

Circumcision was the Jewish physical sign that set them apart as the people of God. It was done for physical and spiritual reasons, and was supposed to picture a calloused heart turned to God.

To call their son John was puzzling to everyone else. It evidenced their obedience and released Zacharias' tongue that had been stilled for many months. He was probably the talk of the town!

This child will turn out to be the "deliverer" of Israel and the rest of the world!

How is a man or woman "born of God?"

Jesus (the Son) is an exact representation of the eternal Living God.

The Ten Commandments (the basis of the "Law") were given to reveal the awesome character of God to the Jews and then to the world. The Law was never able to save any person from spiritual death. See Hebrews 10:4.

Now the time had come for Elizabeth to give birth, and she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and her relatives heard that the Lord had displayed His great mercy toward her and they were rejoicing with her.

And it happened that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to call him Zacharias, after his father. But his mother answered and said, "No indeed, but he shall be called John."

And they said to her, "There is no one among your relatives who is called by that name." And they made signs to his father, as to what he wanted him called. He asked for a tablet and wrote as follows, "His name is John." And they were all astonished.

At once his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he began to speak in praise of God. Fear came on all those living around them, and all these matters were being talked about in all the hill country of Judea. All who heard about it kept them in mind, saying, "What will this child turn out to be?" For the hand of the Lord was certainly with him.

THE LIGHT & THE LIFE

John 1:6-18

There came a man sent from God whose name was John (the Baptist). He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. This was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God; to those who believed in His name, who were born, not of blood lines or by human parentage or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh, and lived among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testified about Him and cried out, saying "This was He of whom I said, He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me."

For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the heart of the Father, He has explained Him.

THE KING IS BORN

Luke 2:1-40

It came about in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone was proceeding to their home towns to register for the census. Joseph went up as well from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem. He belonged to the house and family of David, and He went home in to register, along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant.

It came about that while they were there, the days were

DAY TWO 2

*With all the Kings
and nobles who could have
been invited to the birthday
party, God chooses
shepherds!*

*While we speculate about
alien life in the cosmos, the
Bible clearly indicates that
there is angelic life made
up of good angels and evil
angels (demons). They are as
real as we are and able
to exist in parallel
dimensions.*

*The Name of Jesus has
been given all authority and
power. Jesus (reveals His
human birth) Christ (reveals
that He is the Messiah of the
World) our Lord (reveals His
personal relationship with
those who follow Him).*

*God gave the Law
to the Jews through Moses.
There was moral law (the
Ten Commandments) and
many other civil and
ceremonial laws.
The Jews were to
obey these laws for their
protection as well as to make
them distinct among
the other nations.*

completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her first-born son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them to stay at the inn.

And in the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. An angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find the baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger."

Suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." And it came about when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

And they came quickly and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. And when they had seen it firsthand, they related the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as they had been told. When eight days were completed before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every first-born male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what was set out in the Law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

SIMEON

There was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devoted, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when His parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law,

Joseph and Mary were committed worshippers of the Living God as well as responsible parents. Passover was the chief Jewish celebration where they remembered how God had brought the Jews out of the land of Egypt under the leadership of Moses.



To think of such a young boy teaching and astonishing older, prominent men from the cradle of religious knowledge demonstrates that Christ was not an ordinary young man.

The priests of the Jews were to lead them in worship. The Levites were descended from the tribe of Levi (one of the twelve tribes). This is the “family” from whom the priests were chosen.

then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, “Now Lord, Let Your bond-servant die in peace, according to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all nations, a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.” And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him.

And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed - and a sword will pierce even your own soul - to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

ANNA

And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with a husband seven years after her marriage, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.

At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.

DAY THREE

3

THE BOY KING

Luke 2:41-52

Jesus used to go to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He was twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast; and as they were returning, after spending all seven days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. And His parents were unaware of it, but thought he was in the caravan, and they traveled a day’s journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances. When they did not find Him they returned to Jerusalem to look for Him.

And it came about that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them, and asking them questions. All who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers. And when His parents saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, your father and I have been anxiously looking for you.”

And He said to them, “Why is it that you were looking for me? Did you not know that I had to be doing my Father’s business?” And they did not understand the statement which He had made to them. And He went down with them, and came to Nazareth; and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.