



CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Jesus' Temple Testimony

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Tom McCullough / PO Box 503, Granville, OH. 43023/ tom.mccullough@capitolcom.org / www.capitolcom.org.

In the Gospel According to Luke (AD 60-61), Luke is writing to Theophilus so the he would know the exact truth and record regarding the things he had been taught about Jesus the Messiah. Luke communicates eyewitness accounts and carefully researches all that has been taught and handed down about Jesus (1:1-4). Luke's account does not mirror all accounts that are covered other gospels. Likewise, Dr. Luke covers and records accounts that other Gospels do not record including the visitation of the shepherds, 1st visit to the temple, Simeon's testimony and Anna's testimony. Only Luke records the 30 years prior to the beginning of Jesus' ministry. What does Luke record about the childhood of Jesus, the 12 old Jesus, and the 18 years of adolescence to adulthood?

"The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him. Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast; and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it, but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him. Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You." And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?" But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men." (Luke 2:40-52 NASB)

Birth to 12 years, Jesus grew. While the Gospel of Matthew shares Jesus as the King of the Jews and includes the visit of the Magi and subsequently the flight of Joseph, Mary and Jesus to Egypt (Mt 2:1-18), Luke's focus is on Jesus the Perfect Man and Redeemer. What did Jesus do from birth to 12 years old? He grew, became strong, and increased in wisdom. Jesus grew physically, mentally and spiritually because the Grace of God was upon Him.

While Joseph, Mary and Jesus fled to Egypt, they were faithful and returned to Jerusalem each year to celebrate the Feast of the Passover, a one-day event followed by the week-long Feast of the Unleavened Bread.

After spending over a week in Jerusalem, Joseph and Mary and began to return to Galilee along with their relatives and acquaintances. Tradition order of travel in large groups placed the children in front, women next and men last. Joseph and Mary traveled a day distance and discovered that Jesus was not in the caravan. Each likely thinking that He was with the other or with a relative or friend. Joseph and Mary traveled a day back to Jerusalem and searched for Jesus for a day; a total of 3 days (v 46). Where did they find Jesus?

Amazing Jesus, in the temple. Joseph and Mary found Jesus in the temple, "sitting in the midst of the teachers" (v 46). Jesus was respectful and listened and asked questions of the teachers. Jesus had grown in wisdom (v 40) and that wisdom was evident to the teachers from the questions He asked, to the answers He gave. All were amazed. Mary was upset and asked Jesus why He treated her and His father, Joseph, this way?

In My Father's house. Jesus, in a respectful manner, responded that they should have known that He would be in His Father's house. Mary and Joseph did not understand the response of Jesus. However, with this response, young Jesus is revealing that He understands who He is and His mission. He is the Son of God, His Father and His mission was to "be about His Father's business" (v 49 KJV).

Jesus continued to be subject to Joseph and Mary. Jesus, at ages 12-30 years old, was obedient to the 5th commandment and lived in subjection to Joseph and Mary. His relationship with His Heavenly Father did not override His responsibility to be in subjection to His earthly parents. What additionally, happened from age 12 to 30 years old?

Jesus grew in wisdom. While Jesus was wise at 12, He continued to grow in wisdom. Additionally, as fully man He grew physically or in stature. Jesus also grew or found favor with God (spiritually) and with men (socially). In mind, body and spirit, Jesus was growing perfectly.

Jesus' perfect testimony. Prior to the beginning of Jesus' adult public ministry, Luke provides numerous testimonies of Jesus' identity as the Savior and Messiah and from creditable witnesses including: Zacharias, Elizabeth, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, Simeon and Anna. Luke also provides the ultimate creditable witness and testimony of Jesus himself. Jesus was and is the Son of God and was and is about His Father's business (v 49).

For Your Consideration:

- Are you growing in knowledge and wisdom of Jesus the Christ, Savior and Messiah? What's your testimony?

BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS: SESSION OR HEARING WEDNESDAYS AT 7:30AM, STATEHOUSE RM. 44

STAFF, LOBBYISTS AND CAPITOL SQUARE COMMUNITY: WEDNESDAYS AT NOON, STATEHOUSE RM.44