



Lesson 212

The Infant Christ Presented in the Temple

Story Elements

- **Text:** Luke 2:21-38
- **Setting:** circa 6 BC in Jerusalem
- **Main Characters:** God, Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Simeon and Anna
- **Plot:** The infant Christ is presented in the temple and welcomed by two aged saints, Simeon and Anna, who, through the Spirit, recognize Jesus as the Christ.
- **Key word(s):** “A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the _____ of thy people Israel” (v 32) In this phrase, Simeon reveals what so many others failed to understand: Christ is for the Jew **and** the Gentile.
- **Climax:** **Luke 2:28** *Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said...* This marks the climax because it was surely a moment of shock to Mary and Joseph to see an

aged stranger take such an immediate and excited interest in their child. Why was he so excited? The mystery is soon revealed in the proceeding verses.

Christ's Circumcision

- (v 21) To some it might seem strange that Christ was submitted to rite of circumcision since it is a symbol of the *putting off the body of the sins of the flesh* (Col. 2:11). So, why would the sinless One receive the rite?
 - As he voluntarily received baptism to *fulfill all _____* (Matt 3:15) so he also submits to circumcision to fulfill the whole law on our behalf. “He was ‘made under the law’ for no ends of His own, but only ‘to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons’ (Ga 4:4, 5).”¹
 - His circumcision showed that he was indeed born under the law and was a *debtor to do the whole law*. (Gal. 5:3). Christ was the only man to fulfill what circumcision entailed.
 - At his circumcision, his angel-given name was officially made public: Jesus, which means _____. Christ first public event as Savior is to take upon himself the demands of the Law of God – the fulfillment of which is how he is able to be the Savior.

Mary's Purification

- (vv 22-24) Two other Levitical requirements needed attention from the Holy Family:
 - The _____ of the firstborn son — according to the Law of Moses, every firstborn male was holy and required to be presented to the LORD (*cf* Exo. 12:29; 13:2-3; 12-15).
 - The cost of redemption was 5 shekels of silver (Num 18:16) which is about _____ grams of silver (approximately \$230 USD in 2025).
 - This was done to honor the LORD's deliverance at the first _____, and as an “expression of God's claim over each family in Israel.”²
 - The _____ of the mother – the Law of Moses stated that a woman was ceremonially unclean for thirty-three days after the birth of a son, after which offerings were to be made. (Lev. 12:1-8) The offerings consisted of two parts:
 - A _____ offering – a lamb, or a turtle dove or pigeon if the family was poor
 - A _____ offering – a turtle dove or pigeon

¹ Robert Jamieson, A. R. Fausset, and David Brown, *Commentary Critical and Explanatory on the Whole Bible*, vol. 2 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), 99.

² Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, <https://ccel.org/ccel/edersheim/lifetimes/lifetimes.vii.vii.html>

- (c) Regarding the timing of the redemption and the purification offerings, Edersheim explains: “when practicable, the redemption of the firstborn, and the purification of his mother, would be combined. Such was undoubtedly the case with the Virgin-Mother and her Son.”³

Simeon’s Song

3. (vv 25-28) While at the temple, the young family met a godly old man named Simeon. Simeon looked for the *consolation of Israel* (the coming of the Messiah), and the Holy Spirit revealed to him that before he died, he would see *the Lord’s Christ*. When Simeon laid eyes on the infant Jesus, he immediately knew that the child was the Messiah. Taking Jesus in his arms, he blessed God with a word of praise.
- (a) (vv 29-32) Notice Simeon’s...
- faith in God’s _____ (v 29)
 - faith in Jesus Christ for _____ (v 30)
 - understanding of the _____ proclamation of the Gospel (v 32)
- (b) (vv 33-35) Notice Simeon’s prophetic revelation:
- Those that reject Christ would stumble, or fall - fulfilled in the destruction of Jerusalem and ultimately in the _____.
 - Those that receive Christ would rise – fulfilled in new life of the believer and our future resurrection.
 - He would be a sign that is spoken against, or opposed – Christ was hated, mocked, and _____.
 - Mary’s own soul would suffer, as if it were mortally wounded – fulfilled when Mary would witness her own son’s crucifixion.
 - The thoughts of many would be revealed – one’s response to Christ shows the heart’s _____. The gospel separates the proud from the humble, the spiritual hungry from the self-satisfied.

Anna’s Joy

4. (vv 36-38) What is known of Anna is revealed in a few verses.
- She was a prophetess who was widowed after _____ years of marriage.
 - Instead of remarrying, she spent her days as an _____-year-old in the temple, fasting and praying.
 - Like Simeon, she recognized the baby Jesus as the Christ. She praised God for the newly arrived Messiah.
 - Anna shared the good news of the Savior’s birth with every person *that looked for* _____ *in Jerusalem*.

APPLICATION → Notice that Anna shared the news of Christ’s birth with many others that, like her and Simeon, *looked for redemption*. J.C. Ryle notes, “Let us learn a lesson from these good people. If they, with so few helps and so many discouragements, lived such a life of faith, how much more ought we with a finished Bible and a full Gospel... The second advent of Christ is yet to come. The complete ‘redemption’ of this earth from sin, and Satan, and the curse, is yet to take place. Let us declare plainly by our lives and conduct, that for this second advent we look and long. We may be sure that the highest style of Christianity even now, is to ‘wait for redemption,’ and to love the Lord’s appearing. (Rom. 8:23; 2 Tim. 4:8.)”⁴

Answer Key: Key word(s): “glory” • 1. a) righteousness; c) Savior • 2. a) redemption; i. 100; ii. Passover; b) purification; i. burnt; ii. sin • 3. a) i. Word; ii. salvation; universal; b) i. second death; iii. murdered; v. condition • 4. a) 7; b) 84; d) redemption

³ Ibid.

⁴ J. C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on the Gospels, Vol. 2* (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 2007) 75.