

## LUKE Lesson 5

### Obedience to the Laws of the Lord; Preparing God's Perfect Sacrifice: Chapter 2:21-39

6 July 2018

First Timothy 3:16 summarizes the life of Christ. We've discussed the fact that God was manifest in the flesh when Jesus Christ was born. Today we'll talk about the importance of the Lord Jesus being justified by the Spirit and how Mary and Joseph must not fail to obey every point of the Law in His upbringing if He is to be a perfect sacrifice for us. Everything was done according to the law (see verses 22, 23, 24, 27, and 39), which was written down in the Holy Scriptures.

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- VS 21** Jesus was named before His birth. This is a rare occurrence in the Bible. Others who were named before their birth are: John the Baptist (Luke 1:13), Isaac (Gen 17:19), Ishmael (Gen 16:11), Cyrus (Isa 44:28), and Josiah (1 Kings 13:2). All Jewish males must be circumcised on the eighth day according to the law (Lev 12:3). If Jesus was not circumcised according to the law, He could not redeem us from the curse of the Law (Gal 3:13).
- 22-23** Jesus was presented to the Lord after 40 days as prescribed by the Law (Lev 12:2-4). Make note that at this stage of Jesus' life, He was dependent upon the faith, holiness, and obedience of Joseph and Mary to fulfill the Law. Every male belonged to the Lord (Ex 13:2).
- VS 24** Mary and Joseph brought a sacrifice according to the Law in Leviticus 12:6-8. When the priest presents the mother's offering to the Lord, an atonement is made for her and she is "**cleansed from the issue of her blood.**" In this sense she is "**saved in child bearing**" (1 Tim 2:15). (Today faith does that).
- The offering they presented showed that they were living in poverty (2 Cor. 8:9).
  - They offered pigeons or doves because it wasn't time for the Lamb to be slain (1 Pet 1:19, Rev 5:12).
  - The wise men have not visited yet (Matt 2) or Mary and Joseph would have gold enough to buy a lamb.
  - Mary is presenting an offering for her sin; for cleansing and atonement. She was not immaculately conceived.

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### SIMEON

- VS 25** Simeon was just toward men and devout toward God. He'd been waiting for the "consolation of Israel." **Consolation:** That which comforts, or refreshes the spirits; the cause of comfort; as the consolation of Israel. —He was waiting for Jesus Christ.
- VS 26** The Holy Ghost told Simeon that he would see "**the Lord's Christ.**" There is another "Christ" prophesied in Genesis 3:14-15. The Antichrist will claim to be "Christ" and will deceive many (Matt 13:22, 2 Thess 2:3-12). The Holy Spirit enables you to tell the difference between the Lord's Christ and Satan's Christ.

**27-30** Simeon told God, “**Mine eyes have seen thy salvation.**” It’s important to notice that he acknowledges a Savior and not a King. God had revealed something to him that even the apostles didn’t see until after His resurrection.

**31-32** Jesus was “**A light to lighten the GENTILES.**” The Gospel of Luke reveals that Jesus is not only the King of the Jews, but the Savior of the world. Simeon knew that he was holding his very Creator in his arms.

**VS 33** The Holy Spirit carefully writes “**And Joseph and his mother.**” All the new translations change this verse to “His father and his mother.” That is a denial of the virgin birth. Joseph is not Jesus’ father!

**VS 34** “**This child is set for the fall—and rising again of many in Israel.**” Fall on the Stone; don’t let the Stone fall on you (Matt 21:44, Luke 20:18). Humble yourself in sincere repentance at the feet of Jesus and He shall lift you up (James 4:10). You’ve got to die with Christ if you want to be raised to newness of life (Gal 2:20, Rom 6:4-6)

“**...and for a sign which shall be spoken against.**” The sign of the prophet Jonas speaks of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Matt 12:39, 16:4). This was spoken against often in the book of Acts; particularly the resurrection (Acts 4:2, 17:18, 23:8, 1 Cor 1:18, 15:12). There is no salvation if Jesus Christ did not rise from the grave (1 Cor 15:17, Rom 10:9, John 14:19, Matt 28:6).

**VS 35** The sign that will be spoken against (vs 34) is going to reveal the thoughts of many hearts (vs 35).

The sword that will pierce Mary’s soul is more than just the anguish she’s going to feel when Christ is crucified. It is the word of God that is going to discern her thoughts and intents of the heart (Heb 4:12-13).

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## **ANNA**

**36-38** Anna was a prophetess in the sense that she spoke publicly about God.

She was from the tribe of Asher, proving that the ten northern tribes were not “lost” (they had not vanished). (Rev 7:3-8).

Anna was married 7 years and then remained a widow for 80 years. She loved the Lord and God honored her by recording her deeds in the Bible.

She’s the first one to speak of redemption (vs 38). Women were the first ones to speak of Christ’s resurrection (Luke 24:10, John 20:18).

It was God who enabled Anna to recognize her Redeemer and Lord.

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**VS 39** “**And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord,** [insert Matthew chapter 2 here] **—they returned into Galilee...**” The visit of the “wise men from the east” is not included in the book of Luke because they came looking for a king. Luke is recording the history of Jesus as the perfect man. (Matthew-king, Mark-servant, Luke-man, John-God) (lion, ox, man, eagle).