

Jesus and John (2)

From the birth of John to Jesus' at 12 years old.

Matthew 1:18–2:23; Luke 2:1–52

Introduction

As you read the passages in Matthew and Luke involving the birth of Christ, make a list of the details of each event (there are worksheets at the end of this lesson to help you in that). You will notice that Matthew leaves out many things that Luke includes, and vice versa. After you have written down the events, go back and try to picture what it would look like if you were there witnessing the events.

Major events in Matthew:

- The angel and Joseph
- The Magi visit Jerusalem
 - The commotion they cause
 - Their encounter with Herod
- The Magi visit Jesus in Bethlehem
 - They follow the star
- The flight to Egypt/slaughter of the children
- Return from Egypt to Nazareth

Major events in Luke

- Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem because of the census
- Birth of Jesus in Bethlehem
 - Manger
 - Shepherds
- Jesus circumcised
- To the temple at Jerusalem:
 - Mary's purification
 - Jesus' presentation/redemption
 - Simeon
 - Anna
- Return to Nazareth

After studying the events, we must decide in which order they occur in order to put them all together. Failure to do this has resulted in all kinds of

misinformation and misunderstanding of Scripture. The common Christmas manger-scenes are just one example of this.

Questions

There are not as many questions in this section as will be asked in class. The more you get used to visualizing the events based on what the text actually says, the less you will need the questions to guide you.

1. *After the birth of John, where does your next scene begin?*
2. *How far along is Mary in her pregnancy when they leave for Bethlehem?*
3. *How do you picture the angel and the hosts which appear to the shepherds? Do they have wings? Are they standing or "floating around?" How do they go back to heaven? Are they speaking or singing? How do they do this simultaneously?*
4. *What impact did the shepherds have upon Mary? Upon others? Do you think these events would still be remembered by some 30 years later when Jesus begins His ministry?*
5. *How old is Jesus when they go to the temple? Why are they going there? (cf. Ex. 13:2, 11–13; Lev. 12; Num. 3:11–13, 8:14–19 and 18:15–20)*
6. *Describe the events at the temple (Simeon and Anna). Would these events also be remembered 30 years later?*

7. *Where do they go after leaving Jerusalem?*

8. *How does Lev. 12:1–8 help us in determining the chronological order of the dedication of Jesus at the temple and the arrival of the Magi?*

9. *Where is Jesus when the Magi arrive in Jerusalem? How old is He?*

10. *What kind of commotion does their arrival cause?*

11. *How does “all Jerusalem” come to know about the reason for their visit?*

12. *Describe Herod’s encounter with the Magi*

13. *How do you picture the “star”? Where is Jesus staying when the Magi visit Him?*

14. *Describe the flight to Egypt and the slaughter of the children.*

Luke 2:41–52

After reading these verses, write down at least two questions of your own that you would ask if you were teaching the class.

15. Question:

16. Question:

17. Question



18. If Jesus was Deity, how is it that He had to “grow in wisdom?” (vv. 39, 52)

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Read the events of Christ's birth and write details below

MATTHEW	LUKE
Verse range- 1:18-2:23	Verse range - 2:1-52

MATTHEW	LUKE
Verse range- 1:18-2:23 (cont.)	Verse range - 2:1-52 (cont.)