

THE JOURNEYS OF JESUS

I. Matthew 2:13-23

A. So today I want to talk about the journeys of Jesus. When we think of the Apostle Paul, his missionary journeys took him all over--to Asia Minor to Europe to Rome, perhaps to Spain, and back again to Rome. Jesus' journeys were more confined to what today we call the Holy Land. But no matter where Jesus trod, Jerusalem was always His ultimate destination. But let's consider His journeys...

B. While still in His mother's womb, He traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem. By order of Caesar, they were on their way to register for a census that would likely determine how much they'd be paying in taxes. We often see that trek depicted with a pregnant Mary riding a donkey while Joseph walks beside her on foot. If that wasn't the actual case, perhaps Mary hiked the 90 miles. Were the nights cold or hot? What were the conversations like? Did they compare angel stories? Were there any pre-labor pains? Did Mary feel the Baby kick? Did Joseph? Were there any lingering doubts by Joseph & Mary about this whole ordeal or were the angelic encounters plenty good enough to gird up their faith?

C. Once Jesus was born, they made their first trip to Jerusalem, a mere 5 miles away. The two prophets they encountered that day, Simeon and Anna, affirmed all their previous angel visits. Then sometime between His birth and age 2, those star-following Magi show up with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Royal gifts that were fit for a King. These foreign wisemen understood the stakes better than all of Judah's OT scholars. And their visit would set up the next journey. Let's read all about it...

D. Matthew 2:13-23 (ESV) is a good summary of Jesus' early travels: **13** Now when they (Magi) had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the Child, to destroy Him." **14** And he rose and took the Child and His mother by night and departed to Egypt **15** and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called My son." (**Hosea 11:1**) **16** Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. **17** Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: **18** "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more." (**Jeremiah 31:15**) **19** But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, **20** saying, "Rise, take the Child and His mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the Child's life are dead." **21** And he rose and took the Child and His mother and went to the land of Israel. **22** But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. **23** And he went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that He would be called a Nazarene. (**Micah 5:2**)

E. So the Magi skip returning to Jerusalem causing Herod to break out in a murderous rage, ordering a genocide on Bethlehem boys. Warned by an angel, the

Family steals away by night for Egypt. What was that journey like? Joseph's carpentry skills would've provided income but we know little else about their time there as foreigners. That said, I can imagine Joseph telling the story many times over about another Joseph, one who was sold into Egyptian slavery by his brothers, later to be wrongly accused and imprisoned, but then as an interpreter of dreams, went go be second only to Pharaoh. And then you can almost see & hear Mary & Joseph pointing at the pyramids and then telling their Son how God raised up a great deliverer in Moses to lead the most incredible exodus of all time. And yet a greater Deliverer sat at the feet of His wonderful parents, soaking up every word...

F. Eventually Herod the butcher dies, green-lighting the Holy Family's return to Nazareth. While we aren't sure exactly how old Jesus was at the time, we know He'd learn His earthly father's trade. *Tekton* was the actual term used for Joseph and Jesus' vocation. Besides carpentry, their wheelhouse of talents likely included masonry, metal work, and other kinds of craftsmen skills & abilities.

G. We also know at age twelve Jesus went with His family to Jerusalem for Passover. And when they left for home, they came to realize on the road that Jesus was missing. After frantically searching the City for three days, they eventually found their Boy at the Temple having deep theological discussions with the Jewish leaders. Oh to have heard those incredible conversations!

H. But from 12 to 30, we can only guess what takes place. Did Joseph and Jesus make plows and yokes as Justin Martyr supposedly alleged with some of these implements still in use in the 2nd century? We just don't know. Did their Father & Son projects stretch beyond Nazareth to Capernaum, and around the Sea of Galilee region? We can only guess. Did Joseph die fairly young as some scholars surmise because he leaves the gospel narratives? Then as the eldest Son, did Jesus become the chief family breadwinner? We don't know. But everything suddenly changes with a wedding in Cana. The hosts run out of wine at the post-marriage celebration and Jesus steps in, orders jars filled with water, which He turns it into the best wine ever. The next 3 years are unsurpassed!

