

We will now begin the second lecture on the gospel of Luke. We will begin with Luke chapter 2. /The title of chapter 2 is "Birth." /Verses 1-7 speak of the birth of Jesus. /Jesus Christ came in the body of a man /and he was born into this earth, and this is the greatest event in history. /This is also the greatest miracle.

/Jesus Christ came to this earth /through Mary, who was pledged to marry Joseph. /Jesus is God who existed before eternity. /He is also Creator. /Christ came to the earth He created /in the body of a man.

/However, He came in the most humble way. /In verse 7, Jesus was wrapped in cloths and placed in a manger. /Jesus completed the laws /and became low /to save His chosen believers /and accomplish redemption. /Philippians 2:6-8

/Jesus came in the most humble way possible, /more than any other man. /We will discuss the historical background of Jesus' birth. /Verses 1-2 tell us when Jesus was born.

/When was Jesus born? /Verse 1 says that Jesus was born in the days when Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census be taken. /Verse 2 says that Jesus was born in the time of Quirinius the governor of Syria. /Jesus came to this earth in the body of a man /during the reign of Caesar Augustus.

/Caesar Augustus was the first emperor of Rome. /He reigned for 45 years /from 31 B.C. to A.D. 14. /Caesar Augustus declared that a census be taken in all the land. /This referred to all the lands in the Roman empire.

/This was a census to count to number of people there were. /The purpose of the census /was to set taxes, /set incomes, /and to find out the number of men eligible for the military. /The emperor wanted a census to be taken to accomplish his purpose.

/This is a historical fact. /Jesus was born during this time in history /and this means that Jesus' birth is historically true. /Jesus' birth was not a story /that was made up in Judea. /It is not a made up story. /It was not recorded for fun.

/This was a true historical event /that happened during the census of Caesar Augustus' time /when Quirinius was governor of Syria. /Caesar Augustus issued a census to be taken /to achieve his purpose, /and God fulfilled his plan /through this foreign king.

/In Micah 5:2, /the prophet Micah /prophesies. /"Out of you [Bethlehem] will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel." /God used Caesar Augustus of a foreign nation /to fulfill what he spoke through the prophet Micah.

/Augustus wanted to fulfill his purpose, /but he fulfilled God's plan. /God is the one who makes history. /God controls history. /Life and death, fortunes and misfortunes, and the rise and fall of nations are all in God's hands. /God uses everyone as his instruments. /People are the Lord's rod and staff.

/Verses 3-5 tell the reason why /Joseph and Mary left Nazareth /and went to Bethlehem. /
Why did they have to go to Bethlehem? /Mary was conceived through the Holy Spirit.

/According to Micah 5:2, /Christ was to be born in Bethlehem. /Joseph was born from the
line of David. /In order to fulfill what was written in Micah 5:2, /they needed to go to
Bethlehem. /God used Augustus, a foreign king, Joseph, /and the pregnant Mary /to fulfill
his plan.

/God always uses his ways /in his time /to accomplish his plans. /Numbers 9:23 explains /
the life of believers. /The people encamped at the Lord's command, /set out at the Lord's
command, /and obeyed at the Lord's command. /Jesus was born in a manger.

/In verses 6-7, /Bethlehem was the place where David was born a thousand years earlier. /
There were many people there because it was the place where the king was born.
/Therefore, there was no room in inns or homes. /There was no room for Jesus.

/Mary gave birth in unfavorable circumstances /without any kindness /or help from
anyone, /and she gave birth. /Jesus was born in a humble way. /There was no room for
the Lord. /Jesus was born into this world in this way /to save us.

/In verse 7, it says that Jesus, the firstborn, was laid in a manger. /Jesus became so
humble and low /that He could be humble and low no more. /We must remember this
Jesus /and we must always be thankful no matter what we happens to us.

