



## 5: Our Savior King (Luke 2:22-38)

Jesus came to Earth as a human baby. But Jesus didn't stay that way. He grew as a human, lived a perfect life without sin, and demonstrated that He was who the angels who announced His birth said He would be - Savior, Messiah, and Lord (Luke 2:11). Today we are reminded that the purpose of CHRISTMAS is found at the CROSS.

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## teachingnotes

### Savior, Messiah, Lord

**Luke 2:11** (NIV) Today in the town of David a **Savior** has been born to you; He is **the Messiah, the Lord**.

We wouldn't celebrate *CHRISTMAS* if Jesus wasn't **Savior, Messiah, & Lord** - he would just be another Jewish baby born in the 1st century. The focus of the Scriptures is NOT on Jesus' birth (only 2 of 4 gospels talk about Jesus' birth - Matthew & Luke). The focus of the Scriptures is on what makes Jesus **Our Savior King** - His death & resurrection. That's why ALL 4 GOSPEL WRITERS spend so much time writing about the moments leading to Jesus' death on the cross.

☀️ *We wouldn't celebrate Christmas without the CROSS.*

### Risen Jesus Told His disciples...

**Luke 24:44-47** (NIV) He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled **that is written about Me** in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, "This is what is written: **The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

Today we will look closer *not at HOW* Jesus came to Earth, but **WHY Jesus came to Earth - to be The Savior King**.

**Luke 2:21** (NIV) On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, **he was named Jesus**, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

The angel said the child was to be named **Jesus** (Yeshua = Yahweh saves) because He would save his people from their sins (Mt 1:21).

- Jesus was circumcised on the 8th day according to the Law (Gen 17:11-12, Lev 12:3).
- According to the law, the woman must wait 33 days until she is purified from her bleeding after birth (Lev 12:4) before going to the temple and participating in a cleansing ritual (burnt offering & sin offering), when she would be considered "clean from her flow of blood" (Lev 12:6-7).
- This demonstrated the seriousness the people of God were to prepare to approach God in worship.

❓ Is there anything *WE* do to prepare to meet with God or do we take Scripture, singing, and fellowship for granted? What if we took some time to get alone with God and *thank Him* for His people & His Presence before we showed up to meet together? What if we asked Him to use us to encourage others?

Mary & Joseph had prepared themselves, and now - 40 days after Jesus' birth - the whole family again took a 6 mile trip from Bethlehem to the temple in Jerusalem.

### Road Trip to Jerusalem

**Luke 2:22-24** (NIV) When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, 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"), 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.**"

**The Law** (Lev 12:6-8) allowed a **pair** of birds as the sacrifice for a family who couldn't afford a lamb.

## God Fulfills His Promise

**Luke 2:25-26** (NIV) 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 on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

God really had revealed a promise to him - Simeon would SEE **Yahweh's Messiah** before his last breath, And today was the day!

## Simeon Holds His Savior

**Luke 2:27-33** (NIV) 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: "Sovereign Lord, as You have promised, You may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

Simeon proclaims that this little defenseless baby, would bring **salvation** for **all nations, for Israel...and for Gentiles.** No wonder they **marveled** at what was being **said about Jesus!** But that **salvation** wasn't going to be purchased without an incredible PRICE.

## The Costly Price of Salvation

**Luke 2:34-35** (NIV) 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, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And **a sword will pierce your own soul too."**

What Jesus said and how Jesus lived would *cause* some to love Him and others would hate Him. Mary will see her grown son become a source of division among the people of Israel. Some wanted to make Him *KING*, but others wanted to have Him *KILLED*. Mary would experience a **sword piercing her soul**, as Jesus (AKA "Yahweh saves") sacrifices His life to PAY FOR that salvation, and it would be *on that day*, that Jesus was born to die. Jesus echoed this just before He was arrested.

**John 12:27** (NIV) Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.

We often separate the *SEASON* of Jesus' birth from the *REASON* for Jesus' birth.

