

# *Resurrection Life of Jesus Church*

## BACK TO THE BOOK OF ACTS (BBA)

RLJ-1107

JOHN S. TORELL

NOVEMBER 11, 2007

### PART 5: WHAT JESUS KNEW ABOUT HIMSELF

It is important for Christians living 2,000 years after Christ to know what Jesus knew about Himself when He was living on the earth in a human body. Let's summarize what the Bible tells us.

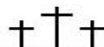
#### CONCEPTION OF JESUS

At the time that Jesus was conceived, his mother Mary and her husband were espoused but did not live together. It can be confusing if you don't know how marriages were arranged at the time of Jesus. Two sets of parents would come together and make an agreement that their children would be married. The father of the bride would set a price, and once this was agreed to by the father of the groom, it would be paid and the marriage was officially recorded. Each set of parents would then raise their child and most of the time these children didn't even know who their future spouse were until their teenage years. If a betrothed girl became pregnant before the marriage was consummated, Hebrew law demanded that she be put to death. Let's look at the following verses in the Bible:

- Mary was probably around 16-18 years old when the angel came to her and told her that she was going to have a baby and that this baby would become the Savior of the World (the Messiah). **Luke 1: 26-39**
- Since God was the lawgiver, He knew that any betrothed woman having sexual intercourse outside of marriage would be put to death. **Deuteronomy 22:23-27**
- An angel was dispatched to Joseph in order to explain what was going on. Joseph loved Mary and did not want her killed, so he quietly moved her away. **Matthew 1:18-19**
- Joseph was also informed of the redemption plan. **verses 20-25**

#### THE BIRTH OF JESUS

- God put on a power display when Jesus was born to make sure that both Joseph and Mary would believe and know that this baby was the Messiah. **Luke 2:1-20**
- Joseph and Mary obeyed the Old Testament sacrificial laws and Jesus was circumcised eight days after his birth. **verse 21**
- Thirty three days after the circumcision (**Leviticus 12:1-8**), they traveled to Jerusalem, that would be a day's journey on foot since it was five miles each way. There they presented their sacrifices and dedicated Jesus to the Lord. **verses 22-39**



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8341 Fair Oaks Blvd, Suite B, Carmichael, CA 95608

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 166 Sheridan, CA 95681

Phone: (916) 944-3724 • Toll Free: (888) 708-3232 • Fax: (530) 633-2918 • [www.eaac.org](http://www.eaac.org)

## **FLEEING TO EGYPT**

The gospel accounts of Matthew and Luke differ on the events taking place at the time of Jesus' birth. This does not mean that there is a conflict, just that we have two different writers telling the same story but concentrating on the parts that were the most important to each of them. For example, Matthew didn't think it was important to let the reader know that Joseph and Mary originally were from the city of Nazareth, and when the tax decree was issued, they had to register in the city of their lineage. Looking at Luke's account, we find that Mary was already in the province of Judah (Luke 1:39), and in Luke 2:1-4, we are told that Joseph left the province of Galilee alone to travel to the city of Bethlehem, which is located in the province of Judah. Therefore, my conclusion is that Joseph met Mary in the province of Judah.

Furthermore, Mathew doesn't explain why Jesus was born in Bethlehem, neither does he record that Joseph and Mary had been living in Nazareth. He simply states that Jesus was born in Bethlehem. It was important to Matthew that the wise men from the East came to Jerusalem to honor the newborn king and that King Herod was threatened by this and carefully tried to find out when the birth had taken place. When he found out there was a time period of two years, Herod ordered all boys two years old and younger to be killed in order to make sure that the Messiah would be killed. **Matthew 2:1-23**

My understanding is that after Joseph and Mary had been to the temple in Jerusalem forty one days after the birth of Jesus, they went back to Bethlehem since we are not told how long it took for the officials to register the people for the taxes. An angel spoke again to Joseph and warned him to flee to Egypt in order to make sure that Jesus would not be murdered. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus is referred to as a baby, while Matthew refers to Him as a young child. **Luke 2:16**  
**Matthew 2:13-14**

The conclusion I draw in all this is that the shepherds came the same night Jesus was born, while the wise men came to Jesus when He was around two years old. Joseph would not have had the means to flee to Egypt, unless the wise men had given those gifts, particularly the gold.

## **JOSEPH & MARY MUST HAVE TOLD JESUS ABOUT HIS BIRTH**

Any parents on this earth would in time tell their child if their birth was special. There is no doubt in my mind that Jesus' parents told Him the story, and from a young age, He must have accepted the fact that He was divine as well as human.

When Jesus was twelve years old, Joseph and Mary traveled to Jerusalem again to celebrate the Passover. When we read of this account in the Gospel of Luke, it is clear that Jesus knew of His divine virgin conception and that the Holy Spirit had revealed heavenly things to Him. **Luke 2:40-52**

## **MANY THINGS ARE UNKNOWN TO US**

There are no Biblical records of Jesus' childhood, when his step-father Joseph died, what day Jesus was born, or His exact age when He began his ministry. The assumption is that Jesus was 30 years old when he started his ministry because a male in Israel did not reach legal age until thirty years old. Most likely He worked with His father since the people in His hometown referred to Him as the carpenter's son. **Matthew 13:53-58; Luke 3:23**

## **JESUS KNEW HE WAS THE SON OF GOD**

The Bible doesn't say at what age Jesus knew He was the Son of God but it is obvious that He had this knowledge once He started public ministry.

1. Confronting the Pharisees. **Matthew 22:41-46**
2. Confronting the people. **John 8:31-59**
3. Even though Jesus had all this knowledge, there was the human side to Him; and so before His death, God sent Moses and Elijah to teach Him in detail about His upcoming death and resurrection. **Luke 9:28-36**
4. Talking to the apostles. **John 12:20-50**

**DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?**