/The Creator was born in a manger /because there was no room anywhere else. /John 1:11
says, /"He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him." /Jesus came
to this earth without any kindness or sympathy /or help, /but He came to be treated with
contempt /and thrown aside by people. /Whom did Jesus come to save? /Jesus came to
save us.

/In verses 8-14, /the shepherds hear the news of Jesus' birth. /The angels told the
shepherds about the birth of Jesus. /The shepherds who were near Bethlehem /were the
first to hear about the birth of Jesus, /and they were the first to see Jesus.

/The shepherds' names are not mentioned /and they are not glorified, /but they were the
first to hear about the Lord's birth /and saw the glorious Lord Jesus. /What faith did the
shepherds have /to receive such amazing grace? /Verse 8 tells us about their lives.

/Verse 8. /And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over
their flocks at night.

/What were their lives like? /Where? /Outside. /When? /At night. /What? /Their flocks. /
How? /They kept watch. /God sought after these people, /and the angel appeared to
them /and led them to meet Jesus. /God used those who were nearby /who watched over
their flocks at night.

/The shepherds nearby /worked hard /in the place God set them. /The shepherds did not complain, /resent, /or compare themselves to others in the place God set them, /and they worked hard.

/The shepherds became God's servants, /they met God, /heard God, and met Jesus. /What grace did God give these shepherds? /In verses 9-12, God gave them four kinds of grace.

/In verse 9, the first grace is /that the angel of the Lord appeared to them. /The glory of the Lord shone around them. /The shepherds received /big news, /joyful news, /good news through the angel. /What was the joyful news? /Messiah had come.

/Verse 11. /Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

/Another grace was that /the shepherds saw Christ with their own two eyes. /What was Jesus Christ's birth like?

/It tells us in verses 10-14. /First, Jesus' birth was good news of great joy for all the people. /This was big news, /joyful news, /and good news. /Second, Jesus' birth was /worthy of praises from an army of angels.

/There was glory to God in the highest. /There was peace on earth to men on whom God's favor rested. /The faithful attitudes of the shepherds who received this grace is described in verses 15-20.

/The shepherds heard the joyous news from the angels, /went immediately to Bethlehem, and saw what happened. /James 1:21 says, anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says /is like a man who fools himself. /When those who receive the gospel /immediately obey, they will have assurance, /and have courage and power to go proclaim it to the world.

/In verses 16-18, /the shepherds receive God's word and believe, /and then they go to see Jesus. /When they went, they saw what God accomplished. /They understand God's secret. /The shepherds went immediately /and met Christ, /and they proclaimed it to all the people.

/In verse 19, it says Mary /treasured all the things that the angel told her /when she conceived Jesus. /Thus, Mary heard what the shepherds told her, /and she kept it in her heart.

/If we do not treasure and remember God's Word in our hearts, /we will forget them. /Therefore, when we hear God's Word, /we must treasure it in our hearts, /concentrate on God's Word, /and apply it to our lives so that we may bear fruit.

/In verse 20, the shepherds /saw that all the things they were told were true, /and they glorified and praised God.

/Verses 21-24 tell us about Joseph and Mary's faith. /Joseph and Mary's faith is shown in four ways. /First, in verse 21, /their faith was shown when they named Jesus. /They obeyed the angel and named the child "Jesus."

/“Jesus” means /“He saves His people from their sins.” /Jesus did not have any sins /but He became man /to save all of mankind, /and He was circumcised so that He would accomplish righteousness.

/Second, their faith was shown /in verse 22 when they performed purification. /“Purification” refers to a ceremony to become clean. /In Leviticus 12:1-4, /a male child was taken to Jerusalem forty days after he was born /for purification. /This was the law of Moses.

/Third, in verse 23, their faith was shown when they presented Jesus to God. /In Exodus, all the firstborn of Egypt died. /Because the firstborn of Israel all survived at the time, /the firstborn were to be presented to God. /They acted according to the law.

