

Holy Family – Luke 2:22-40

“When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.”

Actually, this presentation of the Lord in the Temple was really for the mother, who needed to be purified by the dictates of the Law in the book of Leviticus, 40 days after a male child. The Law also dictates that a firstborn male is to be consecrated according to the book of Exodus. What Luke doesn't mention is that when a child is a month old according to the Law in the book of Numbers, he was to be “redeemed” for five shekels unless he is of the tribe of Levi. Are we to assume that Jesus' parents were of the house of Levi? We do know that Mary's cousin Elizabeth is of the tribe of Levi since her husband took his turn in the temple for worship.

So far there is nothing extra-ordinary about this family making their first of many trips to the Temple in Jerusalem. We can say that about many families in Nazareth.