



# **GOSPEL OF SAINT LUKE**

## **07 – Birth of Jesus**





## RECAP FROM LECTURE 06



1. The child is named John, a constant reminder of God's mercy and a name from outside a righteous Levitical family.
2. Zachariah gives thanks for the conception of the Messiah and the saving grace He brings us all. He is Mary's second student
3. Zachariah prophecy John's mission: to teach and instruct so as to make ready a people for God. The "people" need not be Jews only.
4. John will live in the wilderness, a sign of spiritual growth





## **PLAN OF THIS STUDY**

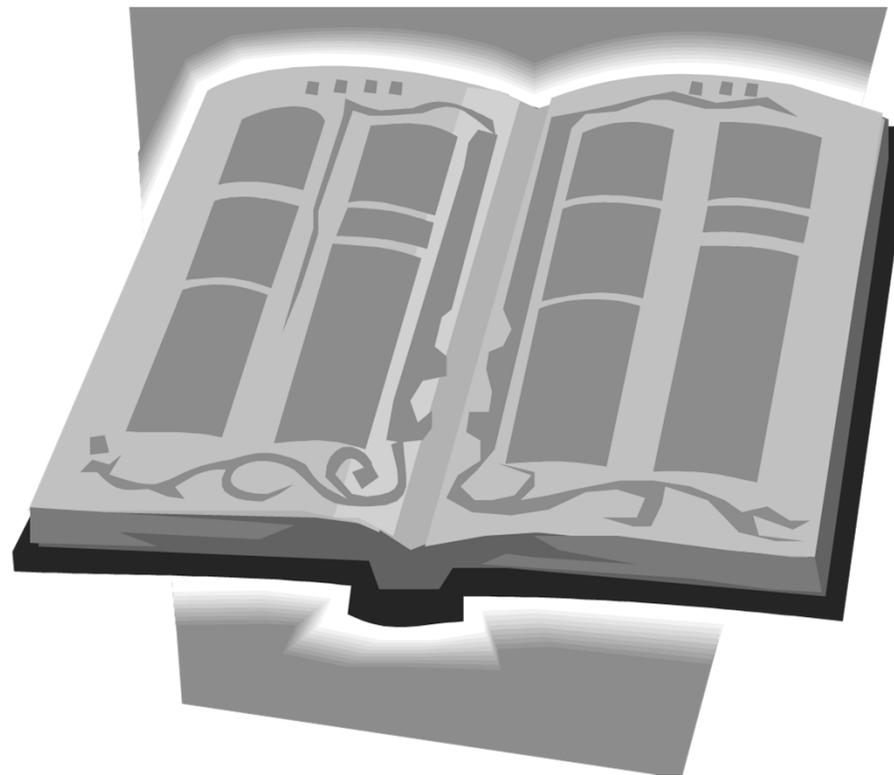


1. Reading of Luke 2:1-39
2. The Birth of Jesus
3. The Adoration of the Shepherds
4. The Presentation to the Temple
5. Simeon's Prophecy





# OPEN YOUR BIBLE TO LUKE 2:1-38





## **LUKE 2:1-7**

1. In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled.
2. This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria.
3. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city.
4. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,
5. to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.
6. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered.
7. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.





## LUKE 2:8-14



8. And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
9. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.
10. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people;
11. for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
12. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."
13. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
14. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"





## LUKE 2:15-21



15. When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."
16. And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.
17. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child;
18. and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.
19. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.
20. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.
21. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.





## LUKE 2:22-28



22. And when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

23. (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord")

24. and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

25. Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

26. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law,

28.28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,





## LUKE 2:29-35



29. "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace,  
according to thy word;
30. for mine eyes have seen thy salvation
31. which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples,
32. a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy  
people Israel."
33. And his father and his mother marveled at what was said  
about him;
34. and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother,  
"Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in  
Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against
35. (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that  
thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed."



