

Presentation in the Temple

May 11, 5 B.C.

Luke 2:22-38

Jesus Presented in the Temple

Text:

Luke 2:22-38

22. When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

23. (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”),

24. and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

25. Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

26. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.

27. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

28. Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

29, “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace.

30. For my eyes have seen your salvation,

31. which you have prepared in the sight of all people,

32. a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

33. The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

34. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,

35. so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

36. There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,

37. and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

38. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

Commentary:

Luke 2:22-23, When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”).

I. Specific instructions were given in the Old Testament regarding the ceremonial purification of women following childbirth and the redemption of the firstborn.

A. Leviticus 12:1-8, The Lord said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites: ‘A woman who becomes pregnant and gives birth to a son will be ceremonially unclean for seven days, just as she is unclean during her monthly period. On the eighth day the boy is to be circumcised. Then the woman must wait thirty-three days to be purified from her bleeding. She must not touch anything sacred or go to the sanctuary until the days of her purification are over. If she gives birth to a daughter, for two weeks the woman will be unclean, as during her period. Then she must wait sixty-six days to be purified from her bleeding.’” “When the days of her purification for a son or daughter are over, she is to bring to

the priest at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting a year-old lamb for a burnt offering and a young pigeon or a dove for a sin offering. He shall offer them before the Lord to make atonement for her, and then she will be ceremonially clean from her flow of blood.” “These are the regulations for the woman who gives birth to a boy or a girl. If she cannot afford a lamb, she is to bring two doves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for her and she will be clean.”

B. Exodus 13:2, “Consecrate to me every firstborn male. The first offspring of every womb among the Israelites belongs to me, whether man or animal.”

C. Numbers 8:16, They are the Israelites who are to be given wholly to me. I have taken them as my own in place of the firstborn, the first male offspring from every Israelite woman.

D. Numbers 18:15, The first offspring of every womb, both man and animal, that is offered to the Lord is yours. But you must redeem every firstborn son and every firstborn male of unclean animals.

II. Joseph, Mary and Jesus complied with all applicable provisions of the law.

Luke 2:24, and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

I. After the purification rights had been observed, Jesus and his human family went to Jerusalem to the temple to offer a sacrifice as was prescribed in the law following childbirth.

A. Mary and Joseph offered the sacrifice of the poor.

B. Leviticus 12:8, If she cannot afford a lamb, she is to bring two doves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for her and she will be clean.

The Song of Simeon

I. In the midst of the temple ceremonies Simeon appeared. The words are called a song, not because Simeon sang them, but because generations of others have sung them.

Luke 2:25, Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

I. Simeon, a citizen of Jerusalem, was a righteous and devout (circumspect, cautious, God-fearing) man. Simeon is the Aramaic form of the Greek name "Simon".

A. The Holy Spirit was upon him.

B. He looked for the consolation of Israel; that is, the coming of the Messianic age.

II. Simeon has been identified as a son of the famous Hillel. Simeon is also thought to have been the father of Gamaliel. Later on, his son Gamaliel would be Paul's teacher. Acts 22:3.

Luke 2:26, It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

I. The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would be privileged to see the Messiah before he died.

Luke 27:28, Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

I. The Holy Spirit led Simeon to the temple at this opportune time and guided him in what he said.

II. Jesus' parents obeyed the commandments of the Law of Moses relating to the birth of a firstborn son.

III. When Simeon saw Jesus he took him into his arms and blessed God. This is similar to Zachariah's blessing God when John was named and his speech was restored.

IV. Mary and Joseph were said to be "parents" and "father" (legally) of Jesus.

Luke 2:29-32, "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

I. This passage carries with it the imagery of a bondservant requesting of his Master that he might be dismissed.

II. Simeon realized that God had indeed accomplished the salvation through Christ of all mankind including the Gentiles.

III. Jesus was the glory of Israel, spiritual Israel, which is greater than national Israel, and encompassed the redeemed of all ages.

Luke 2:33, The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

I. Joseph and Mary knew all these things because they had heard them before.

II. Jesus' father and mother marveled that these truths were being spoken by a stranger.

Luke 2:34, Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against.

