

Outstanding but not Precocious¹

Since our Master was a human being, He grew in wisdom (Lk 2:47,52). As to the understanding He displayed as a child of twelve, He was not precocious,² but appropriate to an intelligent and alert child. There was no latent³ development as He grew up into His Head (Eph 4:15), that is, His Father through the Word who dwelt in Him. More and more as He grew into a man, He reached His full potential as to who He was. Mt 13:54; Mk 6:2-3 — When He taught, people were amazed, saying, “Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?”

Our Master, as a boy, was not an exceptionally early bloomer or a precocious child prodigy, but a properly and well-trained child in the way He should and did go. He was educated in the scriptures and the history of His nation. At twelve He was showing the results of His training and learning in the scriptures. So it should not be so unusual for a child at twelve to have such understanding if he has been properly taught. Our Master and His parents set a pattern for all children and parents. He was neither a late nor early bloomer, but was merely exhibiting natural qualities of a human being at a normal age of development — one who experienced the mentorship of loving and caring parents. He was not supernatural, as if He were God limiting Himself to appear human. The divine Word was *in* Him, but not overriding His human developmental process.

The Jews were spiritually in a period of demise (Mt 15:14), having received another spirit (Jn 8:44) to the point that the rabbis thought this child was very unusual compared to the way most children of that day were developed. The fact that the kingdom was about to be taken away from them (Mt 21:43) shows that they were at the

¹ See also *The Training of our Children* (1997.01.00-T01), and *We are Judged by our Deeds* (1997.01.16-P01).

² Precocious — characterized by exceptionally early development or maturity (especially in mental aptitude).

³ Latent — potentially existing, but not presently evident or realized.

brink of their greatest apostasy (Mt 27:25), as reflected in the fact that our Master chose most of His disciples from among the common people (yet with potential), not those aspiring to be religious leaders.

Our Master came along to show them what a twelve-year-old child should be like in God's holy nation, if he had parents who were attentive to the proverbs and scriptures (Jn 8:39; Gen 18:19; Dt 5:16; 6:3,6-7). The fact that Abraham brought up his son in the way of Yahweh was obvious in the perfect submission of Issac (Gen 18:19; 22:2,9,12).

Do you think that Joseph and Mary ever spanked Yahshua? Do you think that He ever needed a spanking? Was it precocious of our Master when He was twelve to say that He had to be about His Father's business (Lk 2:49)? Don't you think our children should think like Him in this way if they have been brought up to think this way? *Precocious* means to mature earlier than usual. If our Master matured earlier than usual, it was because His parents trained Him to appear that way. But it would be natural for all children if they had parents as our Master had.

Lk 2:52 — Did our Father gradually reveal Himself to Him as He grew? Joseph and Mary were not so keenly aware of who this child actually was, as also God hides from us in the same way as to gradually reveal His will to us. As we seek Him we grow and increase in wisdom and stature and favor with God and man. Joseph and Mary brought our Master up to do God's will. His parents dedicated Him to bring Him up in the way of Yahweh (Lk 2:21-33). But now He was surpassing them in understanding as to who He actually was. But He did not have the unshakeable certainty of this until His baptism by John, when He heard His Father's voice, "You are My Son, in whom I am well pleased." Have we ever heard our Father say this to us, His sons in whom He is well pleased?

The divine presence in Yahshua as He grew was not a precocious growth, which made Him look weird or unusual, but our Father gradually revealed Himself to Him (until He graduated), just as He does to us through His Son (Jn 14:21), as we grow in

wisdom and truth. We hear His voice through our brothers and sisters, our parents, elders, teachers, our mother theedah.

Lk 2:52 — He grew and developed in wisdom and stature, reaching His fullest potential or maturity. *Wisdom* (#4678) is the knowledge of how to regulate one's relationship with God. When one is wise unto God, he is prudent with others and knows how to regulate circumstances. *Stature* (#2244) is reaching fullness and maturity, being fully developed in all aspects of one's humanity (Eph 4:15) — spiritually, mentally, emotionally, socially, physically. Eph 4:15 shows us how to do the same as our Master from baptism onward (Lk 2:52). As He grew up into His Head, so do we grow up into Him (Heb 2:17).