

# 2.3

## IT WILL COME TO PASS

### LESSON BIG IDEA

I will faithfully wait for God's Word to come to pass.

### TRUTH ABOUT GOD

God's Word always comes true.



### FOCUS VERSES: Luke 2:25-26

<sup>25</sup> And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

<sup>26</sup> And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

### LESSON TEXT: Luke 2:21-40

# BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

**Lesson Text:** Luke 2:21-40

As noted in Galatians 4:4, “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.”

Luke noted three times that the actions of Jesus’ parents were carried out in obedience to and fulfillment of the Mosaic Law: (1) Mary followed the prescribed period of postnatal ritual purification (Luke 2:22; Leviticus 12:1-4); (2) as the family’s firstborn male offspring, Jesus was presented to the Lord (Exodus 13:2, 12, 15) in Jerusalem (Luke 2:23); and (3) his parents offered the appropriate sacrifice (Leviticus 12:6-8).

While the family was in Jerusalem, the Spirit directed Simeon (meaning “he has heard”) into the Temple to see the young Messiah. The Spirit promised that prior to his death Simeon would witness for himself this long-anticipated figure who was “the consolation [or comfort] of Israel,” a concept that figures prominently in the Book of Isaiah (40:1; 49:13; 51:3; 57:18; 61:2; 66:13).

Simeon declared that the Messiah was sent to save “all people” (Luke 2:31), Gentiles as well as Jews (Luke 2:32).

After blessing Jesus’ parents, Simeon prophesied to Mary. His prophecy foreshadowed the hostility and conflict that her Messianic son would precipitate. First, Jesus’ ministry would divide the nation of Israel into those who would fall and those who would rise (Luke 2:34). Second, His ministry would serve as an unpopular sign (Luke 2:34) designed to disclose the innermost “thoughts of many hearts” (Luke 2:35). In the process, Mary’s “own soul” would be pierced (Luke 2:35), probably a reference to the struggles and division that would occur within her own heart and among Jesus’ family members. (See also Matthew 10:34-37; Mark 3:31-35; John 2:3-4; 7:1-5; 19:25-27; Acts 2:37.)

Like Simeon, the prophetess Anna also encountered Jesus at the Temple. If Anna had married around age fourteen (not uncommon in that culture), became widowed seven years into her marriage (Luke 2:36), and lived in the state of widowhood for about eighty-four years (Luke 2:37), she would have been of an extremely advanced age (around 105) at the time of this episode.

After returning to Nazareth (Luke 2:39), Jesus grew both physically and spiritually and was endowed with divine wisdom (Luke 2:40). (Compare Luke 1:80; 2:52.)

SIMEON DECLARED THAT THE MESSIAH WAS SENT TO SAVE “ALL PEOPLE.”

# DAY 1

## Bible Reading Plan

Numbers 31 ☐ 32 ☐ 33 ☐ | Mark 9 ☐

### Luke 2:21

And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

### Biblical Insight

As Joseph had been instructed in a dream and Mary informed by the angel Gabriel, Mary's baby was named JESUS at the time he was circumcised (Matthew 1:21; Luke 1:31; Luke 2:21). In keeping with what is sometimes called "name theology," it was essential for the Messiah's name to reveal His identity. The English Jesus is the transliteration of the Greek Iesous, the transliteration into Greek of the Hebrew Yeshua. This name means "Jehovah will save" or "Jehovah-Savior." This makes it readily apparent why the angel in Joseph's dream said, "Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). This divinely given name identifies Mary's baby as Jehovah (i.e., Yahweh), the Savior.

### Daily Devotion

Nine months is a long time to keep a secret. So is five months. But for couples looking to surprise themselves and their friends, that's how long somebody has to keep their secret a secret. The popularity of gender reveal parties reflects the excitement of the big question: is the baby a boy or a girl? These parties require the parents to wait until the day of the party to see blue paint or pink paint. Blue powder or pink powder. Blue smoke or pink smoke. Finally, after waiting a few months, Mom, Dad, and all their Facebook friends now know whether this bouncing bundle of joy is a boy or a girl.

Imagine keeping a secret for over four thousand years. That's how long God kept His covenant name to His people a secret. All throughout history, He revealed Himself as God, the Almighty, and the I AM. But He unwrapped the revelation to a teenage girl when Gabriel announced her baby would be called Jesus. He would be called Jesus because He—this Jesus—would save His people from their sins.