I. Simeon blessed the family and announced:

A. Jesus was destined for the falling and rising of many in Israel,

B. Jesus was destined for a sign which is spoken against.

C. "Those rising" refers to such people as the lowly fishermen who were called to greatness as apostles.

D. "Those falling" refers to such people as Annas, Caiaphas and the ruling hierarchy who even now are regarded as among the greatest of sinners.

E. Jesus was certainly spoken against during the first century and thereafter by those who rejected Christ's ministry.

Luke 2:35, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

I. This verse tells that Mary would live to see Jesus crucified and the bitter sorrow she would experience as a result of the death of her son.

A. Notice that Joseph was not included in this prophecy. Simeon was speaking to Mary. Joseph may have expired before Jesus was crucified.

II. The thoughts of mankind would be revealed by the cross, drawing the saved to righteousness and turning the wicked away.

Anna Speaks of Jesus

Luke 2:36-37, There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

I. Anna now comes onto the scene who was:

A. A prophetess.

B. The daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher.

C. Of advanced age.

D. Widowed after seven years of marriage. She had at this time been a widow for eighty-four years. Her age at this time may have been around the century mark. Or, her age at the time of these events may have been 84 years.

E. Given to fasting.

F. Uninterruptedly present in the temple.

G. Devoted to prayer night and day.

II. A saint of advanced age, following a life of godly service, is a beautiful thing to contemplate!

III. Anna:

A. Gave thanks to God for the birth of Jesus.

B. Spoke of Jesus to all in “ear shot” who were anticipating the redemption of Jerusalem.

Note: “Redemption” or “consolation” refers to the salvation of the Jewish people through the Messiah.

IV. The Bible speaks of any number of prophetesses among whom are the following:

A. Exodus 15:20, Then Miriam the prophetess, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women followed her, with tambourines and dancing.

B. Judges 4:4, Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time.

C. 2 Kings 22:14, Hilkiyah the priest, Ahikam, Achor, Shaphan and Assaiah went to speak to the prophetess Huldah, who was the wife of Shallum son of Tikvah, the son of Harhas,

- keeper of the wardrobe. She lived in Jerusalem, in the second district.**
- D. Nehemiah 6:14, Remember Tobiah and Sanballat, O my God, because of what they have done; remember also the prophetess Noadiah and the rest of the prophets who have been trying to intimidate me.**
- E. Isaiah 8:3, Then I went to the prophetess, and she conceived and gave birth to a son. And the Lord said to me, “Name him Maher-Shal-Hash-Baz.”**
- F. Acts 2:17, “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.”**
- G. Acts 21:9, He (Philip) had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.**
- H. 1 Corinthians 11:5, And every woman who prays or prophesies with her head uncovered dishonors her head –it is just as though her head were shaved.**

Jesus Presented in the Temple

Questions

1. When the time of their _____ according to the _____ of _____ had been completed, _____ and _____ took _____ to _____ to present him to the _____.

2. Specific instructions were given in the _____ regarding the _____ of women _____ and the _____ of the _____.

3. According to _____: _____ - _____, women who gave birth to sons were ceremonially unclean for _____ days. Women who gave birth to daughters were ceremonially unclean for _____ days.

4. Offerings for purification were a _____ a year old or a young _____ or a _____. The latter offerings didn't cost as much and were for _____ people.

5. What offering did Joseph and Mary offer? _____

Why? _____

6. Every _____ is to be _____ to the _____.

7. Both a _____ offering and a _____ offering were required.

8. In the midst of the temple ceremonies _____ appeared, a _____ and _____ man who waited for the _____ of _____. The _____ was upon him.

9. The _____ had promised him that he would not die until he had seen the _____.

10. _____ took Jesus in his arms and praised God, “_____, my eyes have seen your _____, a _____ for _____ to the _____ and for the glory to your people _____.

11. Jesus’ parents _____ at what was said about him. Simeon said Jesus was destined to cause the _____ and _____ of many in _____, so that the _____ of many _____ will be _____.

12. _____, a _____, who had been a widow for _____ years, never left the _____, but _____ God night and day, _____ and _____.

13. Other prophetesses named in the Bible include _____, _____, _____, and _____.

14. _____ spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the _____ of _____.

15. _____, _____ and _____
complied with all applicable provisions of God's _____ and
so should we.