1. **THE BIRTH. Verses 1-20**
2. **The Powers of this World. (Verses 1-7)** Caesar Augustus was the Roman emperor at time of the birth. He was considered a god. Cyrenius, the governor of Syria, was a soldier who rose to great power. During this time, Caesar Augustus called for the collection of a new tax and because of the taxing everyone was required to return to his city of ancestry. Joseph and Mary traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem because they were of the lineage of David. The journey would have taken at least three days and was more difficult because the birth of Jesus Christ was imminent. They came to the inn at Bethlehem. It was known as Chimham’s inn (2 Samuel 19:37, Jeremiah 41:17). But Joseph found no vacancy and no sympathy at the inn. So, the child was born in the place where animals were kept. The whole scene consists of one terrible circumstance after another, but these things were in reality the result of providence (Galatians 4:4). And within Caesar’s domain in a despised obscure village was one born who was indeed God (Matthew 1:23).

**Jeremiah 41:17**,“And they departed, and dwelt in the habitation of Chimham, which is by Bethlehem…”

**Galatians 4:4**, “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,”

**Micah 5:2**, “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”

1. **The Princes of that World. (Verses 8-14)**
2. **The Herald from on High. (Verses 8-12)**  The angel of the Lord came with glad tidings and with the glory of the Lord. He did not bring the tidings to Caesar or Herod or the Pharisees or the scribes. He brought the news to shepherds as they watched their flock by night. However, these glad tidings were not merely for the shepherds, but for “all people.” They were naturally frightened and he said, “Fear not.” The angel of the Lord then gave his message, “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.” And he gave his unlikely audience an unlikely sign, “Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”
3. **The Host from on High. (Verses 13-14)** “Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” The news of this birth brought praises from the heavenly host while it hardly raised an eyebrow at Chimham’s inn.
4. **The People of their World. (Verses 15-20)** “The shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass. And they came with haste and found…the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.” This wonderful historic account illustrates conversion. An individual hears the revelation of God concerning the Lord Jesus Christ. He comes to Jesus with haste and finds the gospel to be true exactly as he was told. Then he makes known abroad the saying and lives his life glorifying God. Glory!
5. **THE BABE. Verses 21-38**
6. **The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Verses 21-24)** Our Lord’s first experience as a man was that of pain (Verse 21). He was circumcised and named on the eighth day (Genesis 17:12). Circumcision identified Jesus Christ as a member of the Jewish nation and the Abrahamic covenant. Ceremonial redemption (Numbers 18:16) was a fulfillment of the Law (Matthew 5:17). The “days of her purification” (Verse 22) consisted of forty days. So, sometime after forty days “they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord” (Exodus 13:12). Because Mary was ceremonially unclean, a sacrifice was required. The sacrifice required by the Law was a lamb (Leviticus 12:2,6), but, in the case of the poor, a pair of doves or pigeons were accepted. Mary was ceremonially cleansed by a sacrifice acceptable for the poor.

**Genesis 17:12**, “And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not of thy seed.”

1. **The Proclamations about Jesus in the Temple. (Verses 25-38)**
2. **The Words of the Prophet Simeon. (Verses 25-35)**
3. **The Man. (Verses 25-26)** “And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon” and he was truly a man. He was not the modern Hollywood type, but “was just and devout.” Additionally, he believed God and he was “waiting for the consolation of Israel.” The Holy Ghost was upon him (Verse 25) and the Holy Ghost inspired him (Verse 26). “And it was revealed unto him…that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.”
4. **The Moment. (Verses 27-28)** The day came when he was led “by the Spirit into the temple” and he saw “the child Jesus.” Joseph and Mary had brought him “to do for him after the custom of the law.” Simeon took the child in his arms and blessed God!
5. **The Message. (Verses 29-35)** Simeon was ready to depart this life in peace because he had believed God and God’s will for him had been completed. That’s the very best way to enter eternity. Simeon’s message concerned the “consolation of Israel” but he also remembered Isaiah 42:6. This salvation was not just for Israel; it was for the Gentiles as well. Simeon’s comments to Mary hint at Israel’s rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Note the modern revision of Luke 2:33.
6. **The Words of the Prophetess Anna. (Verses 36-38)** Anna married young (which was common) and was widowed young. Now “she was of a great age” having been a widow for eighty-four years. During her time as a widow, she served God with the difficult ministry of “fastings and prayers.” When Anna happened upon this scene (Ruth 2:3), she knew that the time for fastings had concluded and the time of thanksgiving had begun. The shepherds, Simeon and Anna present a “threefold cord” of testimony (Ecclesiastes 4:12).

**Isaiah 42:6**, “I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;”

**Luke 2:33** (NASB) “And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him.”

**III. THE BOY. Verses 39-52**

1. **Where He Lived. (Verses 39-40)** Joseph and Mary returned “to their own city Nazareth.” In this unsavory village (John 1:46) the child Jesus “grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.” He lived in a simple home with brothers and sisters (Mark 6:3) who frequently demonstrated the Adamic nature. Jesus had no such nature and there has never been another such boy.
2. **What He Loved. (Verses 41-50)**
3. **His Father’s Building. (Verses 41-47)** At age twelve, Jesus accompanied his family to Jerusalem to observe his first Passover. He went with great anticipation and “when they had fulfilled the (eight) days…the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem.” The “doctors…were astonished at his understanding.” However, Joseph and Mary were very anxious when they discovered Jesus missing.
4. **His Father’s Business. (Verses 48-50)** After three days of searching, Mary said, “Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.” The Lord Jesus corrected her immediately, “How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?” His father’s business was not carpentry, but the work of a cross. Mary and Joseph failed to understand him and this incident runs contrary to Rome’s exaltation of Mary.
5. **What He Learned. (Verses 51-52)**
6. **His Submission Described (Verse 51)** Jesus returned to Nazareth with his family. He entered his thirteenth year and the normal rebellion of adolescence. NO! He “was subject unto them.” Jesus corrected his mother’s statement in verse forty-nine, but he never disrespected her.
7. **His Stature Described. (Verse 52)** The Lord Jesus would remain a humble carpenter in Nazareth for the next eighteen years. He grew physically in “stature” and he grew spiritually in “wisdom.” He gained “favour with God and man.”

**Hebrews 5:8**, “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;”

**The last place to look for a carpenter’s son was among the doctors in the Temple.**

**Jesus had a consciousness of God’s will at twelve years old.**

**JOSEPH AND MARY LOST JESUS**

 1. They lost him in a religious meeting.

 2. They lost him and they didn’t know it.

 3. They lost him in one day.

 (It took three days to find him.)

 4. They lost him; he didn’t lose them.

 5. The lost brought fear and sorrow.

1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

2 Peter 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

John 15:4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.

John 15:10 If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.