That revealed name remains our refuge today. No matter the situation we face today, we can call on His name to encounter Him and experience His power.

### Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

---



---



---

## DAY 2

### Bible Reading Plan

Numbers 34 ☐ 35 ☐ 36 ☐ | Mark 10 ☐

#### Luke 2:22-24

<sup>22</sup> And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord;

<sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;)

<sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

#### Biblical Insight

Some of Jesus' final words to His disciples were, "All things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me" (Luke 24:44). The Law of Moses was still in effect when Jesus was born. (See Galatians 4:4.) Luke noted that the events surrounding Jesus' circumcision were done according to the Law (Luke 2:21-24). Of course there were countless other baby boys before the birth of Jesus whose infant experiences were accomplished according to the Law. But Jesus was unique. He fulfilled the Law (Matthew 5:17), and with Him, the Law came to an end (Romans 10:4).

#### Daily Devotion

Some sights are just unsightly. A dentist drinking Mountain Dew. A cardiologist choking back a bacon triple cheeseburger. A lawyer breaking the law. When we think of the experts, we think *surely they know better*. They don't write the rules, but they do know them better than most, and they know the consequences of breaking the rules. That's why it's unusual to see them break them.

Mary and Joseph brought baby Jesus to the Temple on the eighth day to have Him circumcised according to the Law. Of course they would, but whether they realized it or not, Jesus wrote the Law they were following. If He wanted, He could have skirted the Law because He wrote it. But because He is holy, He kept the Law and fulfilled it. But when He fulfilled it, He completed it. And when He completed it, the Law came to an end as the day of the gospel began to dawn.

Because Jesus is holy, we are called to be holy. The call to holiness is not about keeping rules but about pursuing Jesus and ridding our lives of anything that would separate us from Him. As we respond to His love in our life and naturally draw close to Him, we'll naturally separate from things in the world around us that are contrary to God.

#### Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

---



---



---

# DAY 3

## Bible Reading Plan

Deuteronomy 1 □ 2 □ 3 □ 4 □ | Mark 11 □

### Luke 2:25–32

<sup>25</sup> And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him.

<sup>26</sup> And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

<sup>27</sup> And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law,

<sup>28</sup> then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said,

<sup>29</sup> Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word:

<sup>30</sup> for mine eyes have seen thy salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

<sup>32</sup> a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

### Biblical Insight

The Holy Spirit filled a major role in preparing first-century people of faith to receive the Messiah, Jesus. The Spirit revealed to Simeon, a just and devout man who was eagerly awaiting the fulfillment of specific prophecies from Isaiah about the consolation (i.e., comfort) of Israel, that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. (See Isaiah 40:1; 49:13; 51:3; 57:18; 61:2; 66:13.) The Spirit led Simeon into the Temple at the precise moment Joseph and Mary brought Jesus for circumcision. As he took the baby Jesus into his arms, Simeon acknowledged, "Mine eyes have seen thy salvation." Simeon understood the meaning of the baby's name.

### Daily Devotion

Gramma Marj was a marvel. She was ninety-one years old, and her family knew her hours were numbered. She asked her granddaughter to help gather some of her personal effects. The granddaughter took her time, hoping to keep her grandmother around a little longer. It seemed to work. Gramma Marj held on. The news then came that her son was coming from Texas. They told him to get there fast. Gramma Marj heard the news but knew he would not get there until the next day. Did she have another day? She was unresponsive all that day. But the next morning when he came into the room, she opened her eyes. Not long after he left, she breathed her last breath.

She was waiting for something, for someone. Maybe Simeon was, too. He was waiting for the Messiah, and that wonderful day, Mary carried Him into the Temple to introduce Him to Simeon and to the world. After a lifetime of waiting, Simeon finally saw the one he had been waiting for.

We too are waiting to see Jesus when He returns for His bride. With the same anticipation as Simeon, we take hope from Scripture's prophecies of His return. Soon our Savior will come. We must be ready to meet Him.

### Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

---



---



---

# DAY 4

## Bible Reading Plan

Deuteronomy 5  6  7  8  9  10

### Luke 2:33-35

<sup>33</sup> And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him.

<sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

<sup>35</sup> (yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.

