

1. (a) When the angel appeared to Joseph in a dream in Matthew 2:19, and told him Herod was dead, did Joseph go directly back to Bethlehem? (Matthew 2:19-23) Yes? _____ or No? _____
 (b) If No, where did he go? _____
 (c) Why? _____

2. This was a fulfillment of what prophecy? (Matthew 2:23) _____
3. Luke 2:40 states four things that describe Jesus. Name them:
 (a) _____
 (b) _____
 (c) _____
 (d) _____

4. How many years of the life of Jesus do we have no record? (Study Guide, p.30) _____
5. What did He declare in Mark 2:27? _____

6. The law of God is merciful: it does not forbid works of necessity on the _____.
 (Study Guide, p.30)
7. What does Jesus say about Himself in John 8:29?

SEVENTH STUDY

RETURN TO NAZARETH (Matthew 2:19-23) NAZARETH

Again, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to leave Egypt and return to the land of Israel, for the tyrant, Herod, was dead (Matthew 2:19). Joseph returned to his native land, but not to Bethlehem, for he feared Archelaus, the son of Herod, might also attempt to slaughter the baby. The Lord confirmed his fear by another dream and directed him back to Galilee, his own city of Nazareth. This was also a fulfillment of prophecy: "He shall be called a Nazarene" (Matthew 2:20-23). This does not seem to be a quotation from the Old Testament, but could be reference to the word Branch (Hebrew, *netser*, corresponding to Netseret, still the Hebrew name for Nazareth today). See Isaiah 11:1; Jeremiah 23:5; 33:15; Zachariah 3:8; 6:12.

CHILDHOOD TO TWELVE YEARS (Luke 2:40-52)

Luke 2:40—And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon Him.

- (1) He was a natural human boy.
- (2) He developed in a normal way.
- (3) He was accompanied by the presence of His Father.
- (4) He attended, with His parents, the Feast of Passover every year.
- (5) He was brought-up in this orthodox religious

atmosphere.

(6) It is believed, He had communed and had fellowship with His Father even as a little child.

(7) His education began at age six.

(8) He followed the Jewish custom of attending the local synagogue school.

(9) He studied the Old Testament law, it was His text book.

(10) At twelve, He graduated and became a "son of the law".

(11) He then experienced confirmation.

(12) He was allowed to go to Jerusalem and enter into a conversation with the Rabbis.

(13) In the temple, at age twelve, He became so absorbed in conversation with teachers of the law, that He didn't realize Joseph and His mother had started the journey home (Luke 2:46).

(14) He was still there three days later, in the temple with the doctors of the law (Luke 2:46).

(15) Joseph and Mary had turned back to search for Him (Luke 2:45).

(16) Mary scolded Him gently, *for they had sought Him sorrowing* (Luke 2:48).

(17) Luke 2:49—*And He said unto them, How is it that ye sought Me? wist ye not that I must be about My Father's business?*

(18) Verse 50 says they did not understand what He spoke unto them.

(19) He went back *to Nazareth, and was subject* to His parents and His heavenly Father (Luke 2:51).

(20) This was part of His attitude of humility.

(21) He was already conscious that He was the Son of Almighty God.

(22) He increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man (Luke 2: 52).

EIGHTEEN SILENT YEARS

Between the age of twelve until Jesus was thirty, during that period of His life, we have no record. We only know He increased in wisdom and stature. We also know He had favor with God and man. It could be, He added to His contact with the elders of the Jewish leaders, His text books and the Holy Scriptures and all He learned in communion with His Father. And it was not merely the technical, literal meaning of the law which He learned. He understood David's being allowed to eat the showbread even when it was not lawful for him to do so (Matthew 12:1-8). The law of God is merciful; it does not forbid works of necessity on the Sabbath day. He declared that the Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath (Mark 2:27). It was logical for Him to conclude: if the Pharisees could pull a sheep out of the pit on the Sabbath day, He could heal a man with a withered arm on the Sabbath (Matthew 12:10). In the great realm of common-sense and reason He moved with respect and appreciation. He worked in Joseph's carpenter shop and had favor with God and man. And even as a lad He did always those things that pleased His Father (John 8:29).