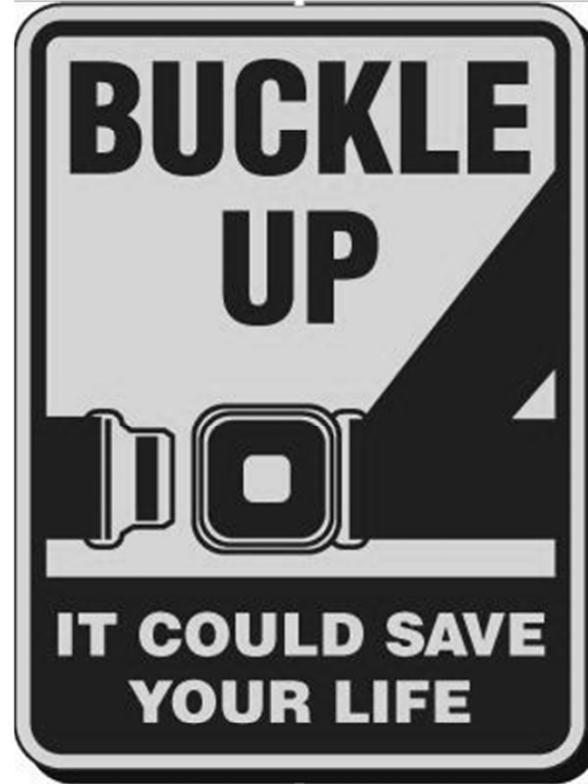
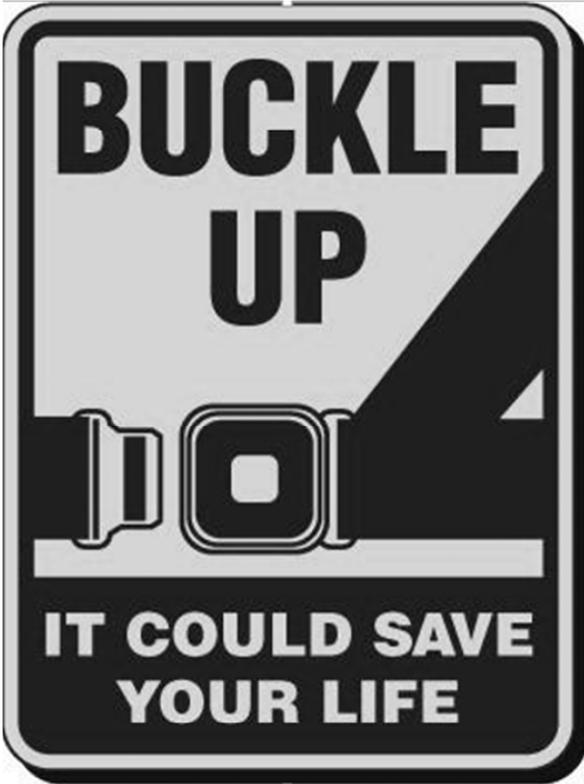


## LUKE 2:36-40



36. And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phan'uel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity,
37. and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.
38. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.
39. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth.
40. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.







## LUKE 2:1-7



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5. to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.
6. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered.
7. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.





# TROUBLE WITH QUIRINIUS



1. No record of a first census exists
2. Nothing is known in history of a general census by Augustus;
3. In a Roman census Joseph would not have had to travel to Bethlehem, and Mary would not have had to travel at all;
4. No Roman census would have been made in Judea during the reign of Herod;
5. Josephus records no such census and it would have been a notable innovation;
6. Quirinius was not governor of Syria until long after the reign of Herod.

Emil Schürer, *A History of the Jewish People in the Time of Jesus Christ* (1896)

“[Saint Luke’s] information is dubious on almost every score, despite the elaborate attempts by scholars to defend Lucan accuracy”

Fr. Raymond Brown, *The Birth of the Messiah: A Commentary on the Infancy Narratives in Matthew and Luke*, Anchor Bible; Updated edition (1999), page 413.





# TROUBLE WITH QUIRINIUS



1. Why such a simple mistake on the part of Saint Luke when we have seen him handle difficult topics of Scripture with great accuracy?
2. How come none of his contemporaries pointed out this mistake?
3. Both Saint Justin Martyr (100 – 165 AD) and Tertullian states mater-of-factly, that “if anyone disputes the birth of Our Lord, they should go and check the Roman State Records for themselves”
4. Saint Justin says of himself that he was "Justin, the son of Priscos, son of Baccheios, of Flavia Neapolis, in Palestine Syria.“ He would not have known when Quirinius was governor of Syria?





# TROUBLE WITH QUIRINIUS



"I Thermoutharion along with Apollonius, my guardian, pledge an oath to Tiberius Claudius Caesar that the preceding document gives an accurate account of those returning, who live in my household, and that there is no one else living with me, neither a foreigner, nor an Alexandrian, nor a freedman, nor a Roman citizen, nor an Egyptian. If I am telling the truth, may it be well with me, but if falsely, the reverse. In the ninth year of the reign of Tiberius Claudius Augustus Germanicus Emperor."

→ From a Census performed in 48 AD Ochyrynychus Papyrus 255, Union Theological Seminary, New York (<http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/dlo?obj=uts.apis.1&size=300&face=f&tile=0>)

"From the Prefect of Egypt, Gaius Vibius Maximus. Being that the time has come for the house to house census, it is mandatory that all men who are living outside of their districts return to their own homelands, that the census may be carried out . . ."

→ From a Census performed in 104 AD  
([http://cojs.org/cojswiki/Image:Papyrus\\_Census\\_Order.jpg](http://cojs.org/cojswiki/Image:Papyrus_Census_Order.jpg))





## LUKE 2:1-7



- Gave Birth – Dogma of the virginity of Our Lady (state the dogma)/cover it.
- First-Born: Exodus 11:5 – “and all the first-born in the land of Egypt shall die, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sits upon his throne, even to the first-born of the maidservant who is behind the mill; and all the first-born of the cattle.”
- Bethlehem – Beit Lahem – Aramaic, House of Bread, Arabic House of Meat
- Swaddling clothe and the shroud
- Manger and the sacrificial system
- Manger and the Eucharist
- No place in the inn – not the Temple
- Bishop Fulton Sheen: The shadow of the cradle is a cross





