

Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ

Presentation of Jesus

Last time...the time had come for the promised Messiah to come forth.
The fullness of the time was come.

This time...the presentation and “dedication” of Jesus (The Son of God) in the Temple

The mysteries of God...truths revealed in time...

- God becoming a man to save man
- The Son of God coming as a helpless newborn

give us pause...

- Why did God have to come as a baby to save mankind?
- Could there have been a “better” way?

We are still in the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2

v21 eight days...circumcising:

Gen 17:9-14

Joseph and Mary faithfully obey the covenant of God with Abraham...
its requirement and its privileges

And on this occasion, as did Zacharias and Elizabeth 6 months earlier
Ch 1:59-60

Joseph and Mary named their son, as He was named by the Father in heaven
before a body was prepared for the Son of God to become the Son of Man
Ch 1:31
Matt 1:21

Joseph and Mary kept the Law regarding Jesus...
Jesus would later fulfill the Law for them

Matt 5:17-18 Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the
prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.
For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one
jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be
fulfilled.

Thus we are immediately presented with a revelation re: the mysteries of God
God came to save Lawbreakers by keeping all the Law, perfectly
A part of the Law that must be kept is on...the 8th day after birth
God must needs have come as a helpless newborn if He was to save us!

v22-24 the days of her purification...every male that openeth the womb:

Here we have two separate events/ceremonies days after the circumcision of Jesus

1. Firstborn redeemed/“dedicated”

Ex 13:2, 12, 15

2. Purification

Lev 12:1-8

These ceremonies

- took place after Jesus’ circumcision
- were accomplished with the same visit to the Temple in Jerusalem
- indicate the economic status of this family: poor and lowly vs the lies that the Prosperity Gospel preachers want you to believe

1. Firstborn redeemed/“dedicated”

- a formal presentation of the child to a priest
- receive a blessing from the priest
- redemption money...God’s claim over every family in Israel (the people vs the nation)...was paid to the priest

2. Purification

- sacrificial in nature
- restoration of communion with God
 - sin offering – a dove or pigeon
 - burnt offering – a lamb, or another dove or pigeon if the family was poor

So let’s “walk in Mary’s shoes”...

1. she would go into the Court of the Women
2. she would pay her redemption money in the treasury (Luke 21:1-4)
3. she would go to a priest, give him her son Jesus
4. the priest would bless the child and return him to His mother
5. she would be summoned with others to be purified
6. her sacrifices would be offered

Humble/lowly and poor, both sacrifices were doves/pigeon

Matt 11:28-30 Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

7. Levitically, she was again ceremonially clean

Jesus now having been presented and redeemed, Joseph and Mary would be leaving the Temple complex, when...

v25-26 Simeon...Consolation of Israel:

The Holy Spirit had prepared an appointment that day in Jerusalem for

- Joseph and Mary
- Jesus
- Simeon
 - just...his relational standing with God
 - righteous vs self-righteous as the Pharisees etc
 - approved by God vs disapproved as the Pharisees etc
 - because he believed God (Hab 2:4)
 - believed what Word of God said vs men said
 - listened to the teaching of the Holy Spirit vs the teaching of the Rabbis and Pharisees
 - devout
 - all-in
 - sold-out
 - not complacent or lukewarm
 - Spirit-filled (upon)

What was God the Holy Spirit's promise to His old servant Simeon?

To give him the desires of his heart...

Ps 37:4-5 Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it* to pass.

that he would not die (move out, leave earth) until he had physically seen

- The Consolation of Israel...the Comfort of Israel
- the Lord's Christ/Anointed/Messiah...vs the Rabbi's Christ

In Simeon we see

- the great Messianic hope that was brewing in Judea (Roman province vs Israel sovereign nation)
- The Lord was not completely silent for 400 years...He was speaking with to the "just and devout" that believed Him

Now, the time for the appointment has come

v27-28 took he up into his arms:

Simeon is led by the Spirit to go to the Temple (Herod's) to meet the Messiah!

Note: The relationship Simeon had with God the Holy Spirit is now available for every believer – John 16:13-15

Joseph and Mary are in the Temple with Jesus to obey the Law regarding the sacrifices for her purification and His “dedication”

Note: As Joseph and Mary would do for Jesus according to the custom of the Law, Jesus would later do for them by the fulfilling of the Law

Simeon, as led by the Holy Spirit, walks up to this family he had never before met, takes their 41 day old child into his arms and blesses God

Note: Later, Jesus Christ would take Simeon in His arms (redemptively speaking) and bless God!

v29-32 peace...salvation...light...glory:

Holding a 41 day old baby boy, Simeon quotes from Isaiah (52:10, 42:6-7, 49:6) and praises the Lord for

- this child – the Messiah
 - His identity
 - His mission
 - Simeon is bearing witness of the Messiahship of Jesus...
 - Acts 14:17
 - 1 John 4:2
- the goodness and faithfulness of God
 - can now take His servant home in peace for he has now seen the Prince of Peace, as the Lord promised
 - has now brought forth into the world His Savior
 - the only Way to salvation
 - prepared for ALL people...Adam's race vs just Jews
 - the Light of the World (John 8:12)
 - to enlighten the Gentiles to the OTL God to lead them out of the darkness of worshipping idols/devils
 - the Glory of Israel, the Messiah promised to AIJJ&D
 - the Savior is Jewish
 - the Jewish Messiah is the Savior of the world (John 3:16)

Q: Can any reasonable person read into Simeon's prophecy that

- the promises given to AIJJ&D would be taken from Israel and given to the Church?
- the Lord will ever be done with Israel?

v33 Joseph and his mother marveled:

Ch 2:19

I, quite frankly, marveled that she marveled and pondered that she pondered.