I. Your notes will include several OT prophecies that point to Jesus. We call these Messianic prophecies. As we contemplate Jesus' journeys, we can be sure of this: No matter where He went, from Galilee to Judea to Samaria, He was ultimately headed for Jerusalem. Even when He left one of the festivals held in Zion, He was still headed back there, still on mission, still destined to carry out His redemptive plan on a hill called Golgotha. **Isaiah 50:6-7 (ESV)** is yet one more OT prophecy pointing to His destination: *6 I gave My back to those who strike, and My cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not My face from disgrace and spitting. 7 But the Lord God helps Me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set My face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.*

J. **Luke 18:31-34 (ESV)** are the red letter words of Jesus: *31 And taking the twelve, He said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. 32 For He will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. 33 And after flogging Him, they will kill Him, and on the third day He will rise." 34 But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.*

K. Jesus' face was set like flint to die for your sins and mine! He would not be deterred. As co-Creator of the universe, the Maker of all things seen and unseen, He could venture anywhere at anytime and get there at the speed of thought. But He chose to come here--God Incarnate--*Emmanuel*. He chose to make few His steps here on terra firma so you could walk with Him forevermore! The beautiful feet that bore this Good News were pierced along with His hands and side. His backside ripped to shreds. His head was crowned with thorns. His body was horribly tortured. His blood heinously shed. And this for us, bearing the punishment we deserved! And yet He did indeed rise on that third day as promised and now He summons you to come after Him, to make the journey of a lifetime! I promise you it will be no Christmas cookie walk, but it'll be a never ending journey steeped in the rich presence and glory of God! I encourage you to shod your feet accordingly--take up your cross and follow Him...

*** Close with Prayer...**

[Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff](#)

[Matthew 2:13-23 \(ESV\)](#)

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[Isaiah 50:6-7 \(ESV\)](#)

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Bonus Goodies

What We Celebrate at Christmas - R.C. Sproul (Ligonier Ministries)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oejq25JYhLQ>

What the Magi Mean to Christmas - John MacArthur

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JK0fO9bwogQ>

Jesus Set His Face Like Flint Towards Jerusalem - Pastor Steve (April 7, 2019)

<https://millersportcc.com/messages/jesus-set-his-face-like-flint-towards-jerusalem/>

More Verses, Quotes, Excerpts, & Extras

Hosea 11:1 (ESV)

1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My Son.

Jeremiah 31:15 (ESV)

15 Thus says the LORD: “A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.”

Micah 5:2 (ESV)

2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for Me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

Isaiah 7:14 (ESV)

14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Isaiah 9:6-7 (ESV)

6 For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Matthew 1:18-25 (ESV)

18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with Child from the Holy Spirit. **19** And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. **20** But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” **22** All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: **23** “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). **24** When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, **25** but knew her not until she had given birth to a Son. And He called His name Jesus.

Luke 1:26-38 (ESV)

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” **29** But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. **30** And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to Him the throne of his father David, **33** and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” **34** And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” **35** And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the Child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. **36** And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God.” **38** And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Luke 2:1-20 (NKJV)

1 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. **3** So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. **4** Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, **5** to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. **6** So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. **7** And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. **8** Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. **10** Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. **11** For there is

born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.” **13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: **14** “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!” **15** So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, “Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.” **16** And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. **17** Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. **18** And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. **19** But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. **20** Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

Luke 2:41-52 (NIV)

41 Every year Jesus’ parents went to Jerusalem for the Festival of the Passover. **42** When He was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. **43** After the festival was over, while His parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. **44** Thinking He was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for Him among their relatives and friends. **45** When they did not find Him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for Him. **46** After three days they found Him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. **47** Everyone who heard Him was amazed at His understanding and His answers. **48** When His parents saw Him, they were astonished. His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for You.” **49** “Why were you searching for Me?” He asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in My Father’s house?” **50** But they did not understand what He was saying to them. **51** Then He went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. But His mother treasured all these things in her heart. **52** And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Luke 9:51-56 (ESV)

51 When the days drew near for Him to be taken up, He set His face to go to Jerusalem. **52** And He sent messengers ahead of Him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for Him. **53** But the people did not receive Him, because His face was set toward Jerusalem. **54** And when His disciples James and John saw it, they said, “Lord, do You want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?” **55** But He turned and rebuked them. **56** And they went on to another village.

