

**(A.D. 9 to A.D. 27)**



| #  | @ | <i>Incident</i>                              | <i>Matthew</i> | <i>Mark</i> | <i>Luke</i> | <i>John</i> |
|----|---|----------------------------------------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 16 | 6 | Jesus's First Passover Visit (9 A.D.)        | --             | --          | Lk 2:41-50  | --          |
| 17 | 7 | Youth and Young Manhood of Jesus (9-27 A.D.) | --             | --          | Lk 2:51-52  | --          |

Adapted from the *SDA Bible Commentary*

# ***Infancy to Manhood of Jesus***

---

## **THE CENTRAL QUESTION:**

**What does this book/story say to us about God?**

**This question may be broken down further as follows:**

**a. Why did God do it/allow it?**

**b. Why did He record it for our study?**

**“.... To be permitted to have a view of God is the highest privilege accorded to man. This privilege should be prized above all earthly distinction or honor.”—Ellen G. White, *The Signs of the Times*,\* June 16, 1898, par. 15.<sup>†</sup>**

**[\[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p820.15211&index=0\]](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p820.15211&index=0)<sup>‡</sup>**

---

1. [Gospel Chronology #16: Jesus's First Passover Visit (Luke 2:41-50)] - Chronology Adapted from: A Harmony of the Gospels in The Fourfold Gospel Narrative. Nichol F. D. (Ed.) (1956). *The Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary*, vol. 5. Washington, DC: Review and Herald Publishing Association; pg 196-201.] = [Gospel Chronology #16: Jesus's First Passover Visit (Luke 2:41-50)] ***What took place at the time of the Passover visit when Jesus was 12 years old?*** See *The Desire of Ages* pages 75-83.

[From the writings of Ellen G. White=EGW:] Among the Jews the twelfth year was the dividing line between childhood and youth. On completing this year a Hebrew boy was called a son of the law, and also a son of God. He was given special opportunities for religious instruction, and was expected to participate in the sacred feasts and observances. It was in accordance with this custom that Jesus in His boyhood made the Passover visit to Jerusalem. **Like all devout Israelites, Joseph and Mary went up every year to attend the Passover; and when Jesus had reached the required age, they took Him with them.**—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*\* 75.1.<sup>†‡</sup> [\[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.271&index=0\]](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.271&index=0)<sup>‡</sup>

[EGW:] **For the first time the child Jesus looked upon the temple.** He saw the white-robed priests performing their solemn ministry. He beheld the bleeding victim upon the altar of sacrifice. With the worshipers He bowed in prayer, while the cloud of incense ascended before God. He witnessed the impressive rites of the paschal [Passover] service. **Day by day He saw their meaning more clearly.** Every act seemed to be bound up with His own life. New impulses were awakening within Him. Silent and absorbed, He seemed to be studying out a great problem. **The mystery of His mission was opening to the Saviour** [*sic*-British spelling].

Rapt in the contemplation of these scenes, He did not remain beside His parents. He sought to be alone. When the paschal services were ended, He still lingered in the temple courts; and when the worshipers departed from Jerusalem, He was left behind.

In this visit to Jerusalem, the parents of Jesus wished to bring Him in connection with the great teachers in Israel. While He was obedient in every particular to the word [*sic*] of God, He did not conform to the rabbinical rites and usages. Joseph and Mary hoped that He might be led to reverence the

learned rabbis, and give more diligent heed to their requirements. **But Jesus in the temple had been taught by God. That which He had received, He began at once to impart.**

At that day an apartment connected with the temple was devoted to a sacred school, after the manner of the schools of the prophets. Here leading rabbis with their pupils assembled, and hither the child Jesus came. Seating Himself at the feet of these grave, learned men, He listened to their instruction. As one seeking for wisdom, He questioned these teachers in regard to the prophecies, and to events then taking place that pointed to the advent of the Messiah.

