(15) 'It came about, when Pharaoh was stubborn about letting us go, that the LORD killed every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both the firstborn of man and the firstborn of beast. Therefore, I sacrifice to the LORD the males, the first offspring of every womb, but every firstborn of my sons I redeem.'

(16) "So it shall serve as a sign on your hand and as phylacteries on your forehead, for with a powerful hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt."

Deuteronomy 18:15-16

(15) "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him.

(16) "This is according to all that you asked of the LORD your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, let me not see this great fire anymore, or I will die.'

- The **4th event** of Luke 2:21-40 – **Simeon’s recognition that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah**
 - Simeon is the priest who performs the ceremony of the redemption of the firstborn.
 - Luke 2:30 - Simeon, while holding the 8 week old child, says “my eyes have seen Your salvation.”
 - He is speaking to God in heaven, while he is holding the Son of God.
 - “Your salvation” – God’s deliverance of Israel from their oppressors in history
 - Luke 2:32 - **A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES** – a revelation to Gentile believers

Luke 2:25-35

- (25) And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.
- (26) 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.
- (27) 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,
- (28) then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,
- (29) "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word;
- (30) For my eyes have seen Your salvation,
- (31) Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
- (32) **A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES**, And the glory of Your people Israel."
- (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."

- The **5th event** of Luke 2:21-40 – **The widow Anna** (Corrected Translation: Hanna, from the rough breather in the Greek) **hears Simeon’s proclamation**
 - Results in further thanksgiving
 - Results in further proclamation to all those who were looking for the redemption of Israel
 - Israel is under Roman rule and it has been under foreign rule for 500-600 years.
 - She had served in the temple for many, many years (verse 36-37).
 - Not all of Israel was looking for redemption.
 - Most of the people who were looking for the redemption of Israel and the promised Messiah were believers of humble means, not the priests or temple workers.

Luke 2:36-40

- (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 **6th event** of Luke 2:21-40 – **Joseph and Mary return to Nazareth**, verse 39

(39) When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.

➤ The 7th **event** of Luke 2:21-40 – **The early years of Jesus Christ**

(40) The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Luke 2:39

(39) When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth

- “When they” – Joseph and Mary
- “Law of the Lord” – an all inclusive term for what God had commanded
 - The Abrahamic covenant
 - Circumcision of everyone born under his house for all generations
 - Servant or physical progeny
 - Mosaic Law - Mary’s purification & redemption of the 1st born son
- “They returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth”
 - “See Map” – Nazareth is approximately 65 miles from Jerusalem and Bethlehem
 - They did return there, but not for some time.
 - Luke does not cover the period of time described in Matthew 2:1-23.

To see the occurrence of the events and how they unfold, we must return to Matthew.

Matthew 1:24-25

(24) And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife,

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

- The angel confirms in Joseph’s dream that everything Mary had told him was true.
- Mary had only spent 3 months at the house of Zacharias and Elizabeth.
- She would not have been showing signs of pregnancy.
- Therefore, she must have told Joseph.
- Joseph wanted to send her off secretly because he didn’t know what else to do.
- Joseph apparently believed Mary had been faithful, and the angel confirms this.
- He was afraid.

The visit of the magi -

- We don’t know the number of magi or wise men.
- They all came from the east.
- The typical nativity depiction is not accurate; they did not come to the stable.

Matthew 2:1-23

(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."

(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.'"

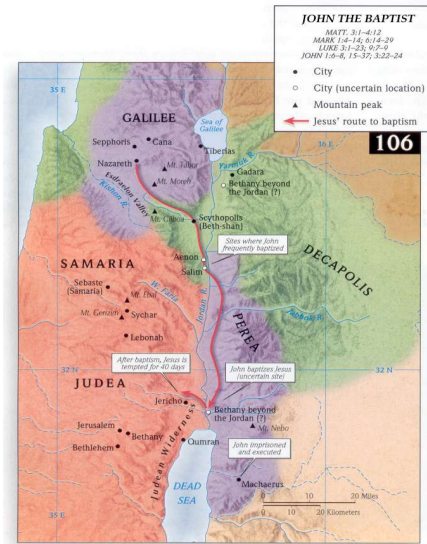
(7) Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared.
(8) And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him."
(9) After hearing the king, they went 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.

- Matthew was introducing Jesus as KING.
- A king deserves to be worshiped. That is what the magi are doing.
- Matthew emphasizes His right to rule as a King.
- Note – The magi came into the HOUSE (not an Inn).
- Joseph had secured a home in Bethlehem.

(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.
(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."
(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.**

- Herod was a monster who had his wife and members of his own family murdered.
- He murdered anyone who posed a threat to taking his throne.

(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."
(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."



MAP OF THE AREA

All Scriptures quoted are from New American Standard unless otherwise noted.