

*“Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel.” - Luke 2:29-32*

**Overview:**

Dr. Luke presents the story of Jesus' birth in four stages or acts:

- “Preparation” – Luke 2:1-7
- “Proclamation” – Luke 2:8-20
- “Presentation” – Luke 2:21-24
- “Prophecy” – Luke 2:25-38

Act 3 – The “Presentation” in accordance with Abraham and Moses. God made a covenant with Abraham and the sign of the covenant was circumcision. Later in the law, Moses was instructed by God that every firstborn of Israel had to be redeemed by paying 5 shekels of silver to the temple. The law also required Mary to offer a sacrifice for her purification. A redemption price was paid for the one who did not need to be redeemed but was the redeemer of the world with His precious blood – 1 Peter 1:18-19. All these things were done to demonstrate that Jesus was under the law and fulfilled the requirements of the law. This way He is able to redeem sinful men and woman who are under the law – Matthew 5:17.

Act 4 – The “Prophecy” Mary and Joseph come to the temple in Jerusalem to present Jesus to the Lord. In their minds they were going to fulfill a requirement of the law and pay the offering for Mary's purification. They had the required pair of turtledoves and they were heading to find the priest to make the sacrifice when their plans were interrupted.

The Holy Spirit moves events and people to accomplish the work of God. Mary and Joseph were coming to the temple in obedience to the law of Moses. Simeon came to the temple at just the right moment because he was following the leading of the Holy Spirit. Simeon received the gift promised to him by God which is what we should do this Christmas season. In doing so, Simeon received the peace of God because he had seen the salvation of God. This peace is for everyone and Jesus is the light of the world.

While this was going on, the Holy Spirit led Anna a prophetess to Jesus. She had been a widow for a long time and served the Lord in the temple with fasting and prayers. And coming in at the perfect time, Anna gave thanks to the Lord and spoke of Him to all who was looking for the redemption in Jerusalem. Let us be like Simon and Anna this coming year in our praise of God and speaking boldly of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior to everyone God places in our paths. Lord, let me see people as appointments sent by you and not interruptions of my busy schedule.

**References:** “Fullness of time” – (Galatians 4:4-5)

Luke 2:21 – And when eight days were completed for the circumcision – (Genesis 17:12-13)

Luke 2:22 – Days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed – (Leviticus 12:1-3)

Luke 2:23 – All the firstborn – (Exodus 13:1-2, Numbers 18:15-16, 1 Peter 1:18-19)

Luke 2:24 – To offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord – (Leviticus 12:6,8)

Luke 2:21-24 – Done to demonstrate that Jesus was under the law and able to redeem – (Matthew 5:17)

Luke 2:29 – Peace was proclaimed – (Luke 2:14)

Luke 2:31 – This peace is for everyone to see – (Luke 2:10)

Luke 2:32 – He is the light of the world – (Isaiah 49:6)

Luke 2:33 – Joseph and His mother marveled or kept on marveling. Contrasted with those in Luke 2:18

Luke 2:38 – Looked for redemption – (Hebrews 9:11-12)

**Questions:**

\* Do you see interruptions as inconveniences or as appointments sent by God?

\* Take some time and ask God to send you more appointments to share God's peace and love to others.

**Additional Study:**

**Luke 2:25**

\* He was just (*dikaios*) – living in accordance with God's compelling standards

\* He was devout (*eulabes*) – God fearing

**Luke 2:26**

\* Revealed (*chrematizo*) – to be instructed by God