

“Make Your Life A Holy & Living Offering To God!”

Luke 2:21-38

And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the **Child**, **His Name** was called **Jesus**, the **Name** given by the **Angel** before **He** was conceived in the womb. Now when the days of her (Mary) purification according to the **Law of Moses** were completed, they brought **Him** to Jerusalem to **Present Him to the Lord**, as it is written in the **Law of the Lord**, “*Every male who opens the womb shall be called Holy to the Lord*”, and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the **Law of the Lord**, “*A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.*” And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was **Simeon**, and this man was **Just and Devout, Waiting for the Consolation of Israel**, and the **Holy Spirit Was Upon Him**. And it had been revealed to him by the **Holy Spirit** that he would not see death before he had seen the **Lord's Christ**. So, he came by the **Spirit** into the **Temple**. And when the parents brought in the **Child Jesus**, to do for **Him** according to the **Custom of the Law**, he (**Simeon**) took **Him** up in his arms and **Blessed God** and said, “*Lord, now You are letting Your Servant depart in peace, according to Your Word; for my eyes have seen Your Salvation which You have prepared before the Face of All Peoples, a Light to bring Revelation to the Gentiles, and the Glory of Your People Israel.*” And Joseph and **His Mother** marveled at those things which were spoken of **Him**. Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, “*Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a Sign which will be spoken against. Yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.*” Now there was one, **Anna, A Prophetess**, the Daughter of Phanuel, of the Tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity, and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the **Temple**, but **Served God with Fasting and Prayers Night and Day**. And coming in that instant she **Gave Thanks to the Lord**, and **Spoke of Him (Jesus)** to all those who looked for **Redemption in Jerusalem**.

Luke 2:21-38 (NKJV)

We should recognize that this story concerning the circumcision of Jesus Christ on the 8th day after His birth conforms to a unique Lukan format that is repeated 4 different times by the gospel writer in 6 consecutive passages concerning the events surrounding that First Christmas. Here in this passage we see the entirety of this fourth **Promise of God** and a **Sign Given** as well as a **Sign Fulfilled** almost immediately by the presence of Simeon, the priest coming to the Temple by the prompting of the Holy Spirit and encountering the newborn Child, Jesus. We also are shown the **Evidence of Fulfillment** to the promise given to Simeon that he would see his salvation with his own eyes before his death and we are privileged to join with Simeon and Anna in their grateful **Response of Praise** to God the Father:

Handout I

“Luke’s Narrative Story Patterns - Birth of Jesus”

Luke's Historical Acts of Faith/Song of Praise Pattern

<u>Promise of God:</u>	Simeon Would See With His Own Eyes, Jesus Christ His Savior Before He Died	Luke 2:25-26
<u>Characters:</u>	Simeon (Anna)	Luke 2:25
<u>Sign Given & Fulfilled:</u>	Moved By The Holy Spirit He (She) Go To The Temple At An Appointed Time	
	He Saw His Salvation, He Took The Child, Jesus, Into His Arms & Blessed Him	Luke 2:28
<u>Evidence of Fulfillment:</u>	Jesus Christ His Savior Is Placed In His Arms & Simeon Blesses The Baby Jesus	Luke 2:28
<u>Response of Praise:</u>	Song Of Simeon	Luke 2:29-32 & 34-35
	Witness Of Anna	Luke 2:36-38

Several of the circumstances surrounding the events of the two children lives, both John and Jesus can also be compared and contrasted:

Handout II

“Luke's Comparison of Births & Beginnings: John & Jesus”

Notice the Emphasis Placed on Their Early Development as Children!

Luke also saw and drew upon the parallels of the circumstances, the method of the announcement, and the actual events surrounding the birth of Isaac to Abraham and Sarah.

Handout III

“Luke's Comparison Of Beginnings: Isaac, John, & Jesus”

Genesis Chapters 11 - 21 & Luke Chapters 1 – 2

Handout

God's Spirit Grows Within His Children

Genesis: Abraham, Sarah & Isaac

Luke: Mary & Jesus

Chronological & Geo-Political Markers

“And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, & Tidal king of nations, that they made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, & the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). All these joined together in the Valley of Siddim (Salt Sea).”
Genesis 14:1-3

And God said to Abraham: “As for you, you shall keep My covenant, you & your descendants after you throughout their generations. This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me & you, & your descendants after you: Every male child

Chronological & Geo-Political Markers

“There was in the days of Herod, king of Judea...” Luke 1:5

“And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house & lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child.” Luke 2:1-5

“And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.” Luke 2:21

among you shall be circumcised; & you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, & it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me & you. He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant ... My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.”

