

## The Four Gospels of the Bible, Presentation in the Temple

### Luke 2:21-40

<sup>21</sup> On the eighth day when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived <sup>40</sup> And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him. (NIV)

*When the eighth day arrived, the day of circumcision, the child was named Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived. Then when the days stipulated by Moses for purification were complete, they took him up to Jerusalem to offer him to God as commanded in God's Law: "Every male who opens the womb shall be a holy offering to God," and also to sacrifice the "pair of doves or two young pigeons" prescribed in God's Law.*

*In Jerusalem at the time, there was a man, Simeon by name, a good man, a man who lived in the prayerful expectancy of help for Israel. And the Holy Spirit was on him. The Holy Spirit had shown him that he would see the Messiah of God before he died. Led by the Spirit, he entered the Temple. As the parents of the child Jesus brought him in to carry out the rituals of the Law, Simeon took him into his arms and blessed God:*

*God, you can now release your servant; release me in peace as you promised.  
With my own eyes I've seen your salvation; it's now out in the open for everyone to see:  
God-revealing light to the non-Jewish nations, and of glory for your people Israel...*

*Jesus' father and mother were speechless with surprise at these words. Simeon went on to bless them, and said to Mary his mother,*

*This child marks both the failure and the recovery of many in Israel, a figure misunderstood and contradicted—the pain of a sword-thrust through you—  
But the rejection will force honesty, as God reveals who they really are.*

*Anna the prophetess was also there, a daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher. She was by now a very old woman. She had been married seven years and a widow for eighty-four. She never left the Temple area, worshiping night and day with her fastings and prayers. At the very time Simeon was praying, she showed up, broke into an anthem of praise to God, and talked about the child to all who were waiting expectantly for the freeing of Jerusalem.*

*When they finished everything required by God in the Law, they returned to Galilee and their own town, Nazareth. There the child grew strong in body and wise in spirit. And the grace of God was on him. (**The Message**)*

### The First Born

As described above, the first born was consecrated to the Lord in Jerusalem; and with the ceremony, a sacrifice was made – also to be the first born...

H. Kirk Rainer

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### **The Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit was with Christ the child – and also with Simeon who identified Jesus as the Messiah. Simeon makes known that Jesus will be the savior for all mankind, but will be both the “failure and recovery of many...” Yes, Jesus brought salvation – but salvation can only occur when admission of sin and repentance occur.

### **The Light of the World**

Light is able to expose the darkness with all its imperfection; Christ the light is able to expose the human heart or soul with all its sin. When the darkness or sin is exposed, the choice is either the light – to cleanse and save – or denial...and the downfall. Some accept the light as truth, but others do not; some live the light in obedience to God, and others do not...

### **To Know the Truth**

Both Simeon and Anna recognized the Savior; as he was made known through prophesy and the revelation of the Holy Spirit. The light was in these two and, as they had the light, they proclaimed Jesus to be the Messiah long anticipated. Having seen or witnessed Christ – as was promised them – they could now be at peace.

### **To Grow in Wisdom**

Wisdom is described as knowledge put to practice; and the wisdom of God is described to be far superior to that of man. Christ grew in the wisdom of the Father – and in preparation for the mission before him. God’s grace and the spirit were upon him for this preparation, the mission as the final and lasting sacrifice for man’s sins.

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