

“His Name is Jesus!” *The Circumcision of Jesus on the 8th Day*

From Elder John Stoos *Based on Luke 2:21*

Dr. Luke’s Prologue for His Orderly Account

“Behold, I send My messenger and he will prepare the way before me” Malachi 3:1

Dedication to Theophilus *Luke 1:1-4*

Time Set: *“There was in the days of King Herod...” Luke 1:5*

John’s birth announced by Gabriel *Luke 1:5-25*

Jesus’ birth announced by Gabriel *Luke 1:26-56*

John is born *Luke 1:57-79*

Jesus is born *Luke 2:1-7*

John is circumcised *Luke 1:59-66*

Jesus is circumcised *Luke 2:21*

John grows and is strong in spirit *Luke 1:80*

Jesus grows in wisdom and strength *Luke 2:39-51*

-- Angels Proclaim Jesus & His Kingdom *Luke 2:8-20*

-- Saints testify that God is faithful

*[Elizabeth 1:39-45- Mary 1:46-56 –Zacharias 1:67-79 –
Shepherds 2:15-20-Simeon 2:25-35-Anna 2:36-38]*

Jesus presented at Temple

as Son of God and Son of Man *Luke 2:22-38*

Time Set: *“Now in the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar...” Luke 3:1, 2*

John told to prepare the way: *Luke 3:3-6*

Jesus begins His ministry: *Luke 3:23*

John baptizes the people *Luke 3:7-20*

Jesus is Baptized by John *Luke 3:21*

John is arrested by Herod *Luke 3:18-20*

Jesus is tempted by Satan *Luke 4:1-13*

-- John proclaims Jesus and His Kingdom *Luke 3:7-20*

-- The Father testifies of His Beloved Son *Luke 3:21, 22*

Jesus presented in the genealogy

as the Son of God and Son of Man *Luke 3:23-38*

Jesus Begin His Ministry *Luke 3:23 & 4:14*

Scripture Reading:

Luke 2: “21 And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.”

Acts 7:2 “And [Stephan] said, "Brethren and fathers, listen: The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran, 3 and said to him, 'Get out of your country and from your relatives, and come to a land that I will show you.' 4 Then he came out of the land of the Chaldeans and dwelt in Haran. And from there, when his father was dead, He moved him to this land in which you now dwell. 5 And God gave him no inheritance in it, not even enough to set his foot on. But even when Abraham had no child, He promised to give it to him for a possession, and to his descendants after him. 6 But God spoke in this way: that his descendants would dwell in a foreign land, and that they would bring them into bondage and oppress them four hundred years. 7 'And the nation to whom they will be in bondage I will judge,' said God, 'and after that they shall come out and serve Me in this place.' 8 Then He gave him the covenant of circumcision; and so Abraham begot Isaac and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot the twelve patriarchs.”

The Circumcision & Naming of Jesus...

The sermon this morning is focused on one simple verse that we read from Luke chapter 2.

It is an important part of what I am calling Dr. Luke's prologue to His Gospel.

As we will see all the way through the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts his emphasis is always on Jesus and the power of His resurrection.

Here in the prologue, as we see in ALL four Gospels, John the Baptist is shown to be the one who was prophesized to be the forerunner of the Christ.

In Luke's "orderly" account, it is easy to see John going before Christ -- [refer to chart]

In coming weeks we will look at the growth of Jesus, the Baptism of Jesus and His genealogy.

This week, will focus on verse 21: The circumcision and naming of Jesus.

What a simple and profound verse:

"21 And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb."

[Use Christian T-shirt ad to illustrate a not-so-good example of simple!]

In this one verse we see three simple but very important things:

- It took place on the 8th day: The day of the "New Creation"**
 - As we read this morning**
 - Illustrated in Old Testament**
 - Confirmed by Resurrection**
 - Even seen in our calendars**

- **Jesus is circumcised**
 - **God's covenant sign, as Stephan powerfully explained**
 - **Promise: Forgiveness of sins**
- **Jesus given His name that is above all names**
 - **Jehovah Saves**
 - **His Kingdom has no end!**

The question we should ask is why did Jesus need to be circumcised?

[We don't discuss circumcision in polite company!]

When considered Biblically, it clearly shows that the New Creation has come and that our sins will be forgiven!