## ***BIG TRUTH: The purpose of Christmas is found at the Cross.***

**Luke 2:36-37** (NIV) There was also a prophet[ess], **Anna**, the daughter of Penuel, 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.

**Anna** was a **very old widow** - aged **84**, remaining unmarried close to 75 years (if she married at age 13-14). *But Anna was not just a WIDOW; Anna was a WORSHIPPER!* She was consistently at the temple in Jerusalem all day long, **fasting and praying.** Anna did more than just pray quietly. She opened her mouth to tell others what God said, (why she is called a **prophet** [Greek *prophētis*): one who speaks on behalf of God. (Other women referred to this way include Miriam - Ex 15:20, Deborah - Jdg 4:4, Huldah - 2 Kgs 22:14, Isaiah's wife - Is 8:3, or the daughters of Philip - Acts 21:9.)

Anna & Simeon were 2 witnesses who gave public testimony that anyone within the vicinity would have heard.

**Luke 2:38** (NIV) 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.

Anna gave thanks to God and then she told **all** who would listen about **the redemption** this child would bring to **Jerusalem.**

Jesus and His family would ultimately leave Bethlehem and return to Nazareth, where Jesus would grow up (Lk 2:39-40). But...years later, in this same city of Jerusalem, this same child, now a full-grown man, would come to bring **redemption** - making a payment to *BUY people* from **Jerusalem** and beyond. Listen to how Paul writes about this moment.

**Galatians 4:4-5** (NIV) But when the set time had fully come, **God sent his Son**, born of a woman, born under the law, **to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.**

Christmas was **the set time** that **God sent His Son**, so that **WE might receive adoption** to become His sons & daughters.

THIS was the salvation (Lk 2:30) & redemption (Lk 2:38) that **Simeon & Anna** were looking forward to.

## ***BIG TRUTH: The purpose of Christmas is found at the Cross.***

Christians should live everyday, grateful for God's salvation & redemption purchased by **Jesus - Our Savior King!**

- ▶ **Do you KNOW that you KNOW Jesus?** Start the New Year with a New Hope - forgiveness, purpose, a heavenly Father, and a faith family. **CALL US!** (phone numbers below)
- ▶ **If you already know that you KNOW Jesus...** seek the Lord in the Scriptures (pick up Bible Reading Plan), plug into your local church and find a place to serve others. Take your opportunities to share Jesus with others.

## heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- \* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!
- \* Or call our **deacons & wives: Alan & Christy Androski** (850-464-1428), **Steve & Debbie Bass** (850-673-7952), **Tim & Joni Hughey** (850-464-1156), **Mark & Dot Mancil** (850-253-5405), **Boss & Amelia Mulkey** (850-464-6717), or **Tom & Martha Waddail** (850-973-0011).

## discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. Do you think we would celebrate *Christmas* if it wasn't for the *CROSS*? Explain your answer.
2. Was this picture (*right*) troubling for you like it was for Jackie? Explain your answer. Why is it that we often separate *the SEASON of Jesus' birth* from *the REASON for Jesus' birth*?
3. **Read Luke 2:27-35.** Share what interested you about what Simeon said. Now **read John 12:27 & Luke 19:10.** How did Simeon's prophecy agree with what Jesus said?
4. **Read Luke 2:36-38.** What do you appreciate about Anna and what can we learn & apply from her example?
5. **Read Galatians 4:4-5.** Take time to focus on chunks of this passage and discuss them by answering these questions:
  - a) What does "when the set time had fully come" mean?
  - b) What does it mean to "redeem" another person?
  - c) What does it mean to be adopted as a son or daughter of God?
  - d) **Read John 1:12-13.** Fill in the blanks of this passage: "Yet to all who did \_\_\_\_\_, to those who \_\_\_\_\_ in his name, he \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_." What would you say to the person who says *everyone is a child of God*? Why is it so important that we see we must believe (i.e. trust & follow) Jesus in order to
6. What did you learn from today's study? What challenged/encouraged you most & what can you do to live it out?
7. Ask how you can pray for one another. Then do it!

