

Luke 2:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Jesus's attendance at Jerusalem when 'twelve years old' demonstrates covenant faithfulness and approaching manhood in Jewish culture. The specific mention of twelve indicates the cusp of religious responsibility—approaching bar mitzvah age when boys assume adult religious obligations. That the family went to the Feast demonstrates their annual Passover observance, though only required of males over thirteen. This journey reveals Jesus's growing awareness of His identity and mission, soon to be expressed in the temple incident. Their faithful observance of feasts models that genuine piety maintains regular, costly worship despite inconvenience. Jesus's participation shows His full identification with Israel's covenant life.

Historical Context

Twelve-year-old boys approached the age of religious responsibility in Jewish culture. Passover pilgrimage from Galilee to Jerusalem required substantial time and expense, yet faithful Jews made this journey annually. Jesus's participation in these feasts demonstrated His full entrance into Israel's covenant worship life.

Related Passages

Psalm 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. What does faithful observance of required feasts teach about prioritizing worship?
2. How does Jesus's participation in covenant rituals demonstrate His identification with His people?
3. What significance does Jesus's age (twelve) have for understanding His developing self-awareness?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ὅτε ἐγένετο ἑτῶν δώδεκα ἀναβάντων αὐτῶν εἰς
And when he was years old twelve went up they to
G2532 G3753 G1096 G2094 G1427 G305 G846 G1519

Ἱεροσόλυμα, κατὰ τὸ ἔθος τῆς ἑορτῆς
Jerusalem after the custom of the feast
G2414 G2596 G3588 G1485 G3588 G1859

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