LUKE 2

A Savior Born in the City of David

an emperor's decree, a manger, shepherds and angels, two old saints in the temple, and a boy in His Father's house

> *"for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."*
> LUKE 2:11

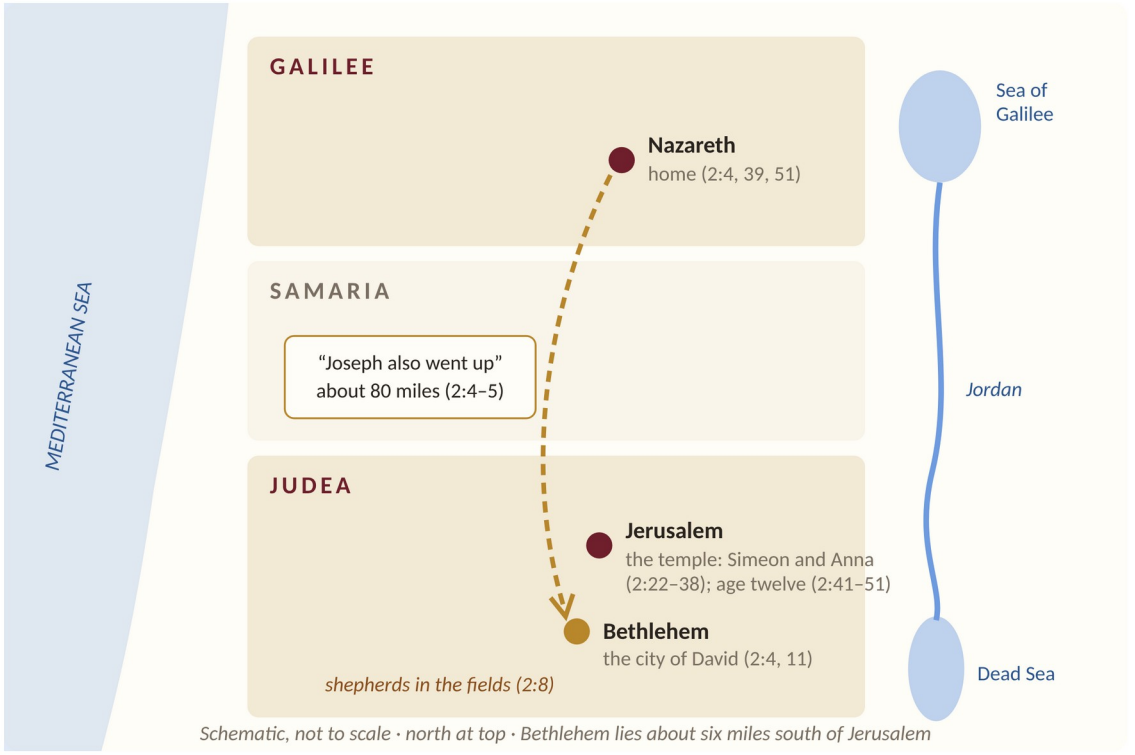
A SMITH FOR CHRIST STUDY · FOUR VOICES: GUZIK · SPROUL · SPURGEON · HENRY

Where we are in Luke

1. Luke 1 ended with John growing up in the deserts and Mary going home to Nazareth after three months with Elizabeth (1:56, 80).

2. He moved her through Rome.

3. The Law of Moses frames the second half of the chapter.



No Room in the Inn

Caesar's decree, the road to Bethlehem, and a manger for a cradle

LUKE 2:7

And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

DAVID GUZIK

Not "once upon a time"; Augustus served God's plan; no room was a sign.

R.C. SPROUL

Caesar and the true King side by side; no place to lay His head.

C.H. SPURGEON

King of the poor; no one fears a manger; make room for Him.

MATTHEW HENRY

Providence had another reach; an inn receives all comers.

ἀπογραφή

APOGRAPHĒ · "CENSUS, REGISTRATION"

A writing-off, an enrollment on an official list — here for taxation.

