

# Stories of Christmas

## Jesus is Presented at the Temple

Luke 2:21-38

### Opening

- Gathering: How has it been apparent to you that God's Spirit is upon someone?
- Today's Focus: God reveals His Son to those who love Him and live with His Spirit.
- Key Verses: *My eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to Your people Israel.* Luke 2:30-32
- Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord.* Luke 2:39a

Opening Prayer

### Lesson

Ceremonies for Newborn Jews - Every Son

- What ceremony did God command for newborn sons to become part of His family?  
Leviticus 12:1-3
- What was the purpose of this ceremony?  
Genesis 17:9-13
- How important was it for a Jew to participate in this ceremony?  
Genesis 17:14

Circumcising Christians (*Acts 15*)

- As God's new covenant people, are we required to be circumcised?  
1 Corinthians 7:18-19
- Did the early Christians (Jews) have any trouble that this opposes God's command in Genesis 17?  
Acts 15:1-2, 5
- What did they conclude?  
Acts 15:7, 10-11
- Why did Peter say that circumcision was a yoke that the Jews couldn't even bear?  
Romans 2:25-27
- But wasn't circumcision just a sign to remind someone that they were part of God's covenant family?  
Romans 2:28-29 (4:9-16)

Ceremonies for Newborn Christians

- In conclusion, Christians (God's new covenant family) don't need to be circumcised – right?  
Colossians 2:11
- What kind of circumcision ceremony do we have?  
Colossians 2:12
- How important is this ceremony for God's new chosen people?  
Mark 16:16 (Matthew 28:19)
- What else happened at a normal Jewish circumcision that typically happens at a Christian baptism?  
Luke 1:59-60

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### Ceremonies for Newborn Jews - Every Mother

What ceremony did God command for a mother to be purified from her uncleanness?

Leviticus 12:4

Were the instructions the same whether the child was a boy or a girl?

Leviticus 12:5

What was involved in the ceremony of purification?

Leviticus 12:6-7

What was the purpose of the burnt offering?

Leviticus 1:2, 13

What was the purpose of a sin offering?

Leviticus 4:27-31

Why was a sin offering needed after birth? Was it sinful to have children?

Psalms 51:5

What if the family was poor and couldn't afford an expensive lamb?

Leviticus 12:8

### Ceremonies for Newborn Jews - First-Born Sons

What claim did God make of every first-born?

Exodus 13:1-2, 11-12

What example did the Israelites have that showed the full meaning of this claim?

Genesis 22:1-2

Did this mean that every first-born son was to be sacrificed?

Exodus 13:13-16

What example did the Israelites have that showed the meaning of redemption?

Genesis 22:13-14

What was the price for redeeming a first-born son?

Numbers 18:15-16

Is it also important for God's new covenant people to be redeemed?

Galatians 3:13-14

What is the price for our redemption?

Revelation 5:9

### Jesus' Perfect Obedience Begins Early (*Luke 2:21-24*)

Did Jesus' parents obey God's Law regarding circumcision of newborn sons?

Luke 2:21

Did Jesus' parents obey God's Law regarding purification of the mother?

Luke 2:22

Did Jesus' parents obey God's Law regarding consecrating and redeeming first-born sons?

Luke 2:23-24

How does Luke explain Joseph's and Mary's actions?

Luke 2:39a

What is Luke's point by including these verses?

Hebrews 4:15, 7:26-28

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### Old Man Simeon (Luke 2:25-27)

What do we know about Simeon?

Luke 2:25

Wasn't every faithful Jew *waiting for the consolation of Israel*? Why was this special for Simeon?

Luke 2:26

Did Simeon just happen to be in the temple when Mary & Joseph brought Jesus?

Luke 2:27a

### Simeon's Life Completed (Luke 2:25-35)

Did Simeon realize the baby Jesus was the Messiah that God had promised he would see?

Luke 2:27b-29

*Nunc Dimittis*

What did Simeon claim he saw in Jesus?

Luke 2:30-31

Was Simeon an eloquent speaker or did he plagiarize these words?

Isaiah 52:10

### Simeon's Perception Continued (Luke 2:25-35)

While others looked for a Messiah who would politically rebuild Israel, what did Simeon see?

Luke 2:32

*Gentile* - Hebrew: *goyim*, Greek: *ethnos*

Funk & Wagnalls

Where did he get this idea that the Messiah would also save Gentiles?

Isaiah 42:6

Isaiah 49:6

Was this universal purpose of Jesus understood by the Jews during His time?

Acts 11:1-4, 18

After seeing angels and shepherds, did Simeon's talk phrase Mary & Joseph?

Luke 2:33

What else did Simeon have to say?

Luke 2:34-35

### Simeon Says: Fall and Rise (Luke 2:34-35)

What did Simeon mean that Jesus would *cause the falling of many in Israel*?

Isaiah 8:14-15

How did Paul explain why many Jews fell?

Romans 10:1-4 (also 9:30-33)

What did Simeon mean that Jesus would *cause the rising of many in Israel*?

Malachi 4:2

Did Paul agree that some Jews would be saved?

Romans 10:12-13

What analogy did Peter use to describe this?

1 Peter 2:6-8

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Meanings of Simeon's Other Great Insights (*Luke 2:34-35*)

How was Jesus a sign that will be spoken against?

Acts 5:40, 8:1

How would *the thoughts of many hearts be revealed*?

Revelation 3:15-16

Luke 11:23

What was meant by, "*And a sword will pierce your own soul too*"?

John 19:25-27

Anna the Prophetess (*Luke 2:36*)

Who else was in the temple when Jesus was presented?

Luke 2:36

What was significant about Anna being of the tribe of Asher?

2 Kings 17:22-24

Anna Prophecies (*Luke 2:37-38*)

Why did Luke make a point that Anna was very old?

Proverbs 31:23

How old (and wise) was Anna?

Luke 2:37

How does Paul's instruction for widows help us understand Anna's life?

1 Timothy 5:3-5

Being close to God by her age and temple life, how did Anna respond when she saw Jesus?

Luke 2:38

Closing Prayer

**Response** - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. Do I live with a circumcised heart? (Romans 2:25-29; 4:9-12; 10:8-10; 1 Corinthians 7:17-19; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15; Colossians 2:11-13; Hebrews 3:12; 4:12)
2. Do I let the Spirit live within me so that I can recognize Christ around me? (Luke 2:27-32, 38; 24:15-16, 31; Deuteronomy 29:4; Mark 8:18; John 1:10-13; Acts 13:27; 28:23-28; 1 Peter 2:12; 1 John 4:1-3)
3. How has Jesus been a light for me? (Luke 2:32; 11:33-36; Psalm 119:105; Matthew 4:16; 5:14-16; John 1:4-9; 3:19-21; 8:12; Acts 26:17-18; 1 John 1:5-7; Revelation 22:5)
4. How have I stumbled and fallen before Jesus? (Luke 2:34; Isaiah 8:14-15; John 16:8-11; Acts 15:10; Romans 7:7-25; 1 Corinthians 10:12-13; 1 John 1:8-10)
5. How does Jesus raise me up? (Luke 2:34; Exodus 9:16; Psalm 3:3; 113:7; John 6:39-40; Galatians 5:1; Colossians 3:1-2; James 4:10; 5:15)

Next Week - *Wise Men Visit Jesus* (Matthew 2:1-23)