/Fourth, their faith was shown /when they offered a sacrifice to God. /In Leviticus 12:8, /it says that those who cannot afford a lamb /must bring a pair of doves or two young pigeons for sacrifice /instead of a lamb. /Jesus' parents were poor, /so they gave such an offering.

/They were poor, but they gave an offering to God. /This is faith. /We become upright in our faith /through ceremonies like the giving of offerings.

/In verses 25-35, /Simeon receives Jesus. /What type of person was Simeon? /Verses 25-27 tell us what type of person he was. /Verse 25 says /he was righteous /and devout, /and waited for the consolation of Israel, /and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

/In verse 26, /Simeon received guidance from the Holy Spirit. /In verse 27, /he was moved by the Holy Spirit to go into the temple courts. /Simeon had a deep relationship with the Holy Spirit. /The Holy Spirit was upon him, /he received guidance from the Holy Spirit, /and he obeyed when the Holy Spirit moved him. /God looked at these qualities in us believers. /Simeon praised God.

/In verses 28-31, /when Simeon was moved to go into the temple courts, /he met Jesus' parents, who had come to present Jesus to God. /In this way, when we move in obedience, /we will meet Jesus. /It is important that we meet Jesus. /When we meet Jesus, /we will get to know Him /and we will praise him.

/In verse 29, /Simeon calls Jesus, “Sovereign Lord.” /“Sovereign Lord” means /ruler or Sovereign One. /The Lord governs life and death, fortunes and misfortunes or mankind, /and He rules over the heavens and the earth.

/In verse 29 it says, “you now dismiss your servant in peace,” /which means that Simeon

waited for Israel's comfort /and now he was freed from waiting. /He met Jesus.

/In verse 30, it says, /"my eyes have seen your salvation." /This means that Simeon met Jesus. /Simeon saw the fulfillment of salvation through Jesus. /He also met Jesus, who is our salvation.

/Jesus said in John 14:16, /"I am the way /and the truth /and the life." /Simeon obeyed the Holy Spirit /and saw the Lord /when he entered the temple. /Then he touched Jesus, /understand the truth, /and gained an experience that he would never forget. /It is important that we do not dismiss inspiration from the Holy Spirit.

/In verse 31, /Jesus' salvation /is one that has been prepared in the sight of all people. /In verse 32, this salvation /is a light to the Gentiles and glory to the people. /Jesus is the true light, /the light of life, /and the source of light.

/A "light" means to /reveal the things that were hidden /and to shine the light of salvation. /Therefore, Israel will return /and give glory to God. /Here, God moved Simeon /to reveal to the world /that Jesus is the light.

/Jesus is salvation, /He was prepared for all the people, /He is a light to the Gentiles, /and He is glory to the people of Israel. /Next, Jesus' work, /Jesus' holy calling, is described in verses 34-35.

/Jesus did four things. /First, He would cause the fall and rise of many people. /Salvation and destruction are in Jesus' hands. /Thus, those who believe in Jesus will be saved, and those who do not believe will be destroyed.

/Second, Jesus would be a sign that would be spoken against. /Jesus was a target of slander and was cursed by many people. /Third, verse 35 says, /a sword would pierce their souls too.

/When Jesus was nailed to the cross and died, /Mary's heart was in pain as if a sword pierced her heart. /Jesus' accomplishment of redemption /was one that surpassed the pain of all mothers.

/Lastly, Jesus /saw the hearts of all people. /The Lord knows the thoughts of man /and reveals them, /and He makes man rise and fall. /Jesus is light, /and therefore, He sees everything.

/Next, in verses 36-40, Anna receives Jesus. /Anna was the daughter of Phanuel or the tribe of Asher. /She was a woman from the line of faith. /She got married /and lived with her husband for seven years, /then was a widow until she was eighty-four years old.

/Anna was old, /but she still waited for Christ, /and she received and saw Jesus, /which is valuable faith. /Anna always remained in the temple. /She fasted and prayed day and night. /Anna waited for Jerusalem's redemption.