### Biblical Insight

Even though Joseph and Mary had already experienced angelic revelation about Jesus' identity and future, Simeon's words advanced their understanding further. They marvelled, and Simeon offered even more clarity about Jesus' future. Although He was the Savior, many in Israel would fall, while others would "rise again." These terms describe the spiritual condition both of those who would reject and those who would believe on Jesus. Jesus would be a sign of deliverance, but there would be those who would resist Him. Mary would experience emotional trauma in her soul even as Jesus would be physically pierced.

### Daily Devotion

All parents know their children are going to fall down and scrape their knee or fall off a bike and scrape their elbow. Some parents live paralyzed by fear that their fearless child is going to break an arm or leg. We all want to know our children will be safe from all harm, but we know better. We know they will get hurt. We know others will hurt them. We even know they will hurt others.

Mary was a first-time mom. Jesus was not going to become a master carpenter or fisherman; He was the Messiah. What would that look like? What would His future hold? Simeon's words had to pierce Mary's heart that day when he prophesied Jesus would cause some to rise and some to fall. Suddenly Simeon's heart grew heavy when he told Mary a sword would pierce her own soul. Somehow Simeon knew, and we would too, that Jesus' life would change her life, his life, and all our lives.

How has knowing Jesus changed you? Is your heart still open to the wonder of seeing Him and allowing Him to bring transformation?

### Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

---



---



---

# DAY 5

## Bible Reading Plan

Deuteronomy 11 ☐ 12 ☐ 13 ☐ | Mark 12 ☐ 13 ☐

### Luke 2:36–40

<sup>36</sup> And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

<sup>37</sup> and she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

<sup>38</sup> And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth.

<sup>40</sup> And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

### Biblical Insight

As the Temple drama unfolded that day, another person had a significant revelatory role to play. Anna, an elderly prophetess who devoted herself to serving God with fastings and prayers night and day, entered at that instant. When she saw the baby Jesus, she “spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.” Redemption and salvation are synonymous terms, and Anna’s words were prophetic. Those who looked for redemption would find it in Jesus. After fulfilling all the law required of newborn baby boys, Joseph and Mary returned with Jesus to Nazareth. As He grew, Jesus developed spiritual strength and wisdom as the grace of God rested upon Him. (See also Luke 2:52.)

### Daily Devotion

Time flies. Time crawls. It all depends on what is happening. When you are on vacation, time seems to speed by. When you are waiting for your name to be called at the DMV, time seems to crawl by. But what does it feel like when you are waiting for rescue? What if you hear a noise in the middle of the night and you know it’s not just the dog? Someone is in your house. You call 9-1-1 and wait for the sirens.

The shortest average response time for a high priority 9-1-1 call is still five minutes. Those three hundred seconds can feel like hours. The Jews had been waiting for rescue for thousands of years. Entire generations had lived and died, waiting for the Messiah to rescue and redeem them. They couldn’t see a life beyond Roman occupation and Roman taxes. But everything changed the day Mary brought Jesus to the Temple. After thousands of years of waiting for rescue, the wait was over. Jesus the Messiah had come.

Because Jesus has come, you can have hope today for whatever you face. Think about the reality that He is here—with you in your victories, your tragedies, and all the moments in between. How do you make time each day to recognize God’s presence?

### Reflection and Prayer

» *What can you do to apply this to your life today?*

---



---



---



---

**Lesson Title:** It Will Come to Pass

**Scripture Focus:** Luke 2:25–26

### The Lesson in Context

Just like Anna, each of us can faithfully wait for God's Word to come to pass. Anna had experienced pain and loss at a young age, but instead of allowing this trauma to distance her from God, she chose to draw closer to Him. Anna chose to follow God's plan and faithfully respond to His call. We can do the same. We can refuse to allow the pain, loss, and disappointments of life to distance us from God. We can ground ourselves in God's Word, listen for His voice, and be led by His Spirit. Drawing closer to God will increase our faith and create an intimacy that will call us to wait on Him. Faithfully waiting on God will not be a chore. It will be born out of a relationship of trust and a place of peace, knowing that the one we love will do what He has promised.

### Group Discussion

1. How does Jesus being presented in the Temple parallel the practice of dedicating children?
2. What kind of sacrifices should we bring to the house of the Lord?
3. How does God speak to you most often?
4. Why is it difficult to cling to God's promises if we do not know Scripture?
5. What does it mean to faithfully wait for God's Word to come to pass?

### My Prayer for the Upcoming Week

How do you want to be different because of what you have experienced today?

---

---

---

---