

Esoteric Bible Studies

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STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST JESUS

II.—*The Boyhood of Jesus.*

21. And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

41. Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the pass-over.

42. And when he was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast.

43. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and his mother knew not of it.

44. But they, supposing him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they sought him among their kinsfolk and acquaintance.

45. And when they found him not, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking him.

46. And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions.

47. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.

48. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

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?

50. And they understood not the saying which he spake unto them.

51. And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them; but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.

52. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.
—*Luke, 2nd Chapter.*

INTERPRETATION

Eight days after the Holy Birth the ceremony of the circumcision took place, which was also called the ceremony of purification. At this time the child was given the name Jesus, as announced to Mary by Gabriel. The giving of a new name has an esoteric significance. This has come down through the churches as a feature of Confirmation. The new name means new power for every name possesses power when rightly used. This new power is evolved within the neophyte with every additional step upon the Path.

Jesus and Joshua have the same meaning in Hebrew—help or salvation. Peter after receiving his great illumination on the Day of Pentecost said that by the name of Christ Jesus of Nazareth (or the awakened power of Christ Jesus within) were the miracles performed. "This is the stone which was set at nought among you builders (as we still do today) which is become the head of the corner For there is none other Name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."

Jes was a title of the sun among the ancients. *Jas* was a mystical name among the Greeks for the god Dionysius. *Jod* is the most important character of the Hebrew alphabet and occurs in some form in every one of the 22 letters. It represents, generally speaking, that ideal which every man is supposed to strive for and to eventually become, as in the same manner Jesus represents the most perfect type of our earth's humanity, consequently the ideal of everyone, for his perfection we hope eventually to attain before the end of the Earth Period.

Herod was governor of Judea at the time of Jesus' birth. He it was who ordered the massacre of the innocents and so caused the flight into Egypt. This represents the testing times which must come in the life of every aspirant upon the Way. But if the Christ light is always kept bright within, we return as the Master Jesus did, "increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."

Mary and Joseph with the Holy Child while in Egypt spent most of their time in a small village near Cairo, called Material, almost in the shadow of the Sphinx and the Pyramids. At the death of Herod he was succeeded by his son Archelaus as Governor of Judea. The latter was a man worse than his father and without his father's ability for governorship. On this account Joseph was afraid to return to Bethlehem, so Jesus was reared in the despised city of Nazareth.

Great souls who are being prepared for a world mission need silence and peace in order to bring their spiritual powers to full fruition. The white houses of Nazareth were scattered among orchards of figs, olives, and pomegranates under a deep blue sky and almost perpetual sunshine. Here companioned by his holy parents, both of whom were high Initiates, the home of Jesus' early years was a sort of temple for the mystic dreams of this holy child. Like attracts like, and great egos can only be born to parents who are pure and holy.

Many advanced egos are waiting on the inner planes desirous of taking physical bodies that they may teach and heal and improve the conditions of our human race; but they cannot find a sufficiently pure environment into which they may come or parents who will furnish them with immaculately conceived bodies which they may use for their work in the world. But there is no need for Jesus or Mary or Joseph to return to earth until humanity has in some small way at least demonstrated the great spiritual ideals which they gave to mankind

when they were here. They will continue to work from the inner planes until these great ideals are accepted *and lived* by some of the pioneers of the race. Had the Rosicrucian School done nothing else than promulgate the great teaching of esoteric Christianity throughout the world, its place as a helper and server of humanity would still be supreme.

Joseph and his family kept all the sacred temple customs, understanding and observing their esoteric as well as their exoteric meanings. The festival of the Passover continued for seven days with different ceremonies each day, as did the Eleusinian Mysteries of Greece. After the third day it was lawful to return home. Jesus' parents probably thought he was with James and John, the sons of Zebedee and the friends of his early childhood, and they did not seek for him immediately. When they returned to Jerusalem they sought him, sorrowing, and after *three days* found him in the temple with the doctors of the law, the rabbis. Here we find an occult meaning. The rabbis represent the literal interpretation of the things of the spirit and Jesus the spiritual or inner truth. "The letter killeth but the spirit maketh alive," as St. Paul, the great mystic says.

We each one have the privilege of accepting truth upon whatever plane we choose. We may, as did the rabbis, seek only the outer law, be satisfied with an "eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth," or we may, as Jesus did, lift the veil from the holy mysteries, uncover the great spiritual gems, and proclaim their truth to whosoever wills to receive them. This is today the sublime privilege of the esoteric Christian. May God bless our efforts!

"If thou art Christ, help thyself," is flung at the candidate undergoing Initiation when he groans under the trial. No one who is a "leaner" can at the same time be a helper; each must learn to stand alone.—*Max Heindel*,