

**Text Outline                      Luke 2:8-40**

- I.     <sup>8</sup>And there were**
- A.     shepherds**
1.     **living out in the fields nearby,**
  2.     **keeping watch over their flocks at night.**
- B.     <sup>9</sup>An angel of the Lord**
1.     **appeared to them,**
  2.     **and the glory of the Lord shone around them,**
  3.     **and they were terrified.**
- C.     <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them,**
1.     **“Do not be afraid.**
  2.     **I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.**
  3.     <sup>11</sup>**Today**
    - a)     *in the town of David*
      - (1)     a Savior has been born to you;
      - (2)     he is the Messiah,
      - (3)     the Lord.
    - b)     <sup>12</sup>*This will be a sign to you:*
      - (1)     You will find a baby wrapped in cloths
      - (2)     and lying in a manger.”
- D.     <sup>13</sup>Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host**
1.     **appeared with the angel,**
  2.     **praising God**
  3.     **and saying,**
    - a)     <sup>14</sup>*“Glory to God in the highest heaven,*
    - b)     *and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”*
- II.    <sup>15</sup>When**
- A.     the angels**
1.     **had left them**
  2.     **and gone into heaven,**
- B.     the shepherds**
1.     **said to one another,**
    - a)     *“Let’s go to Bethlehem*
    - b)     *and see this thing that has happened,*
    - c)     *which the Lord has told us about.”*
  2.     <sup>16</sup>**So they**

- a) *hurried off*
      - b) *and found*
        - (1) Mary
        - (2) and Joseph,
        - (3) and the baby, who was lying in the manger.
    - 3. <sup>17</sup> **When**
      - a) *they*
        - (1) had seen him,
        - (2) they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,
      - b) <sup>18</sup> *and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.*
  - C. <sup>19</sup> **But Mary**
    - 1. **treasured up all these things**
    - 2. **and pondered them in her heart.**
  - D. <sup>20</sup> **The shepherds returned,**
    - 1. **glorifying**
    - 2. **and praising God for all the things they had**
      - a) *heard*
      - b) *and seen,*
      - c) *which were just as they had been told.*
- III. <sup>21</sup> **On the eighth day,**
  - A. **when it was time to circumcise the child,**
    - 1. **he was named Jesus,**
    - 2. **the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.**
  - B. <sup>22</sup> **When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses,**
    - 1. **Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem**
      - a) *to present him to the Lord*
      - b) <sup>23</sup> *(as it is written in the Law of the Lord,*
        - (1) “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”),
        - (2) <sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord:
          - (a) *“a pair of doves*
          - (b) *or two young pigeons.”*
  - 2. <sup>25</sup> **Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon,**

**a) who was**

- (1) righteous
- (2) and devout.

**b) He**

- (1) was waiting for the consolation of Israel,
- (2) and the Holy Spirit was on him.
- (3) <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit
  - (a) *that he would not die*
  - (b) *before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.*
- (4) <sup>27</sup> Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts.

**c) When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,**

- (1) <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms
- (2) and praised God, saying:
  - (a) <sup>29</sup> *"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.*
  - (b) <sup>30</sup> *For my eyes have seen*
    - (i) *your salvation,*
    - (ii) <sup>31</sup> *which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:*
      - (a) <sup>32</sup> *a light for revelation to the Gentiles,*
      - (b) *and the glory of your people Israel."*

**d) <sup>33</sup> The child's father and mother**

- (1) marveled at what was said about him.
- (2) <sup>34</sup> Then Simeon
  - (a) *blessed them*
  - (b) *and said to Mary, his mother:*
    - (i) *"This child is destined to cause*
      - (a) *the falling*
      - (b) *and rising of many in Israel,*
    - (ii) *and to be a sign that will be spoken against,*
    - (iii) <sup>35</sup> *so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.*
    - (iv) *And a sword will pierce your own soul too."*

**3. <sup>36</sup> There was also a prophet,**

- a) *Anna,*  
(1) the daughter of Penuel,  
(2) of the tribe of Asher.
- b) *She*  
(1) was very old;  
(2) she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,  
(3) <sup>37</sup> and then was a widow until she was eighty-four.  
(4) She never left the temple  
(5) but worshiped  
(a) *night*  
(b) *and day,*  
(c) *fasting*  
(d) *and praying.*
- c) <sup>38</sup> *Coming up to them at that very moment,*  
(1) she gave thanks to God  
(2) and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

**4. <sup>39</sup> When Joseph and Mary**

- a) *had done everything required by the Law of the Lord,*  
b) *they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.*  
c) <sup>40</sup> *And the child*  
(1) grew  
(2) and became strong;  
(3) he was filled with wisdom,  
(4) and the grace of God was on him.

