

Luke 2 pt 3

Luke 2: 21-38

And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

²² Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present *Him* to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord"), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name *was* Simeon, and this man *was* just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ So he came by 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, ²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:

²⁹ "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,
According to Your word;

³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation

³¹ Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,

³² A light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles,
And the glory of Your people Israel."

³³ And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ³⁵ (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

³⁶ Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; ³⁷ and this woman *was* a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served *God* with fastings and prayers night and day. ³⁸ And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

1. This is the famous Christmas story of the birth of Jesus

I. Shepherds, Shekinah, Savior

I. A visit to the Temple

1. Luke takes time to explain the details & specifics of Christ's birth
 - a. Before His birth, O.T prophets declared that the Messiah would arrive at a set time
 - b. During His birth, those who witnessed the Messiah first hand gave collaborating testimony
 - c. Shortly after His birth, secular historians confirm the same
 - i. It's important that we're not speaking of a thought, a concept, an idea or a movement...

- ii. We are speaking of a real person who was born in a humble Jewish family

2. Jesus was circumcised on the 8th day - fulfilling the law

a. Circumcision predated the law of Moses

- i. God gave it to Abraham **Gen 17**

b. On the 8th day according to **Leviticus 12:2-3**

- i. This was a covenant between Abraham and his seed and God forever
- ii. It was an outward demonstration of an inward truth
- iii. The cutting away of the foreskin. A deliberate, intentional sanctification, cleansing

c. This is important to note for us & understand because

- i. After spiritual birth, comes spiritual circumcision
- ii. The cutting away and being forever identified with God
- iii. Just like when Joshua had the people circumcised at Gilgal
 - 1. It was a voluntary and intentional choice to be made

- iv. It's declaring before God, I don't want the works of the flesh...
- v. I want to live a holy and pure life
 - 1. It's a spiritual thing for us today
 - 2. Jesus said, **if anyone wants to follow me, he must take up his cross daily and follow me**
- d. This act of circumcision also depicts the stages of the spiritual life
- e. As one author also put it
 - i. The stages of the life of Christ, including the circumcision are the same stages that a believer will follow if they're to live like Christ
 - 1. We're born again
 - 2. [Circumcision were]We decide to live for God and put off the works of the flesh
 - 3. The epiphany of who we are - children of God
 - 4. Our baptism - public confirmation of our association with Christ
 - 5. A time of temptation where our faith is tested
 - 6. Begin active ministry

7. Carry the cross of Jesus and die with Him
8. Rise in the glorious Resurrection (**Biblical
illustrator**)
9. This then ought to be the real mirror that we use
10. Not how do I feel or what do others think
 - a. Allow the mirror of God's Word to show you
where you stand

- f. These 8 steps in the life of a believer mark a new beginning
 - i. 8 is the number of new beginnings
 - ii. Jesus is circumcised on the 8th day

3. He was given the name Jesus just as the angel spoke

a. **Savior**

- i. Joshua in Hebrew
- ii. Jesus in the Greek

1. The visual is detailed and specific
2. Joshua brought the children of Israel into the
promised land as Moses was unable to

3. The law cannot bring you into a right relationship not because it's lacking, but because we are lacking
 4. Joshua (God is my salvation) was able to conquer the 7 kings of Canaan and give Israel her inheritance
 - b. Our savior Jesus is the one who will bring His children into the promised land of abundant living
4. Some believe the child is named when circumcised because Abram's name was changed the day he was circumcised
5. He didn't need to be circumcised because of any sin... He is sinless
 - a. His relationship to the law is very important as He came to fulfill the law
6. Everything the law required, Jesus was the only one able to complete
7. **Wiersbe:**
 - a. He was [born] under the law Gal 4:4
 - b. He obeyed God's law perfectly John 8:46
 - c. He bore the curse of the law for us Gal 3:13
 - d. He set us free from bondage Gal 5:1
8. Jesus didn't take any shortcuts
 - a. Whatever the law required, He was able to perform

