

Increased in Wisdom & Stature & Favor With God and Men

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"And the Child (Jesus) grew, and **became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom**; and **the grace of God was upon Him**. Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the feast of the passover. And when He was twelve years old, they went up to Jerusalem after the custom of the feast. And when they had fulfilled the days, as they returned, the Child Jesus tarried behind in Jerusalem; and Joseph and His mother did not know of it. But they, supposing Him to have been in the company, went a day's journey; and they looked for Him among their kinsfolk and acquaintances. And when they did not find Him, they turned back again to Jerusalem, seeking Him. And it came to pass, that **after three days they found Him in the Temple**, sitting in the midst of the teachers (Rabbis), both hearing them, and asking them questions. And **all who heard Him were astonished** at His understanding **and answers**. And when they (His parents) saw Him, **they were amazed**; and His mother said unto Him, 'Son, why have You thus dealt with us? Behold, Your father and I have sought You anxiously.' And He said unto them, 'How is it that you sought Me? Did you not know that **I must be about My Father's business?** And they did not understand this saying which He spoke unto them. And He went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them; but His mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And **Jesus increased in Wisdom and Stature, and Favor with God and men.**" (Luke 2:40-52)

Increased: from the Greek word *proekopten* which means: continued-to-advance; to keep increasing; from *prokopto*: meaning to advance, to progress, to make progress, to proceed.

In Wisdom: from the Greek words *en sophia* which means: in wisdom; the quality of gaining the attributes of experience, knowledge, intelligence, understanding; and the ability to use good judgment in the skillful use of those attributes.

Stature: from the Greek word *helikia* which means: stature; in context, refers to the increasing maturity that usually comes with advancement of age in years.

Favor: from the Greek word *chariti* a noun which means: favor; a form of grace (*charis*) whereby Jesus is, and was looked upon favorably, with esteem and approval.

With God: from the Greek word *para Theo* which means: with God: after 30 years of physical and spiritual growth, this is what the Father of Jesus had to say about Jesus, just before Jesus began His public ministry:

"And Jesus, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water; and, behold, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting upon Him. And behold, a voice from heaven, said, '**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**'" (see [Matthew 3:13-17](#)) (see also: [Matthew 12:15-21](#); & [17:1-6](#))

And Men: from the Greek word *kai anthropois* which means: and men: this speaks of His contemporaries: the people that Jesus continued to associate with during the 18 years He continued to be subject to His parents: including relatives, friends, members of the local Jewish synagogue, and those people who hired the craftsman Joseph and his sons, etc. .

Please now, consider the contextual settings of our opening verses:

Jesus grew up from childhood, just as all other people do:

As an infant baby Jesus was nursed and cared for as all babies need to be. At about the age of two Jesus became a refugee in Egypt ([Matthew 2:13-15](#)). Perhaps around the age of four, Jesus and His parents returned to Nazareth ([Matthew 2:19-23](#)), where He continued to grow up with new brothers and sisters; and learning the trade of His stepfather Joseph. (see [Mark 6:1-6](#); & [Matthew 13:55](#))

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Jesus became strong in spirit:

From *ekrataiouto pneumati* meaning became-strong in-spirit, in context: Jesus prevailed by God's dominating inward strength over various life situations, resulting in the gaining of mastery over these situations within His life growing up. As such, His inward spirit; (the rational part of man, which feels, thinks, wills, decides; and perceives and grasps divine and eternal things, and upon which the Spirit of God exerts its influence), grew stronger and stronger in the child Jesus. As a human person Jesus had a spirit, soul, and, body; just as all people do (see [1 Thessalonians 5:23](#)). (Martin Luther said the following concerning the spirit of a person, "*It is the highest and noblest part of man, which qualifies him to lay hold of incomprehensible, invisible, eternal things; in short, it is the house where Faith and God's Word are at home*").

Jesus was filled with wisdom (which was always increasing):

From *sophia*; see definition above.

The Grace of God was upon Jesus:

From *charis* meaning in context: the giftedness, graciousness, blessings, and favor bestowed upon Jesus by God His Father. The context is: that by the time Jesus was twelve years old these attributes of God's grace upon Jesus were evident by those close to Him.

The parents of Jesus went every year to Jerusalem to observe the Passover Feast:

The parents of Jesus, Joseph and Mary, were devout and observant Jews. It was long walk from Nazareth to Jerusalem (65-70 miles, 105-113 kilometers); the journey took 4-6 days one way. The Passover celebration was a seven day feast. Only grown men were required to attend (see [Deuteronomy 16:16](#)). But Mary treasured going with her husband every year. Their young children were left behind in the care of relatives. It is at the age of twelve that Jesus is said to have gone to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast. They traveled in a large caravan of friends, relatives, and other people from Nazareth.

Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem instead of returning with the caravan:

The Feast lasted seven days; and if this was His first visit to the Temple in Jerusalem since His dedication (see [Luke 2:21-24](#)), it would be His first real cognitive experience there within. Jesus would have moved about and seen the massive Temple complex. He would have seen the sacrificial offerings and other Temple rituals. He would have seen the priesthood in action. He would have seen the money-changers and merchants within the Temple complex where they should not have been; and many more things within a big city dominated by a foreign Roman power, Jesus would have seen. But most importantly Jesus sought out the Rabbis who were teaching the people; in this Jesus would be observing with His ears!

The parents of Jesus of Jesus were worried with anxiety until they found Him:

Jesus was God's promised Messiah! Mary knew what the Angel said to her concerning Jesus prior to His miraculous conception in the womb of Mary (see [Luke 1:26-38](#)). She no doubt also knew what the Angel said to Joseph (see [Matthew 1:18-25](#)), and to what the angel said to the father of John the Baptist (see [Luke 1:5-17](#)). Can you perhaps imagine how great their anxiety was having 'left behind' the Christ child entrusted to their care by God Almighty, destined to be His promised Messiah !!

Meanwhile, Jesus was interacting with the religious teachers in the Temple complex:

By age twelve Jesus would have been fairly fluent in His knowledge of the scriptures; this, along with His strength of spirit, and acquired wisdom, and grace of God the Father upon Jesus; enabled Jesus to listen to the teachers with acute discernment, and to ask them well thought out penetrating questions, and to answer wisely with intelligence any questions that the Rabbis asked of Jesus. Their conversations with Jesus were such that they were astonished at His understanding and answers.

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The parents eventually found Jesus in the midst of those teachers:

These were Rabbis: pharisees, scribes, and other teachers, who taught the people, answered questions, and recruited promising students. When found, His mother was amazed and expressed her concerns and anxieties to Jesus. Jesus response was, "Did you not know that I must be about My Father's business?" The context, of the Father's business for Jesus, was in part, to learn through His conversations with those Rabbis, where they stood in their knowledge and understanding of the Holy Scriptures; and in their skill and wisdom as teachers of God's people. In a certain sense Jesus, at age twelve, was on a specific mission, being sent by God His Father, to learn for better or worse the state of religious affairs within the Holy City of Jerusalem. His parents, perhaps, did not fully understand this.

Jesus went back to Nazareth, and was subject unto His parents:

Nothing more is said in the inspired scriptures about Jesus concerning His life until 18 years later at age 30 (see [Luke 3:23](#)) when He began His public ministry, except for this: "And He went down with them (His parents), and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them; but His mother kept all these sayings in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and favor with God and men" even more so during those coming 18 years!

For those eighteen years Jesus continued to increased in wisdom, stature, and favor with God and men! The context of being about His Father's business probably continued, no doubt involving daily interaction, communication, and fellowship with His Heavenly Father. The fruit of His pre-public fellowship with with His Father was eventually made manifest during His active public ministry, and enhanced by His continued intimate fellowship with the Father.

His reputation during public ministry, by His teachings, along with His many miracles, and His wise and powerful interactions with His adversaries, would be increased to even greater heights of marvel and wonder. And the people noticed!! Finally, please consider the following:

"And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at His Teaching; for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes." (see in context: [Matthew 7:28-29](#) = the concluding statement following Jesus' Sermon on the Mount)

"Then came the officers to the chief priests and Pharisees; and they said unto them, Why have you not brought Him? The officers answered, 'Never has a man spoken like this Man!'" (see in context: [John 7:14-45-46](#))

Jesus Increased in Wisdom & Stature & Favor With God and Men

The Father's testimony of His Son Jesus was this:

"This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

The peoples testimony of Jesus of Nazareth was this:

"The multitudes were Astonished at His teaching."

"He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."

"Never has a man spoken like this Man!"

Dear Lord Jesus, please continue to transform me into the likeness of Your wisdom, stature, and favor, before our beloved Father in Heaven; and before people here on earth.

Lord Jesus, You are Awesome in our eyes; You are Exalted and Glorious before us!

**May such Awe truly be within us here on earth, as it is in Heaven!!
Truly truly!! Forever and ever!! Amen and Amen!!**