



Sunday After Christmas Sermon

40—AND COUNTING

Some Post-Christmas Actions of

Joseph, Mary, Jesus, Simeon, Anna, and the Holy Spirit

Luke 2:22-38



LUKE 2:22-24

²²When the time came for them to be purified according to the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord: "Every firstborn boy shall be called 'holy to the Lord'.") ²⁴They also went to offer a sacrifice according to what the Law of the Lord states: "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

A. Mary's Purification

When the time came for them to be purified,...they...went to offer a sacrifice according to what the Law of the Lord states: "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Leviticus 12:2b-8: "When a woman gives birth and has a son, she is unclean for seven days,...but on the eighth day he should be circumcised. And for thirty-three days she should stay home...and not...go into the holy place.... When the [40] days of her cleansing for a son...are over, she should bring to the priest at the entrance of the tent...a year-old lamb...and a young pigeon or turtledove to be sacrificed for sin...and atone for her;...If she is too poor to give a lamb, she should take two turtledoves or two young pigeons...and so the priest shall atone for her, and she will be clean.

B. Jesus' Presentation

"...according to the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord: "Every firstborn boy shall be called 'holy to the Lord'").

Exodus 13:1, 2, 12, 13: The LORD spoke to Moses: "Set aside as holy every firstborn of any mother in Israel, among both people and animals; they are Mine." Give the LORD every firstborn,...if they are males, they belong to the LORD. Redeem...every firstborn of your children."

Numbers 18:16: "When a boy is a month old, let them buy him back at the regular price of five shekels of silver...."

Numbers 3:11-13: The LORD told Moses: “I took Levi's descendants out of Israel as a substitute for every firstborn son of any mother in the rest of Israel—Levi's descendants are Mine because every firstborn is Mine. The day I killed every firstborn in Egypt I made every firstborn in Israel, man or animal, a holy thing that is Mine—they belong to Me. I am the LORD.”

C. Simeon, the Holy Spirit, & the Nunc Dimittis

LUKE 2:25-32 ²⁵Now, 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 Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶The Holy Spirit had told him that before he would die he would see the Christ [Messiah] sent by the Lord. ²⁷Moved 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, ²⁸Simeon took Him in his arms, praised God, and said: ²⁹“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace as You promised, ³⁰because my eyes have seen Your Salvation ³¹which You prepared for all people to see—³²a Light to shine on the Gentiles, and the Glory of Your people Israel.”

✝ **Hymn Response:** “Thou Light of Gentile Nations” SEE BULLETIN FOR SONG VERSES.

D. The “Mystery” of the Incarnation Remains a Mystery to Mary & Joseph

Luke 2:33 ³³His father and mother were surprised at the things that were being said about Him. (Recall 1 Timothy 3:16.)

E. Simeon Prophecies about Unbelief & Faith in Terms of the Death of JESUS

Luke 2:34,35 ⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to His mother Mary, “Here is what this One is appointed for: Many in Israel will fall and rise (again) because of Him; and He will be a Sign that many will speak against ³⁵to show what they are thinking in their hearts. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

F. (H)Anna(h) the Prophetess Gives Witness to Jesus' Identity

Luke 2:36-38 ³⁶Anna, a prophetess, was also there. She was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was now very old; when she was young, she lived with a husband seven years from her virginity. ³⁷And she was a widow until 84 years. [Question: 84 then or about 106 then?] She never left the Temple but worshiped day and night, fasting and praying. ³⁸Just then she too came forward, thanked God, and talked about the Child to all who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem (see Isaiah 59:20).