

# Synchronizing the Nativity Accounts of Matthew and Luke

Addendum: “My Father’s Business”



After the death of Herod, God directed the family to leave Egypt and return to Israel.

**Matthew 2:19-21**

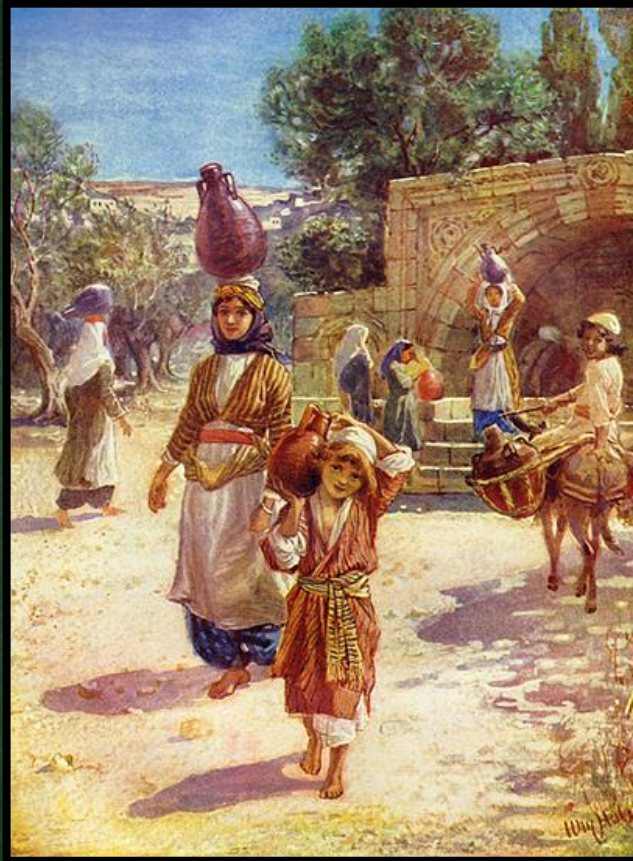
- <sup>19</sup> But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt,
- <sup>20</sup> Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.
- <sup>21</sup> And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.



The family settled in Nazareth of Galilee.

**Matthew 2:22-23**

- <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee:
- <sup>23</sup> And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.



Other than his place of residence, the Bible has very little to say about the childhood of Jesus.

**Luke 2:39-40**

- <sup>39</sup> And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.
- <sup>40</sup> And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

The next record of  
Jesus occurs when he  
is 12 years old:



Christ in the Temple, by Heinrich Hofmann, courtesy C. Harrison Conroy Co., Inc.



### **Luke 2:41-45**

- <sup>41</sup> Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.
- <sup>42</sup> And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.
- <sup>43</sup> And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.
- <sup>44</sup> But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among *their* kinsfolk and acquaintance.
- <sup>45</sup> And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.



## Luke 2:46-47

- <sup>46</sup> And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.
- <sup>47</sup> And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.



## Luke 2:48

<sup>48</sup> And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.





**Luke 2:49-52**

- 49 And he said unto them,  
How is it that ye sought me?  
wist ye not that I must be about my Father's  
business?
- 50 And they understood not the saying which he  
spake unto them.
- 51 And he went down with them, and came to  
Nazareth, and was subject unto them:  
but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.
- 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature,  
and in favour with God and man.

The four Gospels converge with their testimony of the ministry of John the Baptist:



Luke includes this short summation of John the Baptist's childhood:

**Luke 1:80**

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.



**Matthew 3:1-2**

- <sup>1</sup> In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,
- <sup>2</sup> And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.



## Mark 1:1-4

- 1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God;
- 2 As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.
- 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.
- 4 John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.



**Luke 3:1a, 2b**

- <sup>1</sup> Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...
- <sup>2</sup> ... the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.



## John 1:6-7

- <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God,  
whose name was John.
- <sup>7</sup> The same came for a witness,  
to bear witness of the Light,  
that all men through him might believe.



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This work continues to this day:







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