

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**LUKE 2****Luke 2**

"And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed." (Luke 2:1)

Those famous words may be the most read and heard of all the passages in the entire Bible by Christians worldwide. These words in Luke introduce the chapter of the Bible that tells what is called "The Christmas Story," and it is the most detailed account in the Bible of the background and events surrounding the birth of Jesus. Luke chapter one prepares us for the actual birth event. How blessed we are to read the Word of God related to the birth of our Savior and the Lord of life. I would encourage those of you who want a fuller explanation of the events leading up to today's chapter to listen to July 24, 2022, Bonus podcast # 2, and July 25, Bonus podcast # 3, as they will help you greatly in understanding the gospels; especially as it relates to the birth of Jesus the Messiah and Luke chapter two.

I have both podcasts and written material on Luke 2 for you to find that are related to Luke 2:1-20, so please allow me to deal with the events after the Lord's birth in Bethlehem. Luke two, beginning in v.21, tells of the rituals concerning all male Jews born. It is not assumed that everyone knows the commands concerning the circumcision of the Jewish boys, so Luke gives us the scriptures pertaining to the commands.

"And when eight days were completed for the

circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." (Luke 2:21-24)

No doubt Joseph and Mary were observant Jews and understood not only the ritual of circumcision, but also the spiritual and covenantal significance. Eight days after the birth of the child, when the blood components in the baby would have formed the elements necessary for coagulation, the boy's foreskin would be cut as directed to all sons of Abraham as a symbol of the relationship between God and Abraham's children. Verse 22 speaks of the ritual of a woman who gave birth, waiting forty days to be declared "ceremonially clean," and could come to the temple for the dedication of the child unto the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This they did with an offering as prescribed in the book of Leviticus. It is during these days of fulfilling the law that an older man, Simeon, and an older woman, Anna, prophesied of the life, ministry, and the substitutionary death of the Anointed One, Messiah child.

Prayer and Action Steps

Father in heaven, please help me understand this Christmas story in a new light and more light so that I may love You more, serve You with a whole heart, and share the greatest story ever told with others. Amen