

Notes on the Greek New Testament Day 76 – March 17th – Luke 2:36-52

Works frequently referenced in these notes on Luke

Geldenhuis, Norval	<i>Commentary on the Gospel of Luke</i> , Marshall Morgan and Scott, London, 1950
Marshall, I Howard	<i>The Gospel of Luke</i> , The New International Greek Testament Commentary, Paternoster, Exeter, 1978
Morris, Leon	<i>Luke</i> (Tyndale NT Commentaries), IVP, London 1974

Verse 36

Καὶ ἦν Ἄννα προφῆτις, θυγάτηρ Φανουήλ, ἐκ φυλῆς Ἀσήρ (αὕτη προβεβηκυῖα ἐν ἡμέραις πολλαῖς, ζήσασα μετὰ ἀνδρὸς ἔτη ἑπτὰ ἀπὸ τῆς παρθενίας αὐτῆς,

προφῆτις, ἰδος f prophetess

Only here and in Rev 2:20 in the NT.

θυγάτηρ, τρος f daughter

φυλῆ, ης f tribe, nation, people

προβεβηκυῖα Verb, perf act ptc, f nom s

προβαίνω go on

ζήσασα Verb, aor act ptc, f nom s ζῶ live, be alive

ἀνηρ, ἀνδρὸς m man, husband

ἔτη Noun, nom & acc pl ἔτος, οὐς n year

ἑπτὰ seven

παρθενία, ας f maidenhood, virginity; ἀπο τῆς π. αὐτῆς from the time of her marriage

Here alone in the NT.

Verse 37

καὶ αὕτη χήρα ἕως ἑτῶν ὀγδοήκοντα τεσσάρων,) ἢ οὐκ ἀφίστατο τοῦ ἱεροῦ νηστειᾶς καὶ δεήσεων λατρεύουσα νύκτα καὶ ἡμέραν.

χήρα, ας f widow

ἕως prep with gen to, until, as far as

ὀγδοήκοντα eighty

τεσσαρες neut τεσσαρα gen τεσσαρων four

Although the addition of these years would make her about 105 (assuming marriage at the age of 14), "It is less probable grammatically that the phrase means that she lived for a total of 84 years." Marshall

ἀφίσταμαι intrans leave, go away

νηστεια, ας f fasting, going without food

δεησις, εως f prayer, plea

λατρεω serve, worship

νύξ, νυκτος f night

νύκτα καὶ ἡμέραν Note the way in which night is put before day, which is a Hebrew idiom. The Hebrew 'day' (24 hour period) begins with darkness and ends in light – 'the evening and the morning'. Each day is viewed as a new creative act of God, who brings light out of darkness.

Verse 38

καὶ αὕτῃ τῇ ὥρᾳ ἐπιστᾶσα ἀνθωμολογεῖτο τῷ θεῷ καὶ ἐλάλει περὶ αὐτοῦ πᾶσιν τοῖς προσδεχομένοις λύτρωσιν Ἰερουσαλήμ.

ὥρα, ας f hour, moment, period of time

αὕτῃ τῇ ὥρᾳ 'at the same hour' – at that very moment.

ἐπιστᾶσα Verb, aor act ptc, f nom s ἐφίστημι come up to, approach

ἀνθωμολογεομαι give thanks

Here only in the NT. "suggests the idea of recognition, obedience and proclamation which occur in praise rendered publicly to God in return for his grace." Marshall

προσδεχομαι see verse 25

λυτρωσις, εως f redemption, setting free

Cf. Is 52:9. "λυτρωσις conveys the idea of divine deliverance which is to be brought about by Jesus, and is thus a messianic concept like 'comfort' in 2:25; cf. 24:21." Marshall. Many MSS, followed by TR, read ἐν Ἰερουσαλήμ which, while seeking to remove the grammatical ambiguity, may alter the sense.

Verse 39

Καὶ ὡς ἐτέλεσαν πάντα τὰ κατὰ τὸν νόμον κυρίου, ἐπέστρεψαν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν εἰς πόλιν ἑαυτῶν Ναζαρέθ.