## LUKE 2:1-7



- **Gave Birth – Dogma of the Perpetual Virginity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
  1. **Virginity Before Birth:** *Mary conceived by the Holy Ghost without the cooperation of man (De Fide).*
  2. **Virginity During Birth:** *Mary bore her Son without any violation of her virginal integrity (De Fide).*
  3. **Virginity After Birth:** *Also, after the Birth of Jesus Mary remained a Virgin (De Fide).*
- **First-Born:** Exodus 11:5 – “and all the first-born in the land of Egypt shall die, from the first-born of Pharaoh who sits upon his throne, even to the first-born of the maidservant who is behind the mill; and all the first-born of the cattle.”
- **Virginity during birth (without pain, according to the Fathers). Theme of New Creation from chaos to the Garden to the Cross**
- **Virginity After Birth:**
  - brothers of the Lord – Used to anyone with a close or remote relation
  - John given to Mary at the foot of the cross.





## LUKE 2:8-14



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9. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear.
10. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people;
11. for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
12. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."
13. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,
14. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"





## LUKE 2:8-14



- According to Scripture, Angels don't sing. See also the book of Revelation
- If you were a shepherd back then, you were considered an outcast. You could not testify in the court of law.
- Why did the Angels appear to them? God has loved us first
- Marian faith: Believe first, see second versus Thomas' faith: See first, believe second. Still God is gracious enough to accept both but he has a special blessing for the former
- Do not seek the extraordinary out of the ordinary, rather seek the extraordinary in the ordinary → Eucharistic faith
- Glory to God in the highest: Start by praising God.
- Peace among men with whom he is pleased.





## LUKE 2:15-21



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16. And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.
17. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child;
18. and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them.
19. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart.
20. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.
21. And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.





## LUKE 2:8-14



- Mary → Joseph → Jesus: We do not go to Jesus directly, none of us do. The importance of the Community of the Saints and the Church.
- “All who heard wondered...” but “Mary kept and pondered.”
- Heard and Seen: Jesus will use this as an indictment. The shepherds saw a baby and they believed. Some of the Jews will see miracles and will refuse to believe.





## LUKE 2:22-28



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25. Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

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## LUKE 2:22-28



- Purification according to the Law of Moses: Get reference for purification from Leviticus, but I don't think the child needed to be purified or presented to the Temple?
- Maronite Tradition before Baptism
- Circumcision: the Fathers of the Church say that the drop of blood that came from Jesus when he was circumcised was enough to save all of us. That was enough for God the Father as a retribution. So why did he go to the cross? Out of love for us. Because that was enough for God the Father, but not enough for our harden hearts. What is the most common request for a sign? Do you love me? Show me a sign. It was because of the hardness of our hearts that he had to die on the cross. Not because of God the Father. And did Mary need purification? Did Jesus need to be circumcised? No. they did it for the Father.





## LUKE 2:22-28



- Verse 2:23 (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord")
  - Exodus 13:11-15, 34:20
11. Exodus 11 "And when the LORD brings you into the land of the Canaanites, as he swore to you and your fathers, and shall give it to you,
  12. You shall set apart to the LORD all that first opens the womb. All the firstlings of your cattle that are males shall be the LORD's.
  13. **Every firstling of an ass you shall redeem with a lamb, or if you will not redeem it you shall break its neck. Every first-born of man among your sons you shall redeem.**
  14. And when in time to come your son asks you, 'What does this mean?' you shall say to him, 'By strength of hand the LORD brought us out of Egypt, from the house of bondage.
  15. For when Pharaoh stubbornly refused to let us go, the LORD slew all the first-born in the land of Egypt, both the first-born of man and the first-born of cattle. Therefore I sacrifice to the LORD all the males that first open the womb; but all the first-born of my sons I redeem.'





## LUKE 2:22-28



### Exodus 13:1-2

1. The LORD said to Moses,
2. **"Consecrate to me all the first-born; whatever is the first to open the womb among the people of Israel, both of man and of beast, is mine."**

### Leviticus 8

1. The LORD said to Moses,
2. "Take Aaron and his sons with him, and the garments, and the anointing oil, and the bull of the sin offering, and the two rams, and the basket of unleavened bread;
3. and assemble all the congregation at the door of the tent of meeting."

...

10. Then Moses took the anointing oil, and anointed the tabernacle and all that was in it, and consecrated them.





## LET'S RECAP



1. Mary's Perpetual Virginity points to the Garden of Eden and the Tabernacle
2. Angels do not sing in Scripture
3. The importance of hearing and seeing with the eyes of faith
4. The manger foreshadows the Cross and the Eucharist, bread of life
5. Jesus is consecrated a priest according to the New Covenant – the actions of Mary and Joseph foreshadow Jesus' obedience.





## FOR NEXT WEEK



- Read Luke 2:29-52 and John 2:1-11
- Some points of meditation
  - What's the connection between the two passages?
  - Why did Jesus go to the Temple?
  - Why did he answer his mother the way he did?
  - Why did he not stay at the Temple?

