

Logos Class – Christmas 2023 – The Son Rises

Class for Dec 17, 2023, Lesson 2

Logos Class. Mod 5 Room 1

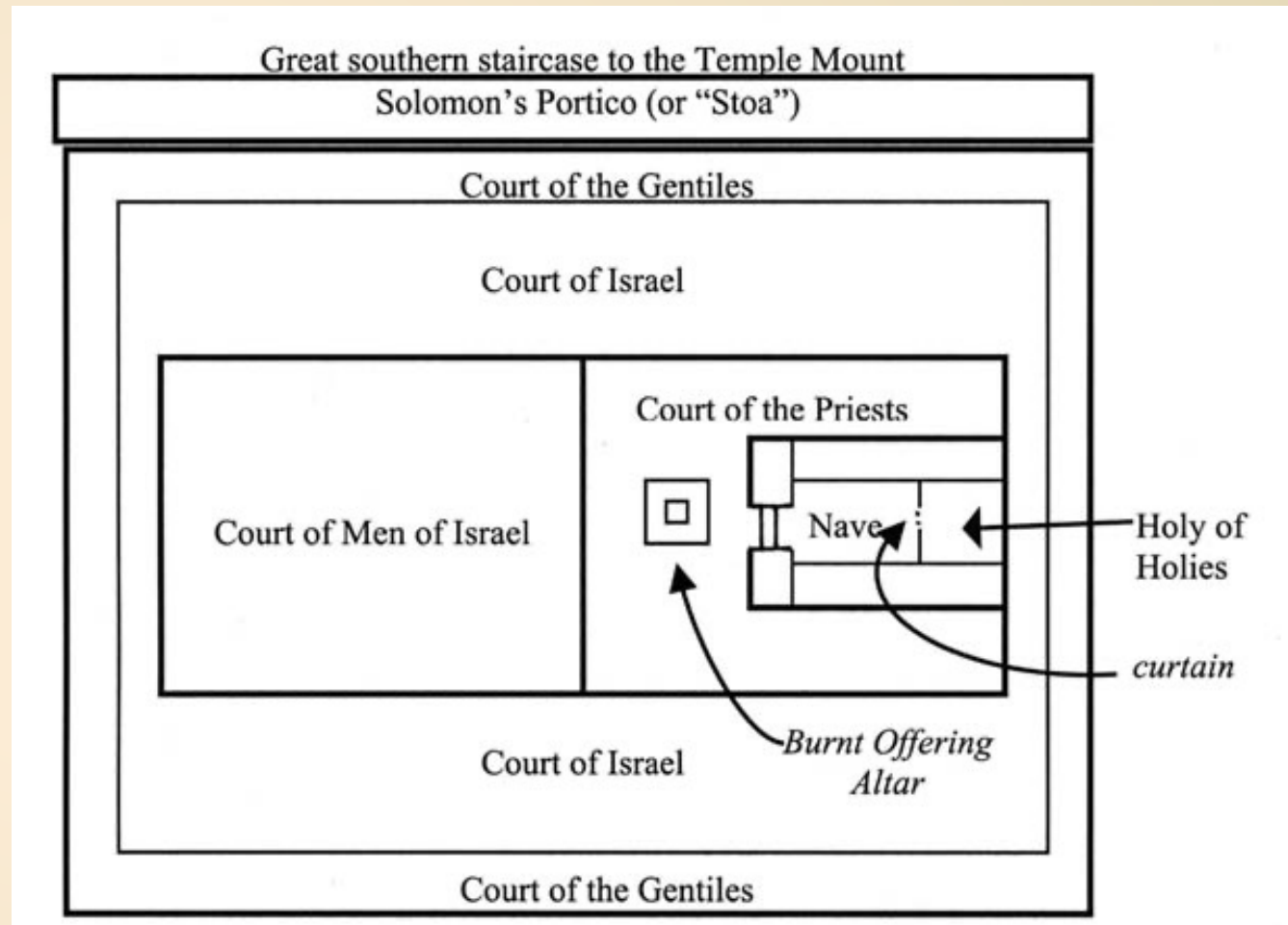
Class Schedule for the next few weeks

- ✓ *Dec 10, 2023 – Christmas Story 2023 Pt 1*
- ✓ *Dec 17, 2023 – Christmas Story 2023 Pt 2*
- *Dec 24, 2023 – **Christmas Eve** -No class, Church only*
- *Dec 25, 2023 – **Christmas Day***
- ***Dec 31, 2023 – New Study begins***

I plan to continue both In-Person and Zoom in 2023

Before we start...