## Conceptual Outline

### Theme: Jesus is the Savior, Messiah, the Lord of the World

- I. **The Angels announce the birth of the Savior to shepherds**
  - A. the shepherds were performing their normal duty by night
  - B. An angel appeared to them
  - C. the angel gave specifics about Jesus' birth
    - 1. **in the town of David**
      - a) *Jesus was called Savior*
      - b) *Messiah*
      - c) *Lord*
    - 2. **sign**
      - a) *baby wrapped in cloths*
      - b) *lying in a manger*
  - D. a great company of heavenly host praising God
- II. **The shepherds as eye-witnesses of the Savior**
  - A. the angels' departure
  - B. **Shepherds' decision & actions to see what the Lord has told them**
    - 1. **finding Mary, Joseph, & the baby, lying in the manger**
    - 2. **they spread the word & all were amazed**
  - C. **Mary treasured up & pondered these things**
  - D. **Shepherds return praising God**
- III. **At His circumcision,**
  - A. **Jesus was named**
  - B. **Joseph & Mary presented Jesus in Jerusalem**
  - C. **Simeon's affirmation & prophecy**
    - 1. **Simeon's devotion to God**
    - 2. **the Holy Spirit's revelation that Simeon will see the Lord's Messiah before his death**
    - 3. **Simeon's prayer upon meeting the child Jesus**
      - a) *God may dismiss him in peace now*
      - b) *His eyes have seen*
        - (1) God's salvation
        - (2) a light of revelation to the Gentiles
        - (3) the glory of Israel
    - 4. **Simeon's prophecy**

- a) *destined to cause the falling & rising of many in Israel (salvation or condemnation)*
- b) *be a sign that's spoken against (the cross a sign of shame & salvation)*
- c) *thoughts of many hearts will be revealed (sin will be revealed)*
- d) *a sword will pierce Mary's soul (His death will cause pain to Mary's soul)*

**D. Anna's prophecy**

1. **Anna's devotion to God**
2. **introduced Jesus as the Redeemer to all who were looking forward to redemption**

**E. Jesus' childhood**

1. **return to Galilee to Nazareth**
2. **grew to be strong**
3. **filled with wisdom**
4. **the grace of God was on him**

## Questions:

1. If you were to use no more than 10 words to describe Jesus, what would you say about Him?

From this record of Jesus' birth, we will hear from early eyewitnesses about Jesus' identity and His mission. May our knowledge of Him lead us to worshipping Him and sharing about Him in our daily lives.

Read Luke 2:8-40

2. Vs 8-20 is one of the most popular nativity scenes. When the angel came to announce Jesus' birth to the shepherds, what was the setting? What were the shepherds doing? What did they see? How did they respond to what they saw? Why would they be afraid? How did the angel calm the shepherds' nerves? What can we learn from the shepherds about doing ordinary things & about encountering extraordinary events?
3. What else did the angel tell them? What titles did they use to introduce Jesus? What does each of the title mean? What was the scope of His influence? Why is this birth considered a "good news that will cause great joy" (v. 10)? What additional information can we glean from the heavenly praise? As we studied in Mt 2, there was very little peace politically at that time, what is the kind of peace that the angels referred to? Who will be their recipients?
4. The titles belonging to Jesus were quite spectacular. How about the sign that were used to recognize Him? Why is this sign so ordinary & the audience so lowly? How did the shepherds respond to the news they heard and seen? How did their news affect their hearers? Luke specifically recorded Mary's reaction. What was it like? How did her response help further His Kingdom?
5. As we approach Christmas, do you have joy & peace? Knowing that Jesus will offer you His peace, what do you need to do to seek His favor? Would you acknowledge Him to be your personal Savior, Messiah, and Lord? What would you do with this news?

Read vs. 21-40

6. What is the next ordinary event recorded in this passage? Why did Joseph & Mary took Jesus to the temple? What specific rites & customs were addressed? Why does the Lord need to abide by the Law, rites, & customs? How did God show us that He's pleased with what Joseph & Mary did?
7. How does Luke describe Simeon, his character, & his purpose in life? How did God make this ordinary day in this devout man extraordinary?
8. Who was the next ordinary person was blessed with meeting the Lord? How is Anna described as to her character, role, and purpose in life?
9. What distinguished both Anna & Simeon from all others at the temple that they should be so blessed? There're great parallels about them "qualifying" them to such honor. How do they differ that they would both be chosen and mentioned in the Bible? From God's choices of honored guests, what can you conclude about the God's character and how we can please Him?

