

LESSON 6

INFANCY NARRATIVES OF JOHN & JESUS FROM LUKE'S GOSPEL

B. THE BEGINNINGS: INFANCY OF JOHN THE BAPTIZER AND JESUS THROUGH THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS AT THE JERUSALEM TEMPLE: Luke 1:5—2:39

LUKE 2:25-35

IN THE JERUSALEM TEMPLE—the Account of Simeon & the Nunc Dimittis

NOTE: “Simeon” is both Hebrew & Greek; its later Hebrew counterpart is “Simon”! Remember the 2nd son of Jacob.

25 Now, there was a man in Jerusalem by the name of **Simeon**. He was a righteous man, who feared **God** and was waiting for the **One** who would comfort/give consolation to Israel. The **Holy Spirit** was upon him. **26** The **Holy Spirit** had told him that before he would die he would see the **Christ [Messiah]** sent by the **Lord**.

27 Moved by the **Spirit**, he went into the Temple. When the parents brought in the **Child Jesus** to do for **Him** what was customary according to the Law, **28** Simeon took **Him** in his arms, praised **God**, and said:

29 “**Lord, now** You are letting Your servant **depart** in peace as **You** promised,
[“be dismissed”,” the basis for the **Latin Nunc Dimittis** (Now Dismissing/Departing)
30 because my **eyes** have seen **Your Salvation**
31 which **You** prepared for all people to see—
32 a **Light** to shine on the **Gentiles**,
and the **Glory** of Your **people Israel**.”
(See Isaiah 60:1-3. *)

33 His father and mother were surprised at the things that were being said about **Him**.

34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to **His** mother Mary, “Behold, this **One** [this **Child**] is placed for a falling and rising of many in Israel—and for a **Sign** that many will speak against **35** in order to show what they are thinking in their hearts.* And a sword will pierce **your** own soul too.” Think: A “sword of revelation” for Mary! When? At Christ’s _____ !) (See Laestch, Luke, pp 93, 94.

*“Arise, shine, for your **light** [Gospel] has come.... **His glory** will appear upon **you**. **Gentiles** will come to **your light** [Gospel]...”

*Secondary Will of God **VS.** Primary Will of God

LUKE 2:36-38

IN THE JERUSALEM TEMPLE—the Account of Anna (Greek); Hannah (Hebrew)

36 Anna, a prophetess, was also there. She was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was now very old, having lived with her husband seven years after her virginity, **37** and she was a widow of 84 years [**either 84 years old OR 84 + 7 = 91 years old OR if married at 15, then possibly 106 years old at this time**]. She never left the Temple but worshiped day and night, fasting and praying. **38** Just then, she too came forward, thanked God, and talked about the **Child** to all who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem. *

LUKE 2:39

Back to Bethlehem, Down to Egypt, Back to Nazareth (Matthew Completes Luke.)

39 When Joseph and Mary had done everything the Law of the **Lord** commanded them to do, . . . , they went back to Galilee to their town of Nazareth.

* **Simeon** parallels “**the Christmas angels**,” being an *evangelist*, who preaches the Good News, while **Anna** parallels “**the Christmas shepherds**,” being a *missionary* who spreads the Good News.—Dr. Just