Jesus presented Himself as one thirsting for a knowledge of God. His questions were suggestive of deep truths which had long been obscured, yet which were vital to the salvation of souls. While showing how narrow and superficial was the wisdom of the wise men, every question put before them a divine lesson, and placed truth in a new aspect. **The rabbis spoke of the wonderful elevation which the Messiah's coming would bring to the Jewish nation; but Jesus presented the prophecy of Isaiah, and asked them the meaning of those scriptures that point to the suffering and death of the Lamb of God.**

The doctors turned upon Him with questions, and they were amazed at His answers. With the humility of a child He repeated the words of Scripture, giving them a depth of meaning that the wise men had not conceived of. If followed, the lines of truth He pointed out would have worked a reformation in the religion of the day. A deep interest in spiritual things would have been awakened; and when Jesus began His ministry, many would have been prepared to receive Him.—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*\* 78.1-6.<sup>††</sup>

[<https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.283&index=0>]<sup>†</sup>

[EGW:] **The rabbis knew that Jesus had not been instructed in their schools; yet His understanding of the prophecies far exceeded theirs.** In this thoughtful Galilean boy they discerned great promise. They desired to gain Him as a student, that He might become a teacher in Israel. **They wanted to have charge of His education, feeling that a mind so original must be brought under their molding.**

**The words of Jesus had moved their hearts as they had never before been moved by words from human lips.** God was seeking to give light to those leaders in Israel, and He used the only means by which they could be reached. In their pride they would have scorned to admit that they could receive instruction from anyone. **If Jesus had appeared to be trying to teach them, they would have disdained to listen. But they flattered themselves that they were teaching Him, or at least testing His knowledge of the Scriptures.** The youthful modesty and grace of Jesus disarmed their prejudices. **Unconsciously their minds were opened to the word [sic] of God, and the Holy Spirit spoke to their hearts.**

**They could not but see that their expectation in regard to the Messiah was not sustained by prophecy; but they would not renounce the**

**theories that had flattered their ambition.** They would not admit that they had misapprehended the Scriptures they claimed to teach. From one to another passed the inquiry, How hath this youth knowledge, having never learned? The light was shining in darkness; but “the darkness apprehended it not.” John 1:5, R. V.—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*\* 80.1-3.†

[\[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.292&index=0\]](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.292&index=0)†

2. [Gospel Chronology #17: Youth and Young Manhood (9-27 A.D.) (Luke 2:51-52)] ***What do we know about the childhood and youth of Jesus in Nazareth?***

The real answer is, we know almost nothing about Jesus childhood or youth! There are apocryphal gospels which tell fantastic stories about the childhood of Jesus. However, obviously, those are not reliable. (See the *New Testament Apocrypha*.) The best information we have is found in Luke 2:40,51-52 and in the book *The Desire of Ages* pages 68-92 (<https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.237&index=0>).

[EGW:] The childhood and youth of Jesus were spent in a little mountain village. There was no place on earth that would not have been honored by His presence. The palaces of kings would have been privileged in receiving Him as a guest. But He passed by the homes of wealth, the courts of royalty, and the renowned seats of learning, to make His home in obscure and despised Nazareth.—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*\* 68.1.†

[\[https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.237&index=0\]](https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.237&index=0)†

3. The mother of Jesus was His first human teacher. But, God Himself was His “Instructor,” and Jesus learned from the angels.

[EGW:] **The child Jesus did not receive instruction in the synagogue schools. His mother was His first human teacher. From her lips and from the scrolls of the prophets, He learned of heavenly things. The very words which He Himself had spoken to Moses for Israel He was now taught at His mother’s knee.** As He advanced from childhood to youth, He did not seek the schools of the rabbis. He needed not the education to be obtained from such sources; for **God was His instructor.**

The question asked during the Saviour’s [*sic*-British spelling] ministry, “How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?” does not indicate that Jesus was unable to read, but merely that He had not received a rabbinical education. John 7:15. **Since He gained knowledge as we may do,** His intimate acquaintance with the Scriptures shows how diligently His early years were given to the study of God’s word [*sic*]. And spread out before Him was the great library of God’s created works. He who had made all things studied the lessons which His own hand had written in earth and sea and sky. Apart from the unholy ways of the world, **He gathered stores of scientific knowledge from nature.** He studied the life of plants and animals, and the life of man. **From His earliest years He was possessed of one purpose; He lived to bless others.** For this He found resources in nature; new ideas of ways and means flashed into His mind as He studied plant life and animal life. Continually He was seeking to draw from things seen illustrations by which to present the living oracles of God. The parables by which, during His ministry, He loved to teach His lessons of truth show

how open His spirit was to the influences of nature, and how He had gathered the spiritual teaching from the surroundings of His daily life.

