**CHAPTER 2**

*The birth of Christ: his presentation in the temple: Simeon’s prophecy. Christ, at twelve years of age, is found amongst the doctors.*

**1** And it came to pass, that in those days there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that the whole world should be enrolled.

**2** This enrolling was first made by Cyrinus, the governor of Syria.

**3** And all went to be enrolled, every one into his own city.

**4** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem: because he was of the house and family of David,

**5** To be enrolled with Mary his espoused wife, who was with child.

**6** And it came to pass, that when they were there, her days were accomplished, that she should be delivered.

**7** And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him up in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

**8** And there were in the same country shepherds watching, and keeping the night watches over their flock.

**9** And behold an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the brightness of God shone round about them; and they feared with a great fear.

**10** And the angel said to them: Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people:

**11** For, this day, is born to you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David.

**12** And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes, and laid in a manger.

**13** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God, and saying:

**14** Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to men of good will.

**15** And it came to pass, after the angels departed from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another: Let us go over to Bethlehem, and let us see this word that is come to pass, which the Lord hath shewed to us.

**16** And they came with haste; and they found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger.

**17** And seeing, they understood of the word that had been spoken to them concerning this child.

**18** And all that heard, wondered; and at those things that were told them by the shepherds.

**19** But Mary kept all these words, pondering them in her heart.

**20** And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God, for all the things they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

**21** And after eight days were accomplished, that the child should be circumcised, his name was called JESUS, which was called by the angel, before he was conceived in the womb.

**22** And after the days of her purification, according to the law of Moses, were accomplished, they carried him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord:

**23** As it is written in the law of the Lord: Every male opening the womb shall be called holy to the Lord:

**24** And to offer a sacrifice, according as it is written in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons:

**25** And behold there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Ghost was in him.

**26** And he had received an answer from the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Christ of the Lord.

**27** And he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when his parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law,

**28** He also took him into his arms, and blessed God, and said:

**29** Now thou dost dismiss thy servant, O Lord, according to thy word in peace;

**30** Because my eyes have seen thy salvation,

**31** Which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples:

**32** A light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

**33** And his father and mother were wondering at those things which were spoken concerning him.

**34** And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary his mother: Behold this child is set for the fall, and for the resurrection of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be contradicted;

**35** And thy own soul a sword shall pierce, that, out of many hearts, thoughts may be revealed.

**36** And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser; she was far advanced in years, and had lived with her husband seven years from her virginity.

**37** And she was a widow until fourscore and four years: who departed not from the temple, by fastings and prayers serving night and day.

**38** Now she, at the same hour, coming in, confessed to the Lord; and spoke of him to all that looked for the redemption of Israel.

**39** And after they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their city Nazareth.

**40** And the child grew, and waxed strong, full of wisdom; and the grace of God was in him.

**41** And his parents went every year to Jerusalem, at the solemn day of the pasch,

**42** And when he was twelve years old, they going up into Jerusalem, according to the custom of the feast,

**43** And having fulfilled the days, when they returned, the child Jesus remained in Jerusalem; and his parents knew it not.

**44** And thinking that he was in the company, they came a day’s journey, and sought him among their kinsfolks and acquaintance.

**45** And not finding him, they returned into 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, hearing them, and asking them questions.

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

**48** And seeing him, they wondered. And his mother said to him: Son, why hast thou done so to us? behold thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing.

**49** And he said to them: How is it that you sought me? did you not know, that I must be about my father’s business?

**50** And they understood not the word that he spoke unto them.

**51** And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them. And his mother kept all these words in her heart.

**52** And Jesus advanced in wisdom, and age, and grace with God and men.