9. One of the things that the law required was an offering when presenting the child at the Temple
- a. Joseph & Mary brought turtledoves as they couldn't afford a lamb
 - b. He was born into a poor family to be able to associate with the poor
 - c. He wanted to walk in the shoes of the impoverished and remove the stigma of the poor
 - i. That somehow they are forgotten by God
 - 1. God loves and cares for all of His children
 - e. **Although they couldn't afford a lamb, they had The Lamb**

10. An unexpected and welcomed surprise to Joseph & Mary

11. It's been over a month since His birth and perhaps they feel a bit alone
- a. All of their immediate family is in Nazareth
 - b. They've been in Judah now for some time
 - c. Perhaps they need a reminder or some encouragement regarding God's promises

d. **God does not leave Himself without a witness**

e. **Acts 14:17** Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.

12. **2 separate believers meet with them in the Temple**

a. They're about to give Mary and Joseph a double confirmation

13. Simeon and Anna witnessed to the glory of Jesus as a baby

14. God has a remnant of faithful believers made up of the old, the young, from both Judea the beloved and Nazareth the insignificant

a. His grace extends out to include the outcasts of Shepherds

15. Simeon is a God fearing man

a. (Hearkening, listening)

b. Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word;

c. Simeon was a man who was filled with the Holy Spirit

i. The Holy Spirit was upon him

ii. It has been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit

iii. So he came by the Spirit into the temple

1. This indicated that he walked in intimacy with God

2. He wanted God and was yielded to Him

3. The level of intimacy that we have with God is our choice

d. God shows him that now is the time to see the Messiah before you die

e. He says now my eyes have seen your salvation

f. Imagine how many babies are brought to the temple to fulfill the law. By the Holy Spirit, Simeon knows this is The Baby, the savior

g. **My eyes have seen your salvation**

i. Salvation is not a prayer we say or something we do

1. Salvation is a person

a. Help me see you Lord

ii. "He (Jesus) is a light to bring revelation to the gentiles"

2. Jews hated gentiles

3. He wasn't speaking his own words, this was a Word from the Lord

iii. And the glory of Your people Israel

- 4. the glory means God wants to dwell with His people
- h. Jesus is not just for the Jews, but for all people (gentiles)
- i. That's the way God intended it from the beginning
- j. Israel would be a light to the nations and come to faith
- k. Since Israel failed to fulfill their destiny, God will Himself be a revelation to the Gentiles and the Glory of His people Israel

16. My eyes have seen Your Salvation

- a. It wasn't the natural eye that he saw with
- b. I've often prayed to see God with my natural eyes
- c. Many saw Jesus and never believed
 - i. Lord, give us eyes of faith to see you with

17. Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ³⁵ (yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

- d. His presence will turn the order of things on its head
 - i. The religious will be challenged and rebuked
 - ii. The elite will be exposed

- iii. The outcasts will be welcomed
- iv. The forgotten will be embraced
- v. A sword will pierce your heart Mary as you watch your young Son persecuted, accused, beaten and nailed to a tree

e. What a breath of fresh air this believer was for Mary & Joseph

18. Immediately, we're introduced to Anna

- a. An older believer who served God with fasting and prayer
- b. (451) Anna - Grace
- c. (5323) Phanuel - The face of God (presence of God)
- d. (768) Asher - Happy, blessed

19. Luke is drawing a picture for Theophilus

- a. In the middle of the unsolicited confirmation, God wants to communicate His truth
- b. The blessed happy (smiling) Face (presence of God) is extending Grace
- c. God is rejoicing at this intervention
- vi. You may have thought this to be an inconvenience for God

vii. To dwell among people

viii. To die a horrible death for our salvation

ix. Just ask any loving parent who sees their child drowning if it's an inconvenience to save them, despite your favorite suit or dress

20. You are to rejoice and be filled with the same comfort that both Simeon and Anna are filled with

a. The consolation of Israel and the world is here

b. The desire of all nations is among you

c. He is extending Gracing coming from His rejoicing blessed presence

21. Anna goes and tells everyone she meets

22. One can't help but speak of the one they love

23. If I'm not speaking of Him much to others, my prayer should be

a. Lord, open my eyes to see your salvation

i. You are a light to those in darkness

ii. You are the glory that surrounds your people

