



**"HE WAS CALLED JESUS"**

LUKE 2:21-38

*The long-standing biblical standard for the establishment of credible testimony;*

**DEUTERONOMY 17:6**

<sup>6</sup> On the evidence of two witnesses or of three witnesses the one who is to die shall be put to death; a person shall not be put to death on the evidence of one witness.

*The righteous character of Joseph and Mary, Simeon and Anna;*

**GENESIS 15:6**

<sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

**MATTHEW 1:19**

<sup>19</sup> And her husband Joseph, *being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.*

**LUKE 1:46-48**

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, <sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, <sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

*The five-fold testimony of Jesus' identity;*

**2 SAMUEL 23:2**

<sup>2</sup> "The Spirit of the LORD speaks by me; his word is on my tongue.

**1 JOHN 5:9**

<sup>9</sup> *If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son.*

**Have you considered how well-attested is the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Christ? Consider the importance of the fact that our faith is not grounded upon speculation, but on highly verified historical events. The greatest attestation of this is, of course, the Spirit who teaches us on a soul-level that our Messiah indeed lived, died, and rose for us.**

*Jesus, the perfect law-obeyer;*

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:21**

<sup>21</sup> For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that *in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

**MATTHEW 5:17, 20**

<sup>17</sup> "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them *but to fulfill them...*" <sup>20</sup> For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven..."

**How important is it that Jesus not only was sinless, but also the perfect law-obeyer?**

*The three-fold reminder of the sin-problem;*

**LEVITICUS 12:3-4**

<sup>3</sup> And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. <sup>4</sup> Then she shall continue for thirty-three days in the blood of her purifying. She shall not touch anything holy, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying are completed.

**NUMBERS 3:12**

<sup>12</sup> "Behold, I have taken the Levites from among the people of Israel instead of every firstborn who opens the womb among the people of Israel.

**NUMBERS 3:44-48**

<sup>44</sup> And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying, <sup>45</sup> "Take the Levites instead of all the firstborn among the people of Israel...The Levites shall be mine: I am the LORD. <sup>46</sup> And as the redemption price...<sup>47</sup> you shall take five shekels per head...<sup>48</sup> and give the money to Aaron and his sons as the redemption price for those who are over."

**Consider the episode recorded in Matthew 2:16-18 of Herod's massacre of the male children in Bethlehem following his realization that the wise men had eluded him. This story is a powerful illustration of the effects of sin upon humanity that surrounded the birth of the Messiah. Think on how such a beautiful event as the birth of the Savior was so steeped in reminders of the sin from which He came to redeem His people.**

*God's delight in saving sinners;*

**ZEPHANIAH 3:17**

<sup>17</sup> The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.

**PSALM 147:11**

<sup>11</sup> ...but *the LORD takes pleasure* in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.

**LUKE 15:10**

<sup>10</sup> Just so, I tell you, *there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents.*

**1 JOHN 4:16-19**

<sup>16</sup> *So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us.* God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. <sup>17</sup> *By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment,* because as he is so also are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> *There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.* <sup>19</sup> We love because he first loved us.

**Have you sometimes allowed yourself to think of the Father's salvation as a begrudging offer—as though the Father was "backed into a corner by the cross" or "had His arm twisted" to forgive sinners who deserve only hell? How can these low and deficient thoughts of the Father hinder our relationship to him? Consider how the enemy of God would desire His children to think such low thoughts of Him, and consider the importance of fighting against this evil tendency to think of our Father in less-than-biblical terms.**