τέλεω complete, finish, fulfill, carry out

The use of the article with a prepositional phrase following is Lucan (8:15; 10:7; 19:42; 22:37; 24:19,27,35).

ἐπιστρεφω see 1:16

Verse 40

Τὸ δὲ παιδίον ἠύξανεν καὶ ἐκραταιοῦτο
πληρούμενον σοφία, καὶ χάρις θεοῦ ἦν ἐπ'
αὐτό.

αὕξανω and αὕξω grow, increase, reach
full growth

κραταιοῦ be strong, become strong
σοφία, ας f wisdom, insight, intelligence
χάρις, ιτος f grace, unmerited favour

Cf. 1:80; 2:52.

Verse 41

Καὶ ἐπορεύοντο οἱ γονεῖς αὐτοῦ κατ' ἔτος εἰς
Ἱερουσαλήμ τῇ ἑορτῇ τοῦ πάσχα.

γονεὺς, εως m parent
ἔτος, ους n year
ἑορτή, ης f festival, feast

Here in dative of time when.

πάσχα n Passover, Passover meal,
Passover lamb

This noun does not decline, being a
transliteration of a Hebrew word.

Verse 42

καὶ ὅτε ἐγένετο ἐτῶν δώδεκα, ἀναβαινόντων
αὐτῶν κατὰ τὸ ἔθος τῆς ἑορτῆς

δώδεκα twelve

The age at which a Jewish boy was considered
no longer an infant. This does not necessarily
imply that this was the first occasion on which
Jesus had accompanied his parents to
Jerusalem.

ἔθος, ους n see 1:9

Verse 43

καὶ τελειωσάντων τὰς ἡμέρας, ἐν τῷ
ὑποστρέφειν αὐτοὺς ὑπέμεινεν Ἰησοῦς ὁ παῖς
ἐν Ἱερουσαλήμ, καὶ οὐκ ἔγνωσαν οἱ γονεῖς
αὐτοῦ.

τελειοῦ make perfect, complete, bring to
an end, accomplish

ὑποστρεφῶ return, go home
ὑπέμεινεν Verb, aor act indic, 3 s ὑπομενω
endure, remain behind

παῖς, παιδος m & f servant, slave, child

Contrast the diminutive form in verse 40,
παιδίον child, infant. Danker thinks that παῖς
here alludes to the christological use of the
word (cf. 1:54,69; Acts 3:13,26; 4:27,30).

ἔγνωσαν Verb, aor act indic, 3 pl γινώσκω
γονεὺς, εως m parent

Verse 44

νομίσαντες δὲ αὐτὸν εἶναι ἐν τῇ συνοδίᾳ ἦλθον
ἡμέρας ὁδὸν καὶ ἀνεζήτησαν αὐτὸν ἐν τοῖς
συγγενεῦσιν καὶ τοῖς γνωστοῖς,

νομίζω think, suppose, assume; pass. be
the custom

συνοδία, ας f company, group of travellers

Here alone in the NT.

ὁδός, ου f way, path, road, journey

A day's journey might be 20-25 miles.

ἀναζητεῶ look for, search for

συγγενεῦσιν Noun, dat pl συγγενής, ους m
see 1:58

γνωστός, η, ον known, acquaintance,
friend

Verse 45

καὶ μὴ εὐρόντες ὑπέστρεψαν εἰς Ἱερουσαλήμ
ἀναζητοῦντες αὐτόν

εὐρόντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl
εὕρισκω

Verse 46

καὶ ἐγένετο μετὰ ἡμέρας τρεῖς εὗρον αὐτὸν ἐν
τῷ ἱερῷ καθεζόμενον ἐν μέσῳ τῶν
διδασκάλων καὶ ἀκούοντα αὐτῶν καὶ
ἐπερωτῶντα αὐτούς:

τρεῖς, τρια gen τριῶν dat τρισὶν three

μετὰ ἡμερας τρεις This, in the Jewish idiom,
probably means on the third day. The first day
would have been that of the outward journey,
the second of the return. The third day would
thus be the first day of searching in Jerusalem.

