

### God makes a WAY for peace

In the Old Testament law, God required every firstborn male—which was considered the ‘strength’ of the herd or family—to be presented to Him (Ex. 13:2). As the firstborn son was set apart for God, the parents symbolically had to redeem or ‘buy back’ their son from service to the Lord with 5 shekels of silver (Num. 3:12; 18:14-16). God set a precedent that the future leaders of the families would serve Him and others. *God expects men to be at peace with God and serve Him.* This presentation was a perpetual reminder the nation belonged to God, and they would find peace in trusting Him not their own strength. *Human peace comes through submission to God* (John 16:33; 2 Thess. 3:16). As lovers of God, Joseph and Mary came from Bethlehem to Jerusalem forty-one days after Jesus’ birth to redeem him from service to the Lord at the Temple. Being poor, instead of a lamb, Mary gave two turtledoves; one for her purification and one for her sin offering (Lev. 12:6-8; Luke 1:47). Like when Joseph gave his son back to God, God gave His son to us to give us peace. *People find peace by knowing God’s offer of peace* (Is. 9:6; John 3:16)!

### Simeon finds the PRINCE of peace

Living in Jerusalem, Simeon was a faithful man who desired to follow and serve God. His life was characterized by righteousness (Gr. *dikaïos*, ‘upright, virtuous’) and devotion (Gr. *eulabēs*, ‘living carefully’) to God. Simeon’s lifestyle characteristics were developed over time as his beliefs directed his behavior. *Salvation happens in a moment; sanctification happens over a lifetime.* Simeon was not a perfect man and probably had many things from his history in Jerusalem that could have kept him from pursuing God in his hometown. *Don’t allow your past regrets to affect your future blessings!* Simeon was filled with the Holy Spirit, who helped him know and do God’s will. Every new day was a new opportunity to live in submission to God’s will and have peace that God would be faithful to guide him. The Holy Spirit promised he wouldn’t die until he saw the Messiah, the Savior of the world. Seeing Jesus at the Temple, Simeon got to hold his Savior in his arms. His life of peace with God led to his death of peace in God. *While believers will face many challenges in life, they can have peace in this life and the next by knowing the Prince of peace* (John 14:27)!