

“the consolation of Israel”

Luke 2:22-40

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Luke 2:22-24

22 When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”),
24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

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“Jewish families went through several ceremonies soon after a baby’s birth. [They were] circumcision, redemption of the firstborn, and purification of the mother... Jesus was God’s son, but His family carried out these ceremonies according to God’s law. Jesus was not born above the Law, instead, He fulfilled it.”

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Matthew 5:17

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

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Luke 2:25-35

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, **28** Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: **29** “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace.

30 For my eyes have seen your
salvation, **31** which you have
prepared in the sight of all nations:
32 a light for revelation to the
Gentiles, and the glory of your
people Israel.”

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Isaiah 49:6

he says: “It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.”

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“Many [Jews] thought that Christ had come only to save His people. Luke made sure his Greek audience understood that Christ has come to save all who believe, both Gentiles and Jews.”

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33 The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. **34** Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, **35** so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

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“This was at least the second time that Mary had been greeted with a prophecy about her son...

Simeon prophesied that Jesus would have a paradoxical effect on Israel. Some would fall because of Him, while others would rise.”

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Isaiah 8:14-15

14 He will be a sanctuary; but for both houses of Israel he will be a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare. **15** Many of them will stumble; they will fall and be broken, they will be snared and captured.”

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Malachi 4:1-2

1 “Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them.

2 But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall.

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“With Jesus there would be no neutral ground: people would either joyfully accept Him or totally reject Him. As Jesus’ mother, Mary would be grieved by the widespread rejection He would face. This is the first note of sorrow in Luke’s Gospel.”

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Luke 2:36-39

36 There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, **37** and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.

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**“Anna was called a prophetess,
indicating that she was
unusually close to God.**

**Prophets did not necessarily
predict the future. Their main
role was to speak for God,
proclaiming His truth.”**

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38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. **39** When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.

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“[Anna] is merely introduced and her career summarized. In all likelihood, she is over one hundred years old, having served God faithfully with worship, prayer, and fasting for years. Sometimes our most productive years in spiritual service for God comes after our most productive years of earthly toil. She has given herself full-time to a ministry of intercession.”

Darrell Bock

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Luke 2:40

And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him.

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“...this verse[v.40] gives a fourfold description of Jesus (“grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him”). This again shows that Jesus was greater than John.

Instead of a reference to Jesus' becoming strong in spirit, Luke made mention of Jesus as full of "wisdom." This prepares us for the following account, where Jesus' wisdom is displayed, and perhaps highlights the Spirit's coming upon Jesus at his baptism."

Applications

- **Faithfulness**
- **Patience**
- **The demands of serving Him**
- **Learn from the older saints**

Final Thoughts

“Although Simeon and Anna were very old, they had never lost their hope that they would see the Messiah. Led by the Holy Spirit, they were among the first to bear witness to Jesus.

In the Jewish culture, elders were respected; thus, because of Simeon's and Anna's age, their prophecies carried extra weight. In contrast, our society values youthfulness over wisdom, and potential contributions by the elderly are often ignored.”

Final Thoughts

Isaiah 60:1-3

1 “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. **2** See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. **3** Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.