

THE FIRST CHRISTMAS: THE CHILD

(Christmas 2018)

Do not think that I came to abolish the law or the prophets; I have not come to abolish them, but to fulfill them. (Matthew 5:17)

THE EXAMINATION

- ___ 1. An angel told Mary that her unborn child would be called Jesus
- ___ 2. Which Gospel record traces Jesus' ancestry all the way back to Adam?
- ___ 3. Jesus was born how many months after John the Baptist?
- ___ 4. On Jesus' eighth day, Mary and Joseph took him to Jerusalem to be circumcised
- ___ 5. Forty days after Jesus birth, Mary offered a sacrifice for purification
- ___ 6. After Mary's purification, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to Jerusalem to "*present him to the Lord*"—as required by law for all firstborn sons
- ___ 7. At Jesus' dedication, two people uttered prophecies about Jesus. One was named _____. The other was named _____
- ___ 8. The only biblical story of Jesus' childhood is found in which gospel?
- ___ 9. By law, Jesus had to learn a trade—i.e., work he could do with his hands
- ___ 10. Jesus waited until he was thirty years old to begin his ministry because people in Jesus' day didn't trust anyone under thirty – especially on religious matters

THE EXPLANATION

A. His Story

1. The Announcement to Mary and Joseph
2. The Visitation and Blessing of Elizabeth
3. The Nativity: The birth of a Savior
4. The Invitation to the Shepherds
5. The Dedication of Jesus

On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived. ²²When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. ³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which

you have prepared in the sight of all people, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, ³⁵so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. ³⁸Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him. (Luke 2:21-40)

6. The Searching of the Wise Men

7. His Life: To Fulfill the Law

B. His Uniqueness

1. He is the only child ever born with a pre-existent life
2. He is the only person conceived without an earthly father
3. He is the only person ever born with two natures
 - a. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit—making him fully God
 - b. He was born of a woman—making him fully human
4. He is the only child born without sin (Hebrews 2:14-17; 4:15)

THE ELUCIDATION

- A. Immanuel means "God with us" (Matthew 1:23)
- B. The nativity is about Almighty God sending His one and only Son to earth as His gift to us, not for Christmas, but for eternity
- C. That's what Jesus came - to give us eternity so we can all stop crying

Worship Leader: Pastor Doug Kamstra

Pianist: Heidi Wassink

Instrumentalists: Evie Dykhouse, Lydia Dykhouse, Allegra Hibma, Doug Kamstra, Marilyn Kamstra, Bill Steenwyk, Lori Steenwyk, Dave VanEerden, Anne Van Singel, Matthew Walstra

Advent Readers: Lydia, Lucy, Emma, Evie, Julianne Dykhouse

Christmas Story Readers: Kyra Syswerda, Ken Lobbes, Abby Brouwer, Peter Snyder

Children's Message: Erin Fennema

Singers: Maddy Baar, Anna Wassink

Choir Director: Holly Baar

Choir Accompanists: Holly Gort, Heidi Wassink