

"Worth Waiting For"

Luke 2.21-40

Out of 4 Gospels – Only 2 – MT & LK tell Story of BIRTH of Jesus Christ
 Only LUKE tells us Anything about FIRST FEW Days after Jesus BIRTH
 Do you PARENTS Remember? ANTICIPATION followed by EXHAUSTION
 Followed by CONFUSION – UNCERTAINTY – Shock this IS REAL! A Child!
 It's NICE to have them VISIT! How LONG are they planning to STAY!?

How about if YOU are TEENAGERS – ALONE in a Strange CITY
 Making FIRST Home with the FARM ANIMALS in DAVID'S City

“Father show me where I fit into this plan of yours
 How can a man be father to the Son of God
 Lord for all my life I've been a simple carpenter
 How can I raise a king, How can I raise a king?”
 Michael Card, “Joseph's Song”

PAPA JOSEPH: Faithful SON of LAW of MOSES

Mama MARY Daughter of Heaven

NO Question Their SON > FEAR & FOLLOW God of Moses, KING of Heaven

So, they did what HEBREWS Parents had done for 1000 years...

1. Son is Dedicated

a. Parents who Obeyed

vs. 21-22 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived. When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

Law-Keeping Parents - "8th Day" CIRCUMCISION // Sign of the Covenant

You are to undergo circumcision, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and you. For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised
Genesis 17.11,12

2000 yrs Earlier God gave this SIGN to FATHER ABRAHAM and his SONS
Distinctive RITUAL for SONS of ISRAEL > SIGN of SEPARATION
CUTTING of the Foreskin – SYMBOL of Cutting Away SIN

v. 27 When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

Without circumcision: Regarded as Gentile,
No Lawful place in Jewish Assembly
No right to any Jewish ordinance

Jesus NO SIN TO "CUT AWAY" // Obedient Submission // LIKE his Baptism
Just WEEK OLD > Already Shows HE will take Sins of His People on Himself

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.
2 Corinthians 5.21

v. 21 "named by angel" GOD IS SAVIOR / "He will save his people"

Many Culture TODAY > Names GIVEN by Elders
THIS Baby was NAMED BY GOD HIMSELF in a DREAM
COMMON NAME AT THE TIME = Joshua, YeShua

“Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.”
Acts 4.12

AFTER 40 DAYS...

v. 22-24 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), 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.”

v. 22 "purification" OF MARY // Hygiene & Wisdom of OT Law

Joseph - Head of Household / ALSO RESPONSIBLE

“If she cannot afford a lamb, she is to bring two doves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for her, and she will be clean.” Leviticus 12.8

WISE MEN HAD NOT YET BROUGHT THEIR GOLD!

M & J's Offering PUBLIC DECLARATION OF POVERTY

Jesus GREW up in POOR Home; CONTENT w/ BASIC Food, SIMPLE Clothes

Model of CONTENTMENT AND HUMILITY

v. 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.

b. Son was Devoted

v. 23,24 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), 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.”

"Redemption" OF FIRST-BORN / Redeemer is Redeemed

PASSOVER NIGHT - Death Angel took all Egypt's First-born

ALL ISRAEL'S FIRST Born belonged to GOD/ Under Same DEATH Penalty

NOT EASY BUT IT HAD TO BE DONE

v. 40 And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was on him.

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Hebrews 4.15

Jesus can SYMPATHIZE with Us in Every Stage of Life – Cradle to Grave
The MAN Jesus shows us HOW to Live from FIRST to FINAL BREATH

2. Sustaining Desire

Simeon - LAYMAN - AGE UNKNOWN - Ready to Go with the Lord

Anna (name means "grace") - 84 - or perhaps widow for 84 years!

RIGHTEOUS - DESPITE EVIL ERA

OT - MOUTH OF TWO WITNESSES / TRUTH ESTABLISHED

a. Looking to God

v. 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 on him.

"consolation of Israel" = COMING OF THE MESSIAH

DISCIPLES ON THE EMMAUS ROAD -

we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel Luke 24.21

v. 29-32 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." Mark 1.14,15

v. 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.

There was a remnant of Israelite Believers - Waited in Hope

Gathered in Temple to Pray and Encourage Eachother

WATCH AND PRAY - NOT pressing nose against glass in idleness

HAVING SOMETHING TO SHOW HIM - BRING HIM JOY

LOOKING TO -- b. Living for God

v. 25,29 Simeon, who was righteous and devout... "Sovereign Lord..."

"righteous" RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH MEN

"devout" RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

v. 29 "Sovereign" FULL CONTROL OF EVERY DETAIL OF MY LIFE

He is for all - ISSUE - Do we acknowledge? Rejoice? NO ACCIDENTS

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Romans 8.28

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

"NEVER LEFT" lived very near, FAITHFUL ATTENDANCE

My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. Psalms 84.2

"NOW" Ready to Die // Ready to Live for God // DEAD TO SELF

LANGUAGE OF A FREED SLAVE / Complete Change of Life

c. Listening to God // LEAD BY GOD

v. 26-27 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts...

"Holy Spirit upon him...revealed by H.S...Moved by H.S."

UNIQUE FOR AN OT BELIEVER / Pre - Pentecost

LUKE'S EMPHASIS ON THE HOLY SPIRIT

"fasting and praying..Coming at that very moment"

Ills- Holy Spirit // Radio Receiver - RECEIVES GOD'S TRANSMISSION

3. Savior who Divides

a. Great News for the Guilty

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

"I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Isaiah 49.6

CONSOLATION of ISRAEL = Blessing for "ALL people..the Gentiles"

"in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Genesis 12.3

"GLORY OF ISRAEL" - SURPASSES ALL GLORY OF OLD COVENANT

v. 33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him."

marveled" - THEIR BABY WOULD CHANGE THE WORLD

b. Adoration and Anguish

v. 34, 35 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, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

LARGE BROAD SWORD - FRIGHTFUL PIERCING ANGUISH

IMAGINE the PAIN and CONFUSION in Heart of New Mother about Newborn

"sign that will be spoken against" Acknowledge and REJECTED

Not LONG she would join in the TRAIL of TEARS

And there followed him a great multitude of the people and of women who were mourning and lamenting for him. Luke 23.27

"You are never more of a mature adult than when you get down on your knees and bend humbly before something greater than yourself." Eric Clapton

c. Demands a Decision

vs. 34,35 "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel...the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed."

JESUS IS HISTORY'S DIVIDING RANGE

Division must Change Every Person - Repentance Precedes Forgiveness

Divides Two People - Christ is Savior and Judge / RECEIVE OR REJECT

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone”? Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”
Luke 20.17,18

NEUTRALITY this Christmas is NOT AN OPTION

Either Jesus will be LORD of ALL or cannot be LORD AT ALL

“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil. If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God that I command you today, by loving the Lord your God, by walking in his ways, and by keeping his commandments and his statutes and his rules, then you shall live...But if your heart turns away, and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today, that you shall surely perish. Deuteronomy 30.15-18

we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
1 Corinthians 1.23

NEUTRALITY about Jesus is FOREVER IMPOSSIBLE

Have you fallen in repentance to rise in newness of life?

Is He your Savior or your Judge?

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³⁰For my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.” ³³The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

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