Galatians 4:4-7 (NASB)

4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, **5** so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. **6** Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” **7** Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

Romans 5:6 (NIV)

6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

Philippians 2:8-11 (ESV)

8 And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** Therefore God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the name that is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Joseph & Jesus' Plows & Yokes

"In the second century, Christian apologist Justin Martyr grew up over the hill from Galilee. Interestingly, he notes that the plows made by Joseph and Jesus were still being used widely in his day. How intriguing to think of Jesus' plow rather than his cross – to wonder what it was that made his plows and yokes last and stand out."

- Os Guinness, *The Call*.

Quote by Augustine

"Man's Maker was made man that He, Ruler of the stars, might nurse at His mother's breast; that the Bread might hunger, the Fountain thirst, the Light sleep, the Way be tired on its journey; that Truth might be accused of false witness, the Teacher be beaten with whips, the Foundation be suspended on wood; that Strength might grow weak; that the Healer might be wounded; that Life might die."

– Augustine of Hippo (Sermons 191.1)

Quote by Henry Law

"A lowly Babe lies in the lowly cradle of a lowly town, the offspring of a lowly mother. Look again. That child is the eternal "I AM." He whose Deity never had birth, is born "the woman's Seed." He, whom no infinitudes can hold, is contained within infant's age, and infant's form. He, who never began to be, as God, here begins to be, as man. And can it be, that the great "I AM THAT I AM" shrinks into our flesh, and is little upon our earth, as one newborn of yesterday? It is so."

Quote by Bernard Ramm

"If God became incarnate, what kind of man would He be? If God became a man we would expect His human life to be sinless. Jesus was. If God were to become a man we would expect Him to be a model of purity. Jesus was. If God were a man we would expect His words to be the greatest ever spoken. Jesus' words were. If God were to become a man we would expect Him to exert a profound power over human personality. Jesus did. If God were to become a man we would expect some supernatural acts. And Jesus did them. If God were to become a man we would expect Him to manifest the love of God. And Jesus did in dying on the cross.

Quote by Charles Spurgeon

"O you redeemed ones, on whose behalf this strong resolve was made--you who have been bought by the precious blood of this steadfast, resolute Redeemer--come and think awhile of Him, that your hearts may burn within you and that your faces may be set like flints to live and die for Him who lived and died for you!"

Quote by Oswald Chambers

"Jesus Christ became Incarnate for one purpose, to make a way back to God that man might stand before Him as He was created to do, the friend and lover of God Himself."

Quote by Tim Keller

"We must say to ourselves something like this: 'Well, when Jesus looked down from the cross, He didn't think 'I am giving Myself to you because you are so attractive to Me.' No, He was in agony, and He looked down at us - denying Him, abandoning Him, and betraying Him - and in the greatest act of love in history, He stayed. He said, 'Father, forgive them, they don't know what they are doing.' He loved us, not because we were lovely to Him, but to make us lovely..."

Praise For The Incarnation

By John Newton

Sweeter sounds than music knows
Charm me in Immanuel's name;
All her hopes my spirit owes
To His birth, and cross, and shame.

When He came, the angels sung,
"Glory be to God on high;"
Lord, unloose my stamm'ring tongue,
Who should louder sing than I?

Did the Lord a Man become,
That He might the law fulfill,
Bleed and suffer in my room,
And canst thou, my tongue, be still?

No, I must my praises bring,
Though they worthless are and weak;
For should I refuse to sing,
Sure the very stones would speak.

O my Saviour, Shield, and Sun,
Shepherd, Brother, Husband, Friend,
Ev'ry precious name in One,
I will love Thee without end.

- John Newton, http://www.puritansermons.com/poetry/newt_p03.htm