Good News of Great Joy

Shepherds by night, the glory of the Lord, and a sign in a manger

LUKE 2:10

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;

DAVID GUZIK

The first preacher was an angel; we need a Savior, not a committee.

R.C. SPROUL

The lowest people saw the glory; they told everyone they knew.

C.H. SPURGEON

Glory, peace, good will — the swaddling band was a white flag.

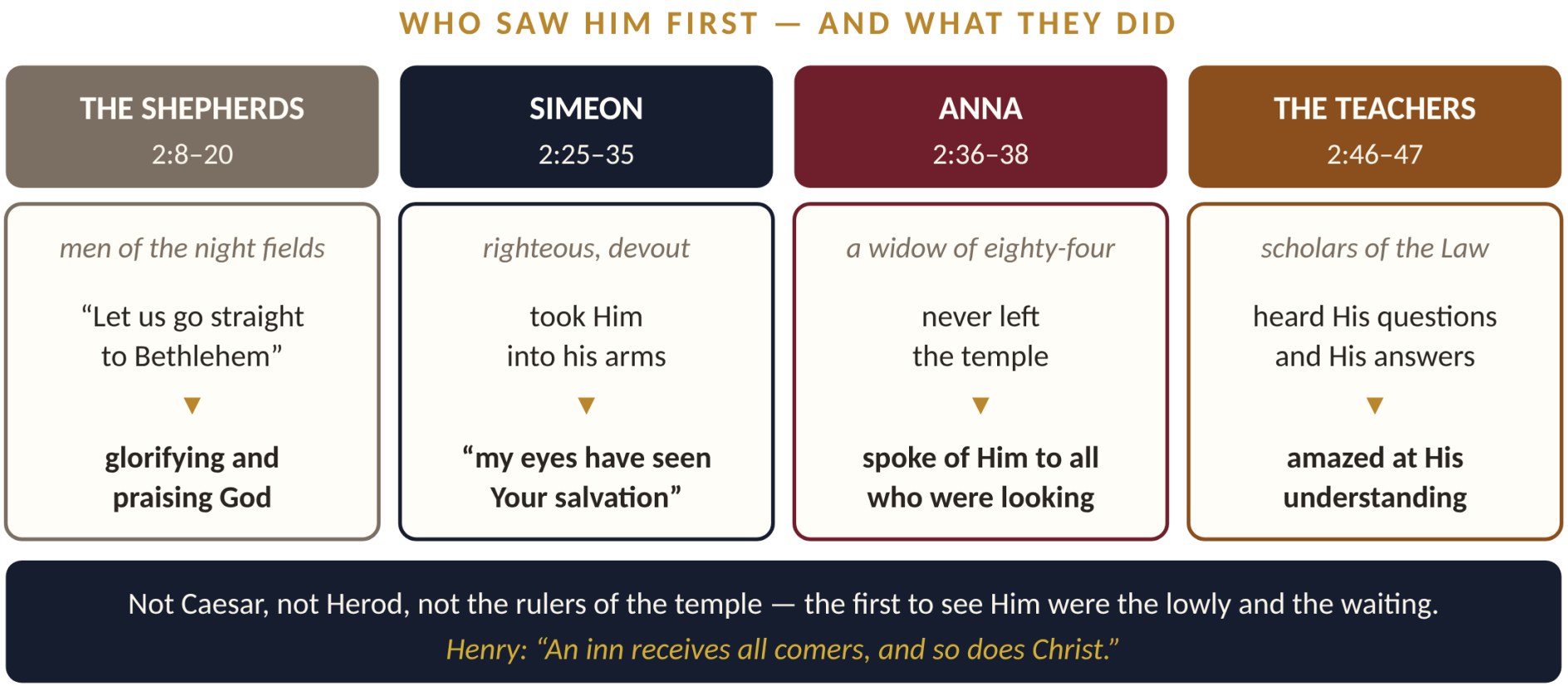
MATTHEW HENRY

Honest work is no barrier to divine visits; ponder to keep.