10. What did Simeon & Anna prophesized about Jesus, His mission, the scope of His influence, and the impact on people? Now let's make a list of all the references to Jesus that has been revealed in this passage. What aspect about Jesus that you appreciate most or need most? Is there any that you fear? How would you seek for Jesus this Christmas? Would you set aside time to pray & worship Him? If so, when?

## Questions and Potential Answers:

1. If you were to use no more than 10 words to describe Jesus, what would you say about Him?

From this record of Jesus' birth, we will hear from early eyewitnesses about Jesus' identity and His mission. May our knowledge of Him lead us to worshipping Him and sharing about Him in our daily lives.

Read Luke 2:8-40

2. Vs 8-20 is one of the most popular nativity scenes. When the angel came to announce Jesus' birth to the shepherds, what was the setting? What were the shepherds doing?

- The shepherds were in a field near Bethlehem at night
- They were doing their everyday type of job, watching their flocks

What did they see? How did they respond to what they saw?

- They saw an angel & the glory of the Lord shone around them.
- They were terrified.

Why would they be afraid?

- This is an unexpected event, rather extraordinary. Bright light shone in the night. Something might be wrong. When sinners meet God & His holiness, fear of sins being revealed & judged would terrify them.

How did the angel calm the shepherds' nerves?

- They told them not to be afraid & the purpose of their visit was to tell good news.

What can we learn from the shepherds about doing ordinary things & about encountering extraordinary events?

- As we're faithful in doing event ordinary things, God can reveal to us extraordinary things & makes His will clear to us.
- He does not despise our being ordinary or lowly.

3. What else did the angel tell them?

- They announced the birth of Jesus.

What titles did they use to introduce Jesus? What does each of the title mean?

- Savior – saving us from the punishment of sin, rescuing us from troubles
- Messiah – the Anointed One, King, the promised One who will be our King. He'll fight on our behalf and He'll win our victory. He will be our Protector.
- Lord – Master, Ruler, Boss - He will guide & direct our path. He'll show us the way to life the life that God has intended for His creatures.

What was the scope of His influence?

- The whole earth v.14

Why is this birth considered a "good news that will cause great joy"( v. 10)?

- This is the long awaited fulfillment of God's promise since Adam & Eve sinned. Now, finally, sin can be dealt with. Man can be freed from its bondage & can start to live life as God created it to be. We'll no longer be separated from God. Without Christ's birth, man will have no hope. This is mystery that O.T. prophets & even angels longed for.

I Peter 1:10-12 <sup>10</sup>Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, <sup>11</sup>trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of the Messiah and the glories that would follow. <sup>12</sup>It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things."

What additional information can we glean from the heavenly praise? As we studied in Mt 2, there was very little peace politically at that time, what is the kind of peace that the angels referred to? Who will be their recipients?

- Christ's coming is to make peace between God & man. This peace is worldwide & will rest on whom God favors. It's His choice.

4. The titles belonging to Jesus were quite spectacular. How about the sign that were used to recognize Him?

- v. 12 - "a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." The sign is an ordinary baby in a lowly manger.

Why is this sign so ordinary & the audience so lowly?

- God goes to the extreme to show us how low and humble He'd go to reach and relate to us.

How did the shepherds respond to the news they heard and seen? How did their news affect their hearers? Luke specifically recorded Mary's reaction. What was it like? How did her response help further His Kingdom?

- They hurried off to find Jesus...saw Him...and spread the word...returned to their homes glorifying & praising God for the things they heard & saw.
- All were amazed.
- Mary treasured up all these things & pondered them in her heart. She must have realized that these were historic events needing to be treasured. She probably didn't understand them all but trust enough to keep them in her heart, not rejecting but considering, thinking over & over, and contemplating. Eventually, she was able to share these events with us as historical facts. Eventually, she understood.

5. As we approach Christmas, do you have joy & peace? Knowing that Jesus will offer you His peace, what do you need to do to seek His favor? Will you acknowledge Him to be your personal Savior, Messiah, and Lord? What would you do with this news?