- *I want to make 2 points that came up after last week's lesson*
 - *Malachi 4:5 is a prediction of the coming of John the Baptist, who came in the spirit of Elijah.*
 - *It also is a foreshadowing of the coming of the Messiah, who comes after John the Baptist arrives on the scene*
- *One other point regarding Zechariah at the Altar of Incense*
- *It is separate from the Holy of Holies where only the High Priest enters on the **Day of Atonement**, and he has a rope tied on him.*
- *Not the case with the Altar of Incense.*



*The Nave contains the Table of Shewbread and
The Altar of incense*

Thoughts from Last week

God has been silent for 450 years but the Dawn of an era of Redemption is now here:

- *SUN of Righteousness*
- *SON of Righteousness*

At a time of God's choosing

- *Chooses the parents of the Forerunner for a Miraculous birth of a son*
- *This Son is special in God's eyes and a Fulfillment of OT Prophecy*
- *Beginning of a New Age of Redemption*

In our dark times...remember...Joy comes in the Morning

Luke Ch 1:26-28.

*²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel **Gabriel** to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,*

²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

*²⁸ The angel went to her and said,
"Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.*

Luke Ch 1:29-33 *Gabriel speaks...*

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

*30 **But** the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.*

*31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him **Jesus.***

*32 He will be great and will be called the **Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,***

33 and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

Luke 1:34-38 *Mary Responds...*

34 “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

*35 The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the holy one to be born will be called the **Son of God.**”*

36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month.

*37 **For no word from God will ever fail.”***

38 “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.”

...Then the angel left her.

(Gospel of Matthew records the Angel visitation to Joseph and the Magi)

Luke Ch1: 39-44 *Mary visits Elizabeth...*

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea,

40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth.

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child you will bear!"

43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

44 As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

45 Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!"

Luke Ch 1:56-66 The Birth of John the Baptist...

⁵⁶ Mary stayed with Elizabeth for about **three months** and then returned home.

⁵⁷ When it was time for Elizabeth to have her baby, she gave birth to a son. ⁵⁸ **Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown her great mercy, and they shared her joy.**

⁵⁹ On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and **they** were going to name him after his father Zechariah,

⁶⁰ but his mother spoke up and said, **“No! He is to be called John.”**

⁶¹ They said to her, **“There is no one among your relatives who has that name.”**

⁶² Then **they** made signs to his father, to find out what he would like to name the child.

⁶³ He asked for a writing tablet, and to everyone’s astonishment, he wrote, **“His name is John.”**

⁶⁴ **Immediately** his mouth was opened, and his tongue set free, and **he began to speak, praising God.**

⁶⁵ All the neighbors were **filled with awe**, and throughout the hill country of Judea, **people were talking about all these things.**

⁶⁶ Everyone who heard this wondered about it, asking, **“What then is this child going to be?” For the Lord’s hand was with him.**

Zechariah's song

I'm just going to read and comment due to time limitations

Luke 1:67-79

67 His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied:

.....

80 And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel.

Birth of Jesus – tradition and Bible

- Much of what we “know” about His birth comes from songs, paintings, oral history, our natural tendency to simplify things
- We put the various Gospel accounts together to present a “picture of the Nativity”
- That is OK, but we need to understand what the Bible actually says to make the most of the meaning of His Birth
- A few OT prophecies will help

Micah 5:2

² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

This is the prophetic verse the Priests used to guide the Magi to the City of David

Messiah would be born in Bethlehem

Micah 4:8 *a little less known prophecy...*

- *“And thou, O **tower of the flock**, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto **thee** shall it come, even the **first dominion**; the **kingdom shall come to the daughter of Jerusalem.**”*

This prophecy is more vague, but it is vitally important to understand the terms.