Mary was told of the heritage/lineage and nature of her son (Ch 1:35)...

conceived in her womb and to be brought forth by her

Did she not understand that this supernatural birth would indeed be that of the Son of God?

As we have read and will read in the Gospels. it was as if

- Jesus was hers...but not hers
- Jesus would be as close as a child is to his mother...
(and there is no greater human bond than that)
but He would be as far as man is from God...while being near.

So Mary did not fully understand, did not completely grasp the heritage/lineage and nature of her Son...He is the eternal, Self-Existent God of AI&J

As I pondered on that, I was comforted by the Consolation of Israel,
by His identity and mission

Joseph and Mary would not have had any practical authority over the child's life, nor felt a responsibility to "train him up in the way that he should go" if they had completely understood Jesus was God become man.

An obvious revelation of that would have

- been disorderly...a "reversal of roles"
- broken Jesus' "bond" to us...His humanity...if He was not "bonded" to his mother
- obliterated Jesus' favored title of Himself, "the Son of Man"

The mystery of Jesus' Divinity...truth revealed in time...needed to be initially "veiled" if His humanity was to be displayed/embraced

If all knew Jesus was God, His humanity would have been lost in the glare of the glory of God and overlooked, the very Humanity that is needful for our Kinsman-Redeemer...which glorifies God!

And if the Humanity of the Kinsman-Redeemer was overlooked and disregarded, where would our salvation stand?

If He were not truly the Virgin's Son, we would not be His brethren

Therefore, initially in God's Plan of Redemption

- Jesus' true humanity must needs be clearly seen and embraced
- a clear understanding of His Deity must needs be clouded

So every step along the way, Mary would be as surprised and astonished as the rest of His disciples, each step was a new revelation in the unveiling of the mystery of His Divinity to be treasured in her heart; she knew no more than anyone else regarding Jesus

Simeon continues

v34-35 fall and rising again...spoken against...pierce thy own soul:

Rejoicing at seeing with his own eyes the long-awaited Messiah,

Simeon continues speaking in the Spirit

We know he is not speaking according to

- his flesh
- the teachings of the Rabbis and Pharisees

because what he says next about this child, the Messiah

(as will be revealed starting in 30 years and concluding in 33½ years):

1. many Jews will fall and rise again because of this child
 - Is 8:14-15...a stone of stumbling, a rock of offence, a snare and many shall stumble, fall, be broken, be snared and taken away
 - many...but not "all"
 - a few would die to Self, pick up their Cross, and follow Him
 - a few would be born again, of the Spirit of God not by the will of men (John 1:12-13)
2. He will be spoken against – hated and rejected by His people (John 1:10-11)
3. you personally will know unspeakable grief and sorrow (remember the Biblical pattern: great sorrow followed by great joy)

God starts to prepare Mary

Was Mary alarmed by this news?

"Was the mother every Jewish woman prayed to be to know both great sorrow and great joy?"

4. the hearts of men will be revealed by what the Lord is going to do in, with, and thru this child (Matt 10:34-39)

Jesus is the point of division between men, Mary is told in advance

v36-38 Anna, a prophetess:

Now, another

- witness of Jesus Christ
- example of the Messianic hope brewing in Judea
- instance of God's incomplete silence for 400 years

steps on the scene

Anna is

- a prophetess...God's witness to man
- of the tribe of Asher
 - Cultural context: the tribe of Asher was renowned for the beauty of its daughters...fit to be married to a High Priest or King
- perhaps 106 years old
 - assuming she was married at 15...
 - widowed at 22...
 - "married" to the Lord for the past 84 years

Not coincidentally...

because there is no room for coincidences in a universe created by an all-knowing, all-powerful God...

Anna comes into the court of the women while Simeon is witnessing of Jesus the Messiah

She joins in the thanksgiving and proceeds to bear witness of Jesus to all who were looking for the redemption of God...to whosoever would listen

As a prophetess, she knew well the spiritual, social, political, and moral conditions of her people, especially those in this wretched city

She would witness of Jesus the Messiah to any who would hear her words...

not a popular "message" in

- the Rabbinical/Pharisaical Judaism of the day
- city of Herod in the province of Judea in the empire of Rome

By 2 or 3 witnesses the Truth can be known...the Truth is a Person – Jesus Christ
On this day of presentation and "dedication", the Truth was known

Thus far, The Holy Spirit has borne witness of Jesus Christ thru

1. Gabriel
2. Elizabeth
3. Zacharias
4. angels
5. shepherds
6. Simeon
7. Anna

As the mystery of Jesus Christ unfolded/unfolds in time (Col 1)...

- The Child who was presented to us would in turn present us that were
 - delivered from the power of darkness
 - translated into the kingdom of God's Son
 - in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin
- Jesus will present us to His Father
 - holy
 - without blame
 - righteous
 - just
 - devout

It is this Jesus we preach, warning every man and teaching every man the Word of God
that we may be presented perfect in Jesus Christ

The Holy Spirit presents to us this morning: Jesus Christ

- God become a man
- came in the fullness of time...at the end of the times of the Gentiles (Rome) when it was clear to all that man cannot justly govern himself, whether Jewish kings or Gentile kings
- the King of kings
- the Glory of Israel
- the Light of the Gentiles
- a 41 day old baby
 - helpless
 - dependent
 - 100% man
- our Brother
- our Kinsman-Redeemer
- our Savior

Jesus has been presented...

How will He be received?

What will happen next?

How will we receive Him?

Will we dedicate our lives to Him was dedicated His life to the Father as a Sin Offering for us?