/She finally received Christ. /Then she testified to Christ. /She was a widow for a very long time, /but she received the gift of a spiritual blessings that was /one hundred times better than a husband.

/In verse 39, /Joseph and Mary finished presenting Jesus to God, /and they went back to Nazareth in Galilee from Jerusalem.

/Read verse 40. /And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

/Jesus grew /and became strong, /and he was filled with spiritual wisdom. /We must not only be interested in becoming physically strong, /but we must also grow spiritually strong /and spiritually wise as well.

/In verses 41-52, it tells us about what happened when Jesus was twelve years old. /We can see who Jesus was /when He was twelve years old, /what He did, /and what wisdom and knowledge /He had.

/In verse 41, /Jesus' parents /went to Jerusalem /for the Feast of the Passover. /In Exodus chapter 23 /and Deuteronomy chapter 16, /the law of Moses /say that all men in Israel /were to go up to the temple three times. /They were to go at the Passover, /the Feast of Weeks, /and at the Feast of Tabernacles.

/In verse 42, /Jesus went to Jerusalem when He was twelve years old /to observe the custom. /Twelve years of age was the year /when Jews became sons of the law. /It was the age when they began to keep /the customs, /fast, /and keep the laws /and regulations.

/Jesus is /completely God /and completely human. /He is absolutely flawless /and does not lack anything /according to the law.

/In verses 43, 46, /we can see who Jesus was, /where He was, /and where we must go to meet the Lord. /Mary and Joseph made a mistake here. /They showed no interest to where Jesus was.

/When our hearts are troubled, /disorderly, /and we are not cautious /and keep our hearts in other places, /we will spiritually lose Jesus. /We cannot find Jesus in the midst of our families and neighbors. /Then how can we find Jesus?

/We can find Jesus in Jerusalem /and in the temple. /We must go to the original location. /We must go to the place where we offered sacrifices to God. /We must go to the place where we kept the customs. /Mary and Joseph found Jesus with the teachers who taught the Bible.

/John 5:39 says, /"You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. /These are the Scriptures that testify about me." /We can meet Jesus

in the place where the Bible is taught. /John 4:23-24 says /that we can meet God where we worship in spirit and in truth.

/In verse 47, /Jesus asked and answered questions /that no one could answer. /When we put God's house in the center of our lives /and live with Jesus, /we will become noble people. /Where is Jesus?

/In verses 48-50, /Jesus is in His Father's house /in the temple. /At this time, people could not meet Jesus if they only thought of Him as Mary and Joseph's son. /We can meet Jesus when we believe that Jesus is the Son of God. /We can meet Jesus when we go to our Father's house.

/In verse 50, /Jesus' parents did not understand what He was saying. /We must grow to where Jesus is.

/Read verse 51. /Then he went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

/Jesus's parents did not understand. /However, His mother /treasured all these things in her heart. /When one's spirit grows, he will understand. /Therefore, we must not put away the truth, /but we must treasure it in our hearts.

/Jesus /served His parents for eighteen years. /Jesus began His public ministry when He was thirty years old. /Thus, it was eighteen years after Jesus was twelve years old. /Jesus was upright in all His ways /in how He served God, /in how He kept the law, /in how He revealed the truth, /and in how He served His parents. /This was how Jesus lived on this earth.

/Verse 52 is a conclusion of chapter 2. /Read verse 52. /And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

/Jesus /grew in wisdom /and stature, /and in favor with God /and men. /Through chapter 2, /we were able to see how Jesus revealed the truth /through His words, /body, /and lifestyle /when He was twelve years old.

/The Lord lived by God's Word, /and He was upright before others. /The Lord was upright /in His attitudes towards His parents /and in whatever He did.

/Jesus was the perfect example /in all His humanly ways. /The Lord was Jesus who showed an example /with His words and actions. /We must model ourselves after Jesus.

/Here we will conclude the lecture on Luke chapter 2. /Thank you.