- ***Tower of the Flock**– will answer in a minute*
- ***Stronghold** of the daughter of Zion (Original purpose – guard)*
- *Unto **THEE***
- ***First Dominion***
- ***Kingdom shall come to...***

Let's go back earlier in the OT

Genesis Ch 35:16-21

¹⁶ Then they moved on from Bethel. While they were still some distance from Ephrath, Rachel began to give birth and had great difficulty.

*¹⁷ And as she was having great difficulty in childbirth, the midwife said to her, **“Don't despair, for you have another son.”***

*¹⁸ As she breathed her last—for she was dying—she named her son Ben-Oni (son of my trouble) **But his father named him Benjamin (son of my right hand).***

*¹⁹ **So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).***

*²⁰ Over her tomb Jacob set up a pillar, and to this day that pillar marks Rachel's **tomb**. (if you read the news, you know that Rachel's tomb has previously been a site of violence against Jews and those visiting the site)*

*²¹ **Israel (Jacob) moved on again and pitched his tent beyond Miqdal Eder.***

Rachels Tomb

- Very close to Bethlehem
- Only see with Arab Guide and not on most tours
- Close to Shepherds Field in Bethlehem, near Migdal Eder



City of Migdal



Tower of a cliff

- Bottom of the slope, the town of Magdala, where Mary of Magdala was born
- The town was called **Tower**
- Migdal -Common Hebrew word
- Word is spelled slightly differently

Looking West from Sea of Galilee

Typical Tower of the Flock



- **Migdal** – Tower; **Edar/Eder** – means “Flock”
- Made of Rock at the bottom
- Wood and hay for top
- Senior Shepherd watches out over the flock from the top (outside stairs)
- The bottom is the birthing room for Sheep. Kept to rabbinical standards for Shepherds Field

Manger from time of Christ



- Not wooden as we might believe from all our history and nativity scenes, but carved stone
- Rough place to lay a newborn lamb or infant
- Just there to rest, not like a crib

What does it all mean?

- I will explain as we go through the verses where the Birth of Jesus is told
- Why is it important?
 - Links OT prophecy to NT fulfillment
 - Better understanding of His Birth

Luke Ch 2:1-7 The Birth of Jesus...

2 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.)

3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

*4 So Joseph also went **up** from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, **because he belonged to the house and line of David.***

5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

*6 **While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,***

*7 and she gave birth to her **firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was **no guest room available for them.*****

Luke Ch 2:8-12. *Angel appears to them...*

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

*¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you **good news** that will cause **great joy for all the people.***

*¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior **has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.***

*¹² This will be a **sign** to you: **You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.***

Luke Ch 2: 13-15 *The Heavenly Host...*

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

*14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”*

*15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “**Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.**”*

Luke Ch 2:16-20 *Confirmation...*

16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,

18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told

Luke Ch 2:21-26 Child presented in the Temple

*²¹ On the **eighth day**, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named **Jesus**, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.*

*²² When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to **Jerusalem to present him to the Lord***

*²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every **firstborn male** is to be consecrated to the Lord”),*

*²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “**a pair of doves or two young pigeons.**”*

*²⁵ Now there was a **man in Jerusalem called Simeon**, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the **consolation of Israel**, and the Holy Spirit was on him.*

²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

Luke Ch 2:27-35

27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

33 The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,

35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

Luke Ch 2:36-40

*³⁶ There was also a prophet(ess), **Anna**, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. **She was very old**; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,*

*³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. **She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.***

*³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and **spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.***

³⁹ When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.

⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

Next week, Dec 24th

- *No Connection classes at church, but 3 Candlelight worship services*
- *Vicki and I hope that you will take these small pearls of truth you have heard, and link them to the Necklace of God's redeeming history*
- *Have the Merriest of Christmases, and please think about the wonder of His Birth. He is coming again...soon*

God Bless each of you

I leave you with this...

<https://youtu.be/qjOMoZe9wg4>

Josh Groban - O Holy Night