καθεζομαι sit down, seat oneself, sit
μεσος, η, ον middle; ἐν μ., εἰς μ. in the
middle, among

διδασκαλος, ου m teacher

ἐπερωτῶ ask, interrogate, question

"Rabbinic teaching made considerable use of
questions on the part of pupils, out of which
discussion could arise." Marshall

Verse 47

ἐξίσταντο δὲ πάντες οἱ ἀκούοντες αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ τῇ
συνέσει καὶ ταῖς ἀποκρίσεσιν αὐτοῦ.

ἐξίστημι be amazed, be surprised
συνεσις, εως f understanding, insight
ἀποκρισις, εως f answer, reply

"Jesus appears as a pupil who astonishes his
teachers by the understanding of the law
apparent in his questions and answers to their
counter-questions; there is no thought of his
precociously teaching the experts (as in the
Infancy Gospel of Thomas...)." Marshall

Verse 48

καὶ ἰδόντες αὐτὸν ἐξεπλάγησαν, καὶ εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτὸν ἡ μήτηρ αὐτοῦ· Τέκνον, τί ἐποίησας ἡμῖν οὕτως; ἰδοὺ ὁ πατήρ σου καὶ ἐγὼ ὀδυνώμενοι ἐζητοῦμέν σε.

ἰδόντες Verb, aor act ptc, m nom pl ὄραω
ἐκπλησσομαι be amazed
τεκνον, ου n child
κάγω a compound word = καὶ ἐγώ
ὀδυναομαι be in great distress, be greatly worried

"The use of ὀδυναομαι (16:24; Acts 20:38 [and nowhere else in the NT]) 'sorrow, suffer torment', may perhaps indicate the first fulfilment of Simeon's prophecy." Marshall

ζητεω seek, search for
σε Pronoun, acc s συ

Verse 49

καὶ εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτούς· Τί ὅτι ἐζητεῖτέ με; οὐκ ᾔδειτε ὅτι ἐν τοῖς τοῦ πατρός μου δεῖ εἶναί με;

"Jesus' first recorded words, uttered at a significant period in his life, set the tone for what follows in the Gospel...
"With τι ὅτι supply γεγονεν (cf. Acts 5:4,9; Jn 14:22). The question is a gentle reproach."
Marshall

ᾔδειτε Verb, pluperf act indic, 2 pl οἶδα
(verb perf in form but with present meaning) know, understand
δεῖ impersonal verb it is necessary, must

ἐν τοῖς τοῦ πατρός μου "in the things of my Father", doing my Father's work. Marshall prefers the traditional translation 'in my Father's house' which he says is "perfectly possible linguistically and ... is also required by the context, since the point at issue is *where* Jesus is to be found."
τοῦ πατρός μου is a characteristic form of address by Jesus when speaking of God.

Verse 50

καὶ αὐτοὶ οὐ συνῆκαν τὸ ῥῆμα ὃ ἐλάλησεν αὐτοῖς.

συνῆκαν Verb, aor act indic, 3 pl συνημι
understand, comprehend

οὐ συνῆκαν is characteristic of much of Jesus' ministry and remained characteristic of the disciples until the gift of the Spirit.

Verse 51

καὶ κατέβη μετ' αὐτῶν καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς Ναζαρέθ, καὶ ἦν ὑποτασσόμενος αὐτοῖς. καὶ ἡ μήτηρ αὐτοῦ διετήρει πάντα τὰ ῥήματα ταῦτα ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ αὐτῆς.

καταβαινω come or go down, descend

ὑποτασσω subordinate; pass. be subject, submit to, obey

The event in the temple was a temporary disclosing of Jesus' later ministry. The incident was uncharacteristic of Jesus' childhood.

διατηρεω keep, treasure up

Cf. 2:19 which uses a related verb, συντηρεω.

Verse 52

Καὶ Ἰησοῦς προέκοπτεν σοφία καὶ ἡλικία καὶ χάριτι παρὰ θεῶ καὶ ἀνθρώποις.

προκοπτω advance, progress
σοφια, ας f wisdom, insight, intelligence
ἡλικια, ας f age, span of life, years;
stature, height, maturity

Here the thought is of maturity associated with increasing age.

"The intended picture is one of perfect development, the continuation of what has already been described in 2:40." Marshall