Read vs. 21-40

6. What is the next ordinary event recorded in this passage?

- Joseph & Mary named Jesus on the 8th day & circumcised Him. Then, they completed the purification rites & the custom of redeeming the first born 40 days after His birth.

Why did Joseph & Mary took Jesus to the temple? What specific rites & customs were addressed?

- Required by the Law

- V.21 when it was time to circumcise...
- V. 22 When the time came...required by the Law
- V. 23 as it is written in the Law of the Lord
- V. 27 what the custom of the Law required
- Lev 12:1-4 "The LORD said to Moses, <sup>2</sup> "Say to the Israelites: 'A woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son will be ceremonially unclean for seven days, just as she is unclean during her monthly period. <sup>3</sup> On the eighth day the boy is to be circumcised. <sup>4</sup> Then the woman must wait thirty-three days to be purified from her bleeding. She must not touch anything sacred or go to the sanctuary until the days of her purification are over."
- Numbers 18:15 "The first offspring of every womb, both human and animal, that is offered to the Lord is yours. But you must redeem every firstborn son and every firstborn male of unclean animals."

Why does the Lord need to abide by the Law, rites, & customs?

- Matt 5:17 " I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them." All the rites point to Jesus' being the promised Seed & Messiah. Circumcision was a sign of the covenant. Redemption of the first born was symbolic of Christ's redemption of our sins. Purification is for our cleansing. Even His Name means God saves. Jesus, Himself, is the fulfillment of the Law.
- Gal 4:4-5 " <sup>4</sup> But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup> to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."
- It is for our sake that the Lord, the Maker of the Law, the Judge of the world subjects Himself to the Law, rites, & customs.

How did God show us that He's pleased with what Joseph & Mary did?

- He had two of His saints waiting for them at the Temple simultaneously to welcome, honor, and prophecies about Him.

7. How does Luke describe Simeon, his character, & his purpose in life?

- He was righteous & devout in his character
- Waiting for the consolation of Israel was his purpose in life.

How did God lead Simeon to Jesus? What was ordinary & what were extraordinary?

- Through Holy Spirit's divine revelation, he was told he'd see Jesus before death. (Extraordinary)
- The Holy Spirit moved him to go to the temple at the same time Joseph & Mary brought Jesus. (Can be both extraordinary & ordinary)
- He was waiting (Ordinary)

8. Who was the next ordinary person was blessed with meeting the Lord? How is Anna described as to her character, role, and purpose in life?

- Anna
- Role: daughter of Penuel, married for 7 yr, very old widow
- Character: Devout (never left the temple, worshiped night & day, fasting & praying)
- Purpose in life: Worship

9. What distinguished both Anna & Simeon from all others at the temple that they should be so blessed? There're great parallels about them "qualifying" them to such honor.

- They were both devout & had their lives' focus in God.
- They were both waiting for "the consolation of Israel" v. 25 & "the redemption of Jerusalem." V. 38
- Anna was titled "a prophet". Simeon prophesized.
- The Holy Spirit was on them & they respond to His leading.

How do they differ that they would both be chosen and mentioned in the Bible?

- Simeon is a man. Anna is a woman & a widow.

From God's choices of honored guests, what can you conclude about the God's character and how we can please Him?

- God will show Himself true to people regardless of age, gender, social or marital status.
- He honors people who are devoted to Him. People who seek Him will find.
- He will speak to, lead, & use people who awaits Him & are ready & willing to follow Him.

10. What did Simeon & Anna prophesized about Jesus, His mission, the scope of His influence, and the impact on people?

- Mission
  - He is the Lord's Messiah. He is the consolation & redemption of Israel. Vs. 25, 26, 38
  - He is the salvation that God prepared for all nations. V.30, 31
- Scope of His influence
  - He is a light for revelation to the Gentiles v. 32
  - He is the glory of Israel v. 32
- Impact
  - He will cause the falling & rising of many in Israel v. 34
  - He is a sign that will be spoken against. V. 34
  - He will reveal the thoughts of many hearts. V. 35
  - A sword will pierce Mary's soul v. 35

Now let's make a list of all the other references to Jesus that has been revealed in this passage.

- Savior v.11
- Messiah v.11
- Lord v.11
- a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger v.12
- named Jesus v.21
- grew v. 40
- became strong v. 40
- filled with wisdom v. 40
- the grace of God was on him v. 40

What aspect about Jesus do you appreciate most or need most? Is there any that you fear? How would you seek for Jesus this Christmas? Would you set aside time to pray & worship Him? If so, when?