Genesis 17:9-12 & 13b

“So the child, Isaac grew & was weaned.”
Genesis 21:8a

“And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; & the grace of God was upon Him!”
Luke 2:40

“And Jesus increased in wisdom & stature, & in favor with God & men!”
Luke 2:52

Joseph & Mary Are Portrayed As Very Devout Followers & Servants Of God!

- 1) Circumcised Jesus On The 8th Day According To The Covenant Of Abraham & The Law Of Moses (Genesis 17:10-14 & Leviticus 12:3)
- 2) Named Him Jesus According To The Name Given To Mary By Archangel Gabriel (Luke 1:31)
- 3) Purified Mary According To The Law Of Moses (Leviticus 12:1-8)
- 4) Offered The Sacrifice Prescribed Of Two Turtledoves For Mary’s Purification (Leviticus 12:8)
- 5) Consecrated Firstborn Son To The Lord According To The Law Of Moses (Exodus 13:1-15)

Luke however draws our attention to the real purpose that Joseph and Mary have brought Jesus to the Temple by forming an Inclusio (a pair of bookends) in his writing with the major thought or idea sandwiched between them

Bookend 1

“Now when the days of her purification according to the Law of Moses were completed ...” V 22a

Highlighted Important Text

“They brought Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord! As it is written in the Law of the Lord, ‘Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord!’” Vs. 22b – 23

Bookend 2

... “And to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, ‘A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.’” V 24

There was a statute or decree found in the Law of Moses and in the Covenant with Abraham to circumcise the males and in particular the First-born male in the family. However, there was no statute or decree of the Lord found anywhere in the Law of Moses or in the Covenant with Abraham that demanded a child had to be presented to the Lord for His service! A child was presented before the Lord in His Temple in Jerusalem to be set especially aside for God’s divine purpose as a priest or prophet only by the parent’s freewill choice!

This is why Joseph and Mary presented Him to God in the Temple and this presentation scene becomes the backdrop for the appearance of Simeon and His prophetic speech lifting Jesus up for all to see. And for Anna’s prophetic speech to follow his as a NT Prophetess.

Only one other time in all of Israel’s long recorded history in the Old Testament was a child presented to God in the Temple and set aside for God’s special divine purpose as a priest and a prophet. The story of Hannah who was infertile and unable to have children, but she pleaded with the Lord to give her a son and she promised him from birth back to the Lord’s divine service. She was granted a son whose name was Samuel! And when the boy was about 3-4 years of age after he was completely weaned, she presented him at the Temple to the High Priest to be used in God’s service for a lifetime! We find this story in 1 Samuel 1:1-28

and 2:1-11. Of particular interest is the dedication and presentation of Samuel by his mother Hannah at the Temple and her Song of Praise to God which also reflects many of the same elements of both Zacharias' Song of Praise and Mary's Song of Praise:

Handout IV

"Songs Of Praise To God"

Handout

"Songs Of Praise To God"

Hannah's Song Of Praise

Zacharias' Song Of Praise

Mary's Song Of Praise

"My heart rejoices in the Lord; my horn is exalted in the Lord. I smile at my enemies, because I rejoice in Your salvation. No, one is holy like the Lord, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God. Talk no more so very proudly; let no arrogance come from your mouth, for the Lord is the God of knowledge; & by Him actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty men are broken, & those who stumbled are girded with strength. Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, & the hungry have ceased to hunger. Even the barren has borne seven, and she who has many children has become feeble. The Lord kills & makes alive; He brings down to the grave & brings up. The Lord makes poor & makes rich; He brings low & lifts up. He raises the poor from the dust & lifts the beggar from the ash heap, to set them among princes & make them inherit the throne of glory. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, & He has set the world upon them. He will guard the feet of His saints, but the wicked shall be silent in darkness. For by strength no man shall prevail. The adversaries of the Lord shall be broken in pieces; from heaven He will thunder against them. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth. He will give strength to His King, & exalt the horn of His Anointed!"

"Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited & redeemed His people, & has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began, that we should be saved from our enemies & from the hand of all who hate us, to perform the mercy promised to our fathers & to remember His holy covenant, the oath which He swore to our father Abraham: To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness & righteousness before Him all the days of our life! And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; for you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the forgiveness of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God, with which the Dayspring from on high has visited us; to give light to those who sit in darkness & the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace!"