εὐαγγελίζομαι
EUANGELIZOMAI · "I BRING GOOD NEWS"

"I bring you good news (euangelizomai) of great joy" (v. 10).

Who saw Him first



Read each column top to bottom: who they were, what they did with the Child, and what came out of their mouths.

My Eyes Have Seen Your Salvation

Circumcision, the offering of the poor, Simeon's song and Anna's thanks

LUKE 2:25

And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

DAVID GUZIK

A watchman relieved at dawn; Jesus is a magnet; Anna not bitter.

R.C. SPROUL

The Redeemer was redeemed; no neutrality about her Son.

C.H. SPURGEON

Every believer may depart in peace — if he has lived in peace.

MATTHEW HENRY

Blood by drops, then in streams; who welcome Christ may welcome death.

παράκλησις
PARAKLĒSIS · "CONSOLATION"

Comfort, encouragement — literally a calling-alongside, the root of the Spirit's title Paraklētos (John 14:16).

The first twelve years



Day 40 = 7 days + 33 days of purification (Leviticus 12:2–4); Luke says only “when the days … were completed.”

Luke passes over the years between v40 and v41 with one sentence: “The Child continued to grow.”

Follow the line left to right: Luke moves from the birth to the eighth day, the fortieth day, the return to Nazareth and the Passover at twelve.

In My Father's House

A lost boy found among the teachers, and eighteen quiet years of growth

LUKE 2:40

The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

DAVID GUZIK

A son takes up his father's business; from vision to duty.

R.C. SPROUL

Not His divine nature — a perfect human mind learning.

C.H. SPURGEON

His first words: Son of the Highest, at home in His Father's house.

MATTHEW HENRY

Seek till you find; obey parents; grow in wisdom.

ἐν τοῖς τοῦ πατρός μου δεῖ εἶναί με

DEI · "I HAD TO BE"

Literally, "in the [things] of My Father it is necessary that I be."

What to carry from this chapter

1 **God moves emperors to keep a promise.**
Caesar wanted taxes; God wanted Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).

2 **The sign was a manger.**
The angel's sign was not a palace but a feeding trough (v12).

3 **The gospel came first to the lowly.**
Sproul calls the shepherds "the lowest people of the land."

4 **Glory to God, peace to men — in that order.**
Guzik: "Let God have all the glory, so we may have the peace."

More to carry

5

Two ways to hear the news.

The crowd “wondered” (v18) — a passing emotion; Mary “treasured … pondering” (v19), turning it over for years (cf. v51).

6

The Redeemer was redeemed.

Luke names the Law five times (vv22–24, 27, 39).

7

The Lamb came with the offering of the poor.

Mary could not afford a lamb (Lev 12:8) — but she was carrying one.

8

Ready to die because he had seen.

Simeon was “released” like a watchman at dawn (apolyō).

Talk it through

1. Caesar thought he was running the world; God used his decree to bring Mary to Bethlehem. Where am I tempted to think the powerful people in my life are in control instead of God?

2. There was no room for them in the inn. What in my schedule, my habits or my heart is crowding Jesus out right now?

3. God sent the first gospel message to shepherds working the night shift. What does that tell me about how God sees men the world overlooks — including me?

4. The shepherds went “in a hurry,” then told everyone; Mary quietly pondered. Which one do I need more of this week — urgency or reflection?

5. Simeon could say “depart in peace” because he had seen God’s salvation. If my life ended this week, could I say the same? What would need to change?

CLOSING

Luke 2 moves from Caesar's palace to a feeding trough, from angels in the sky to an old man's arms, and from the temple courts back to a carpenter's home in Nazareth. The King of glory was born poor, kept the Law, was opposed from the start, and grew up in quiet obedience. Make room for Him, ponder what you have heard, and tell someone what you have seen.

Teaching the Word. Watching the Times. — Smith For Christ

Full Deep Dive, O·I·A study and reflection journal: see the Luke study page.