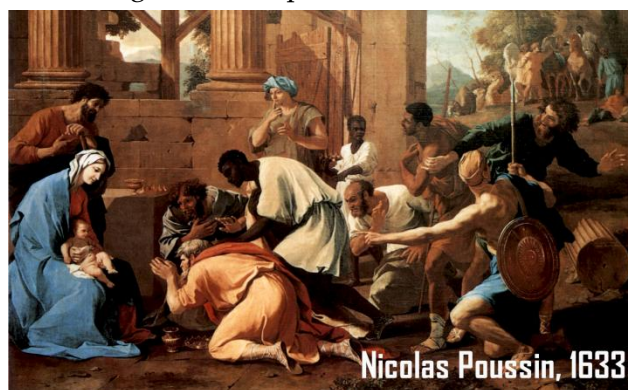
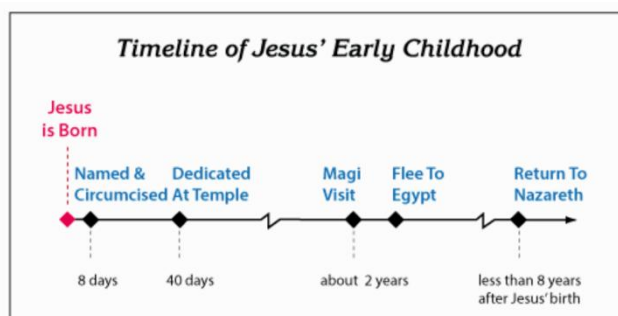


Reading Assignment Two—Early Life of the Christ on Earth as Jesus of Nazareth, Pages 17-26

- Q Why do you suppose Mark & John left out any description of the birth of Jesus?
- Q What is the significance of this Jesus of Nazareth being born and reared as a Jew? Why was He called a “Jew?”
- Q According to Knight, the wise men visited the Christ in Bethlehem. What does Matthew & Luke say about where they visited Him? Luke 2:39—when the family returned to Nazareth? Matthew 2:11—in what structure did the wise men visit the Christ? Matthew 2:9-13ff—What was the status of Jesus when the Magi visited, and when did they leave for Egypt?
- Q What comparisons would you make between the NIV, HCSB, NKJV and KJV translations of Luke 2:14?<sup>1</sup> Why is this question important, assuming it is?
- Q What have you been taught as to why His birth announcement was given to shepherds first?
- Q Knight says Jesus was circumcised in Bethlehem; Luke infers somewhere else (Luke 2:21-24). What’s your opinion? How would you go about knowing the correct location?
- Q What was Anna’s role in the temple? Did she have the wrong gender?
- Q Assuming Jesus was indeed about two years or older when the magi visited, why were Joseph and Miriam still in Bethlehem? Why is it useful to teach/portray the magi visiting Bethlehem instead of Nazareth?
- Q What can we learn from the three noted gifts of the magi? Be wary of allegory disease.
- Q Why was Herod hell bent on killing all the male kids in Bethlehem? Why do you suppose this incident is not recorded in other historical records of the time?
- Q Why didn’t Miriam and Joseph understand Yeshua’s answer to their question about His whereabouts and purpose for learning/teaching in the temple? Where did He sleep at night during those three days? Why did He relent; i.e., He obeyed His earthly parents? What did Miriam later learn to say regarding His aberrant behavior?<sup>2</sup>
- Q How far is it from Jerusalem to Nazareth? So what? How often did the family go to Jerusalem?
- Q Why did Nazareth have a bad reputation? Why was it an important location, being only 4 miles from Sepphoris (aka *Diocaesaraea*)? Herod Antipas lived there; rumored to be the birthplace of Miriam.



<sup>1</sup>Most witnesses (κ Β Λ Θ Ξ Ψ f M sy bo) have ἐν ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκία (en anthrōpois eudokia, “good will among people”) instead of ἐν ἀνθρώποις εὐδοκίας (en anthrōpois eudokias, “among people with whom he is pleased”), a reading attested by κ\* Α Β\* Δ Ψ (sa). Most of the Itala witnesses and some other versional witnesses reflect a Greek text which has the genitive εὐδοκίας but drops the preposition ἐν. Not only is the genitive reading better attested, but it is more difficult than the nominative. “The meaning seems to be, not that divine peace can be bestowed only where human good will is already present, but that at the birth of the Saviour God’s peace rests on those whom he has chosen in accord with his good pleasure” (TCGNT 111). From <https://netbible.org/bible/Luke+2> (note 44).

<sup>2</sup>See John 2:5—His mother [Miriam] said to the servants, *Do whatever He tells you.*