



# Child of Hope!

Based on Luke 2:21-24

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 All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pastor Joe's email: Joe@southreno.com.



## A. Three Rites (An Overview of Luke 2:21-24)

**A. Circumcision** – Luke 2:21 - Gen.17:9-14 - Circumcision was usually done in the parents' home and was also the occasion when the child was officially named. This rite was an external and internal sign indicating that a covenant relationship had been established between the individual and the Lord.

**Deuteronomy 10:16, NASB95** -<sup>16</sup> *"So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer.*

**B. Purification** – Luke 2:22a - Lev. 12:22-24 - Baby Jesus is 40 days old! Mary would present a "sin offering" (see Lev. 12:1-8) and pay a "redemption fee" of 5 Shekles\* and a lamb for the firstborn (see Num.3:44-45 and Ex. 13:2, 12-15).

**\*Leviticus 12:8, NASB95** -<sup>8</sup> *'But if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, the one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for her, and she [and the baby] will be clean.'*"

**C. Presentation** – Luke 2:22b-24 - Ex.13:2, 12-15 – Jesus and his parents were presented to the Lord and the public and would commit to creating within the child a hunger and thirst for God.

**Exodus 13:2, NASB95** -<sup>2</sup> *"Sanctify to Me every firstborn, the first offspring of every womb among the sons of Israel, both of man and beast; it belongs to Me."*



## B. Circumcision and Its Meaning

- 1. It took place on the eighth day.** That means that counting the day of His birth, Jesus was circumcised when He was one week old.
- 2. The rite of circumcision goes back to Genesis 17.** Here, the Lord ordered Abraham and all his male descendants to be circumcised.
- 3. The command of the Lord is still followed by observant Jews today.** The act of circumcision, in Hebrew, is "bris;" "brist" means "covenant." The full term is "bris milah," which means to "cut the covenant."
- 4. It is impossible to overestimate the importance of circumcision to the Jews.** It was a witness to the Jews that a blood sacrifice be made by them until the Messiah would come. It is also a witness to the Abrahamic Covenant—a promise of land and salvation.
- 5. The circumcision of Jesus also plays significantly into the Christian calendar and the Christmas story.** If Jesus was born on December 25 (which is unlikely), then the eighth day would be one week later, January 1—which is the "Feast of Circumcision" on the Christian calendar.
- 6. Jesus' circumcision pointed to His deity and humanity.**
- 7. DON'T MISS THIS! Jesus was given His name and his circumcision on the same day.** What would it cost Jesus to be the Savior of the world? He paid for our sins with the price of His own blood. Here is the vital connection: Jesus is just one week old, and already He enters into the pain and bloodiness of human existence. Eight days old and His blood is already being shed—a foreshadowing of the cross to come. (Historically, the father of the child would perform the circumcision.)

There is a direct line from His birth to His circumcision to the cross. Circumcision foreshadows the blood He will shed for the sins of the world.

- Alexander Maclaren



## C. Application of This Story

- 1. Jesus Understands Poverty** (see 2 Corinthians 8:9).
- 2. Jesus Understands Suffering** (Hebrews 2:18).
- 3. Jesus is Here to Help** (See Hebrews 4:15-16).
- 4. Jesus is Here to Save** (Ephesians 1:7; Acts 4:12; Romans 3:25; and Hebrews 9:22)