"My soul magnifies the Lord, & my spirit rejoices in God my Savior! For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; for behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed! For He who is mighty has done great things for me, & holy is His name! And His mercy is on those who fear Him from generation to generation! He has shown strength with His arm; He has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts! He has put down the mighty from their thrones, & exalted the lowly! He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich He has sent away empty! He has helped His servant Israel, in remembrance of His mercy, as He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham & to his seed forever!"

Jesus then is seen as an extension of the Old Testament Prophetic Line with Samuel as priest and prophet! Simeon in his Song of Praise to God uses many allusions to the prophecies of Isaiah concerning the coming of the Lord's Suffering Servant, the Messiah, the Chosen and Anointed One of God:

Handout V

***“Simeon’s Song Of Praise In Comparison
To Isaiah’s Prophecies Concerning The Messiah!”***

Simeon’s Song Of Praise

“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a Light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, & the glory of Your people Israel!” Luke 2:29 – 32

“Behold, this Child is destined for the fall & rising of many in Israel, & for a sign which will be spoken against! Yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed!” Luke 2:34a-35

“He will be as a sanctuary, but a stone of stumbling & a rock of offense to both the houses of Israel, as a trap & a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many among them shall stumble; they shall fall & be broken, be snared & taken!”

Isaiah’s Prophecies Concerning The Messiah

“The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, & all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken!” Isaiah 40:5

“I, the Lord, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You & give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles!” Isaiah 42:6

“I bring My righteousness near; it shall not be far off; My salvation shall not linger. And I will place salvation in Zion, for Israel My glory!” Isaiah 46:13

“Indeed He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, & to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My Salvation to the ends of the earth!’” Isaiah 49:6

“The Lord has made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; & all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God!” Isaiah 52:10

“Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, & deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, & His glory will be seen upon you. The Gentiles shall come to your light, & kings to the brightness of your rising!” Isaiah 60:1-3

“And I will pour on the house of David & on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace & supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, & grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn!” Zechariah 12:10

Isaiah 8:14-15

Therefore, thus says the Lord God: *“Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act in haste!”* [Isaiah 28:16](#)

[Simeon & Anna Represent Male & Female Counterparts Of The New Covenant People Of God!](#)

They are the prophets and prophetesses that are supposed to arise in the world at the end of the age according to the ancient prophecies of God’s Word!

“And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit On All Flesh; Your Sons and Your Daughters Shall Prophecy, Your Old Men Shall Dream Dreams, Your Young Men Shall See Visions. And also, on My Menservants & on My Maidservants I Will Pour Out My Spirit in Those Days (Last Days)!” [Joel 2:28-29](#)

[Simeon & Anna Are Portrayed As Holy & Righteous People Of God!](#)

They are extremely devout followers and servants of God going so far as to be about their Lord’s work all the time and spending time in prayer and fasting looking forward to the salvation of God for themselves, for God’s people Israel, and for the whole world!

[Simeon & Anna Are Portrayed](#)

**As Having Consecrated Their Lives
As A Holy & Living Sacrifice To God!**

[Simeon & Anna Are Portrayed](#)

**As Individuals Giving A Daily
Testimony & Witness to All They Meet!**

[Simeon & Anna Are Living Examples](#)

For Us, All Here This Morning!

We also are to be constantly about the Lord’s work in our lives, whether at work or at home, wherever we go we should be testifying to the goodness of the Lord in our lives!

[Let Me Ask Just One Question This Morning](#)

Q

***“Have I, Been Living My Life In Such A Way
That When Others See Me & Hear Me,
They Can Honestly Say,***

“This Person Is Truly The Lord’s Servant & Friend!”

[This New Year Let Our Firm Resolve & Resolution Be This!](#)

[“Let Us Make Our Lives A Holy & Living Offering To God!”](#)

A

**So That When Others See Us & Hear Us
They Will Know They Have Been In The
Presence Of Our Lord, Who Truly Lives Within Us!
And They Will Experience His Love, His Grace,
& His Mercy Flowing From You & I To Them!**

[Please Rise For God’s Blessing & Command](#)

***“Go Now In The Indwelling Presence
& Living Power Of The Holy Spirit,
To Be His Faithful Friend, & Holy Servant!
Go Now In His Love & His Peace,
To Spread The Good News That Lives Within You!”***