

## **Luke 2:40-52**

Wise Beyond His Years: Jesus the Temple and the Teachers

The Real “Real Meaning” of Christmas:  
The Babe in the Manger Was/Is the God-Man-Savior

### **The Context of Luke 2:41-52:**

Announcement of the Coming Birth of John the Baptist (1:5-25)

Announcement of the Coming Birth of Jesus the Christ (1:26-56)

The Actual Birth of the John the Baptist (1:57-80)

The Actual Birth of Jesus the Christ (2:1-20)

The Adoration of Jesus as an Infant (2:21-39)

The Advancement of Jesus as a Young Boy (2:40-52)

The Baptism of Jesus the Christ by John the Baptizing Jew (3:1-38)

The Temptation of Jesus the Christ by Lucifer the Leader of the Demons (4:1-13)

### **One General Truth about Jesus as a Boy v40**

The humanity of Jesus developed over time from childhood to adulthood

### **One Specific Example of Jesus as a Boy v41-51**

At age 12, Jesus confounded the “Experts” of the Law

### **One Final Affirmation of the One General Truth about Jesus as a Boy v52**

Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man

# Jesus as a Boy v41-51

## At Age 12, Jesus Confounded the “Experts” of The Law

### Verse 41

Joseph/Mary were committed to travel to Jerusalem yearly to celebrate the Passover. The Passover the annual Jewish holiday celebrating the Exodus from Egypt led by Moses. Its name and prophetic significance comes from the fact that in Exodus 12, the death angel PASSED OVER the homes protected the blood of the Lamb. Jesus as the Lamb of God was/is the fulfillment of the prophetic aspect of the Passover

### Verse 42

At 12 years of age, Jesus “went up there” (to Jerusalem) with his parents/family. No Class A Miracles here: they walked or rode in a wagon drawn by horses/donkeys, they got hungry/tired along the way.

### Verse 43

Fast forward about a week, Passover + the Feast of Unleavened Bread, as “they” Joseph/Mary and the extended family/friends “were returning” to Nazareth, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem but His parents were unaware of it. What...

### Verse 44a

.....Most Bible questions are answered in the next verse: The caravan would be led by adult males in one group in front/to guide and protect and followed by women/children a few hundred yards behind. Jesus could have been in either group

### Verse 44b-45

After the 1<sup>st</sup> day’s journey, when the two parts of the caravan joined up to set up camp for the night, Mary who had assumed Jesus was with the men and Joseph who had assumed Jesus was with the women “compared notes” and the math didn’t add up!?!

### Verse 46

The phrase “after three days” was a Jewish idiom meaning a three day period including the third day itself. That being true the chronology

Day 1: the parents travel north from Jerusalem

Day 2: The parents travel south back to Jerusalem

Day 3: after the 3<sup>rd</sup> day started, Joseph/Mary searched the city for their 12 year old son.

Jesus-not asking Qs for information about things He didn’t know/so He could believe He was (respectfully) asking Qs for a declaration of what “The Teachers” believed

**Verse 47**

The teachers in turn were asking Jesus questions...and were amazed as HIS answers

**Verse 48**

Mary's exasperation was not blasphemy but an honest release of her fears about this situation because of her love for her Son...exasperation punctuated by tears of joy!

**Verse 49**

Jesus' question to His parents was not disrespectful but an honest response to the fact the Temple was (apparently) the last place they had looked for Him. In effect He said "Hey mom, why didn't come straight here? Where else would I be waiting for you?"

**Verse 50**

Mary/Joseph's "lack of understanding here" concerned Jesus' reference to His "Father's House" and the theological dynamics of their relationship within the Trinity.

**Verse 51**

Any/all theories about Jesus being less than respectful to His human parents are smashed by this verse. Rather than saying "It's been nice but I will be living in Jerusalem now" the Lord "continued in subjection (submission) to them." Submission in Scripture is not a show of weakness or of inferiority but rather a demonstration of strength...it is choosing to follow the lead/direction of another. As such it is not something which can be forced (that would be coercion not submission. But realize that many critics of Christianity are not aware of this categorical distinction...so help them to see it.

**Verse 52**

Speaking of His humanity (not His deity) "Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and man" as his human/physical capabilities continued to grow and mature, until.....fast forward to Luke 3:23.

**Take This To Heart**

We do not know very much about the life of Jesus prior to the beginning of His ministry when He was "about 30 years of age." But the snapshot in Luke 2:40-52 is consistent with what God the Father proclaims at Jesus' baptism: "This is My Beloved Son in Whom I Am Well Pleased!"

Jesus the Christ is the center of human history and that goes back to the Real "Real Meaning" of Christmas: The Babe in the manger was/is the God-Man-Savior