The Covenant of Circumcision graphically showed the problem of sin: Sinful flesh produces sinful flesh

The circumcision of Christ is the beginning of the graphic solution for sin – it begins the shedding of His blood: Jesus is called the new Adam

- **Jesus gave His entire life for our salvation!**

This broad understanding of circumcision is seen in BOTH the Old and New Testaments:

Moses explains the proper meaning of circumcision to the people in Deuteronomy chapter 10:

Deut. 10:12 "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, 13 and to keep the commandments of the Lord and His statutes which I command you today for your good? 14 Indeed heaven and the highest heavens belong to the Lord your God, also the earth with all that is in it. 15 The Lord delighted only in your fathers, to love them; and He chose their descendants after them, you above all peoples, as it is this day. 16 Therefore circumcise the foreskin of your

heart, and be stiff-necked no longer. 17 For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality nor takes a bribe. 18 He administers justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the stranger, giving him food and clothing. 19 Therefore love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

➤ Paul offers a similar explanation in the Book of Colossians:

Col. 2:5 “For though I am absent in the flesh, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

6 As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, 7 rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. 8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. 9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; 10 and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power. 11 In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, 14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. 15 Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”

➤ Circumcision is used to show the agony and the power of the cross on Calvary.

➤ Gabriel proclaimed that Jesus WOULD save His people from their sins!

What we must NOT fail to notice is that BOTH of these passages lead to very practical results!

This is where our proper understanding of this simple verse in Luke chapter 2 should take us as well:

- **The New Creation has dawned: Each Lord's Day on the 1st day of the week can also be seen as an 8th day!**
- **Our sins have been forgiven through the work of Christ alone!**
- **The Kingdom of Christ has been established and will fill the earth!**

These great truths are NOT just for our doctrinal files or confessions

These great truths are not even just for our salvation files or evangelism, though this is Glorious & necessary

- **BOTH Moses and Paul show us clearly that faith in these great truths should cause us to bear MUCH fruit!**

As Paul told the Ephesians:

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:10

But again this cannot be simply academic or theoretical... it must be practical.

Goes back to that T-shirt: It can be very right or VERY wrong.

It is easy to outline these glorious things in a sermon:

BUT the real work comes with the call by both Moses and Paul to respond in practical ways:

Helping strangers:

- ✓ **We struggle with just helping our friends and families!**
- ✓ **That part should become 2nd nature**
- ✓ **Then we face the tough work of helping STRANGERS**

- ✓ **Wives:** Are your homes open and available to help strangers? Or do we worry about danger or things getting messed up and damaged?
- ✓ **Proverbs 14:4** applies here: “Where there are no oxen, the manger is clean, but abundant crops come by the strength of the ox.”

Paul also talks about putting on tender mercies and kindness which is MORE than saying something like “or that poor soul.”

Paul, in Ephesians & Colossians says that the result should be strong marriages

They are the picture of Christ’s love for His Church to the watching world

Husbands:

- **Are you willing to love your wives and be the head of your home?**
- **Will you love the unlovely? Take responsibility for what is wrong? [Or will you practice Adam’s blame shifting: The woman YOU gave me made me do it!]**

Children, do you want to please the Lord who came and gave His life so that your sins might be forgiven?

- **“Obey your parents in all things”**
- **That means, RIGHT AWAY, all the way and cheerfully!**
- **Failure here is also parental sin**

Finally, we are all called to be honest people in our lives this week whether we are employees or masters. Whether buyers or sellers: God delights in honest weights & measures and puts how we treat people as a first priority...

-- Schaeffer’s example of the revolving door

Let us reflect again on what flows from the truths in this simple verse:

- **It took place on the 8th day: The day of the “New Creation”**
- **Jesus is circumcised**

Identifying with us in God’s covenant sign, the circumcision of Christ is the beginning of the graphic solution for sin – it begins the shedding of His blood

- **Jesus given His name that is above all names**
 - **Jehovah Saves**
 - **His Kingdom has no end!**

Jesus gave His entire life for our salvation!

Every great river flows from some headwaters: A glacier or spring that begins the journey of rivers like the Sacramento or American!

All that we have discussed this morning, and MUCH more flows from these simple and foundational truths:

As Jesus Himself said the 7th chapter of John’s Gospel:

“38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

I.E.: Spirit-filled fruitful living!

The commentators often have trouble finding this reference to this “as the Scripture has said”

But it should be abundantly clear if we consider the full impact of what the work of Jesus Christ has done and how the Bible describes it:

Jesus is referring to what Ezekiel describes as the healing waters that flow from the Temple and the Apostle John revealed as “a pure river of life, clear as crystal proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.”

[your homework can be Ez. 47 and Revelation 21 & 22!]

**Yes, in reality,
IT IS JUST THAT SIMPLE:**

As we love our wives, submit to our husbands, obey our parents, help strangers, as we exhibit kindness & mercy: justice and fairness, as we continue earnestly in prayer, then we are in the Spirit's hands those living waters that flow from our Savior's breast.

May it be so with all of us throughout this coming week!