

A Very Classic Christmas

Jesus is Anticipated

Luke 2:22-38

Anticipate: To look forward to as certain (Webster)

Anticipation of God's Activity in the World is Key to Following Jesus

“And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, ‘Every male who first 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.’ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous 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. And he came in 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 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 that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.’ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, ‘Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.’ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.” **Luke 2:22-38**

I. **Obedience to the Word of God - Luke 2:22-24**

Mary & Joseph were Obedient to the Old Covenant Word of God:

- **Jesus Circumcised at 8 Days** – Luke 2:21 (Genesis 17:12)
- **Purification Rights at 40 Days** – Luke 2:22 (Leviticus 12)
- **Redemption of the Firstborn** – Luke 2:23 (Exodus 13:1-12)
- **Two Birds Instead of a Lamb** – Luke 2:24 (Leviticus 12:6, 8)

“Our Lord’s relationship to the Law is an important part of His saving ministry. He was made under the Law; and though He rejected man’s religious traditions, He obeyed God’s law perfectly. He bore the curse of the Law for us and set us free from bondage.” **Warren Wiersbe**

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.” **Galatians 4:4-5**

“Wait for the LORD and keep his way, and he will exalt you to inherit the land; you will look on when the wicked are cut off.” **Psalm 37:34**

II. **Trust in the Promises of God - Luke 2:25-35**

“Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.” **Luke 2:25**

Simeon’s Praise to God:

- You Kept Your Promises to Me (I can depart in peace - vs. 29)
- You Kept Your Promises to Israel (God’s glory to Israel – vs. 32)
- You Kept Your Promises to Everyone (God’s revelation – vs. 32)

Simeon’s Promise to Mary & Joseph:

- Jesus will be Good News to Many (Rise of many – vs. 34)
- Jesus will be Hard News for Others (Fall of many – vs. 34)
- Jesus will Suffer, and So Will You (Sword will pierce – vs. 35)
- Jesus will Make Things Clear (Hearts of many to be revealed – vs. 35)

“I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living! Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!” **Psalm 27:13-14**

III. **Surrender to the Call of God - Luke 2:36-38**

“She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.”

Luke 2:37b-38

“Whether in Bethlehem’s manger, or on Calvary’s cross, or on his throne of glory from where he will judge the quick and the dead – wherever we see him, we see the salvation of God.” **Charles Haddon Spurgeon**

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *CSB Study Bible* – Trevin Wax, General Editor (2021)
- *Tony Evans Study Bible* – Tony Evans, General Editor (2019)
- *The Spurgeon Study Bible: Notes* – C.H. Spurgeon (2017)
- *Luke for Everyone* – N.T. Wright (2004)
- *The Bible Exposition Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (1996)
- *Luke (Volume 3)* – Trent C. Butler (2000)
- *Daily Bible Study Series: The Gospel of Luke* – William Barclay (1975)