

Luke 2:41

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover.

Analysis

Jesus' parents 'went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover,' demonstrating their faithful observance of Torah. The annual Passover pilgrimage was commanded in Deuteronomy 16:16—all males must appear before the LORD three times yearly (Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles). Mary and Joseph's consistent obedience shows their genuine piety and commitment to raising Jesus within covenant faithfulness. This context is crucial—Jesus was raised in an observant Jewish home, learned Scripture and tradition, and participated fully in Israel's worship life.

Historical Context

First-century Jews throughout Palestine and the diaspora made pilgrimages to Jerusalem for major festivals. The week-long Passover celebration commemorated Israel's exodus from Egypt. Galilean pilgrims typically traveled in large groups for safety, taking 3-4 days to walk the roughly 70 miles from Nazareth to Jerusalem. This annual pattern shaped Jesus' upbringing, immersing Him in Israel's faith and identity. His later temple teaching and Jerusalem ministry built on childhood familiarity with the holy city and its worship.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What does Mary and Joseph's faithful Passover observance teach about raising children in covenant faith?
2. How did Jesus' annual Passover experiences prepare Him for His ultimate role as the Passover Lamb?

Interlinear Text

Καὶ	ἐπορεύοντο	οἱ	γονεῖς	αὐτοῦ	κατ'	ἔτος	εἰς
Now	went	G3588	his parents	G846	every	year	to
G2532	G4198		G1118		G2596	G2094	G1519
Ἰερουσαλὴμ	τῇ	ἐορτῇ	τοῦ	πάσχα			
Jerusalem	G3588	at the feast	G3588	of the passover			
G2419		G1859		G3957			

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 12:18 (Parallel theme): But thou must eat them before the LORD thy God in the place which the LORD thy God shall choose, thou, and thy son, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maidservant, and the Levite that is within thy gates: and thou shalt rejoice before the LORD thy God in all that thou puttest thine hands unto.

1 Samuel 1:21 (Parallel theme): And the man Elkanah, and all his house, went up to offer unto the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and his vow.