Thus to Jesus the significance of the word [*sic*] and the works of God was unfolded, as He was trying to understand the reason of things. **Heavenly beings [angels] were His attendants, and the culture of holy thoughts and communings was His.** From the first dawning of intelligence He was constantly growing in spiritual grace and knowledge of truth.

**Every child may gain knowledge as Jesus did....**

The life of Jesus was a life in harmony with God. While He was a child, He thought and spoke as a child; but no trace of sin marred the image of God within Him. Yet He was not exempt from temptation. The inhabitants of Nazareth were proverbial for their wickedness. The low estimate in which they were generally held is shown by Nathanael's question, "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth?" John 1:46. Jesus was placed where His character would be tested. It was necessary for Him to be constantly on guard in order to preserve His purity. **He was subject to all the conflicts which we have to meet, that He might be an example to us in childhood, youth, and manhood.**

**Satan was unwearied in his efforts to overcome the Child of Nazareth. From His earliest years Jesus was guarded by heavenly angels, yet His life was one long struggle against the powers of darkness. That there should be upon the earth one life free from the defilement of evil was an offense and a perplexity to the prince of darkness. He left no means untried to ensnare Jesus. No child of humanity will ever be called to live a holy life amid so fierce a conflict with temptation as was our Saviour [*sic*-British spelling].**

The parents of Jesus were poor, and dependent upon their daily toil. He was familiar with poverty, self-denial, and privation. This experience was a safeguard to Him. In His industrious life there were no idle moments to invite temptation. No aimless hours opened the way for corrupting associations. So far as possible, **He closed the door to the tempter. Neither gain nor pleasure, applause nor censure, could induce Him to consent to a wrong act. He was wise to discern evil, and strong to resist it.**

**Christ was the only sinless one who ever dwelt on earth; yet for nearly thirty years He lived among the wicked inhabitants of Nazareth.** This fact is a rebuke to those who think themselves dependent upon place, fortune, or prosperity, in order to live a blameless life. Temptation, poverty, adversity, is the very discipline needed to develop purity and firmness.

Jesus lived in a peasant's home, and faithfully and cheerfully acted His part in bearing the burdens of the household. He had been the Commander of heaven, and angels had delighted to fulfill His word; now He was a willing servant, a loving, obedient son. He learned a trade, and with His own hands worked in the carpenter's shop with Joseph. In the simple garb of a common laborer He walked the streets of the little town, going to and returning from His humble work. **He did not employ His divine power to lessen His**

**burdens or to lighten His toil.**—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*\* 70.1-72.3.<sup>†‡</sup> [<https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.246&index=0>]<sup>‡</sup>

[EGW:] **Jesus did not contend for His rights.** Often His work was made unnecessarily severe because He was willing and uncomplaining. Yet He did not fail nor become discouraged. He lived above these difficulties, as if in the light of God's countenance. He did not retaliate when roughly used, but bore insult patiently.—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*\* 89.4.<sup>†‡</sup> [<https://egwwritings.org/read?panels=p130.342&index=0>]<sup>‡</sup>

©2015-2026, Kenneth Hart, MD, MA, MPH. Permission is hereby granted for any noncommercial use of these materials. Free distribution of all or of a portion of this material such as to a Bible study class is encouraged. \*Electronic version. †Bold type is added. ‡Brackets and content in brackets are added.

Last Modified: August 2, 2026

Email: [Info@theox.org](mailto:Info@theox.org)