

**Luke 2:21-40:** And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.<sup>22</sup> And when the time came for their purification according to the **Law** of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord<sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the **Law** of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord")<sup>24</sup> & to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the **Law** of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."<sup>25</sup> Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, & this man was righteous & devout, **waiting** for the consolation of Israel, & the **Holy Spirit** was upon him.<sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the **Holy Spirit** that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.<sup>27</sup> And he came in the **Spirit** into the temple, & when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the **Law**,<sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms & blessed God & said,<sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation<sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles, & for glory to your people Israel."<sup>33</sup> And his father & his mother marveled at what was said about him.<sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them & said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, & for a sign that is opposed<sup>35</sup> (& a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin,<sup>37</sup> & then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting & prayer night and day.<sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God & to speak of him to all who were **waiting** for the redemption of Jerusalem.<sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the **Law** of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.<sup>40</sup> And the child grew & became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

**Intro: Last year:** We saw Mary's visit to the pregnant Elizabeth, & how Mary erupted into a beautiful song of praise known as the Magnificat, coming from the first phrase in the song: "My soul magnifies the Lord!" Main point: God's mighty & merciful reversals for us in Christ enable us & move us to true, heart worship that magnifies God: fear of God, humility, trust, joy, prayer, praise, poetry, songs, & love. (God's mercy forms & fuels true worship!)

**James Edwards:** The recognition & reception of Jesus occurs, appropriately, in the temple in Jerusalem, where Israel's most sacred beliefs & hopes were enshrined. The people involved, however, are not obviously appropriate. No high priest or member of the Sanhedrin, nor any other temple official, whether priest or Levite, receives Jesus. Rather, Jesus is received by two otherwise unknown persons who never again appear in Scripture, who, although they occupy no temple office, embody the sincere faith of the temple . . . Simeon & Anna . . . wait in faith, trusting in the God of the promise - & in his timing. They exemplify the poor who hunger for the kingdom of God, & who may be despised for doing so. Their steadfast courage to await God's promise rather than take refuge in spiritual counterfeits results in their seeing in the baby Jesus the dawn of God's salvation. (Law & Prophets (Spirit) testify!)

Jesus is the perfect God-Man, the Christ, God's salvation, the light of the world, the glory of Israel, the redeemer of Jerusalem, & God's judgment stone Who humbled Himself, died on that cross, & rose from the dead to save His people from their sins. (Jesus is everything you need & all you've been waiting for!)

### **1. Jesus Is The Perfect God-Man Who Humbled Himself**

**Luke 2:21-24, 39-40:** And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.<sup>22</sup> And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord<sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord")<sup>24</sup> & to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." . . .<sup>39</sup> And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.<sup>40</sup> And the child grew & became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

**a. Jesus is truly man:** Jesus was circumcised; Jesus was conceived in the womb; Jesus is a male who opened the womb; Jesus grew & became strong; Jesus increased in wisdom; Jesus was & is a true human being. He's a man!

**b. Jesus is the perfect law keeper:** Jesus never sinned! He always obeyed God's law perfectly, even as a baby His parents ensured that everything required by the law was perfectly completed! Jesus' circumcision: shed blood/cross

**Leviticus 12:3, 6-8:** . . . on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised . . . And when the days of her purifying are completed, whether for a son or for a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting a lamb a year old for a burnt offering, & a pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering, & he shall offer it before the LORD & make atonement for her. Then she shall be clean from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who bears a child, either male or female. And if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two pigeons, one for a burnt offering & the other for a sin offering. And the priest shall make atonement for her, & she shall be clean. **[God's Law is mentioned 5 times!]**

**Ligon Duncan:** Jesus kept the Mosaic law better than Moses! Jesus was circumcised, but God sought to kill Moses because Moses failed to circumcise his son (Ex. 4:24). [Every O. T. hero is a sinner!] **GOSPEL!**

**Gal. 4:4-5, 3:13:** when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons; <sup>3:13</sup> Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us – for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree"

**c. Jesus is "The LORD is salvation!":** Jesus is truly God! The name "Jesus" means "The LORD is salvation!"

**d. Jesus is the humblest Man Who ever lived:** Jesus goes from the highest of highs (He's the Son of God!) to the lowest of lows (takes on flesh; grows in the womb of Mary; passes through the birth canal of a sinful woman; laid in the feeding trough of a cow; born into poverty; the powerful king Herod sought to kill Him!)

**Pastor:** 1) Poverty is not a sin; 2) Poverty is not God's disapproval; 3) Poverty does not prevent a person from worshiping God; 4) Poverty does not necessarily doom a person to poverty forever; 5) Poverty does not excuse unrighteousness; 6) Poverty is not shameful in & of itself; 7) Poverty is a cross God entrusts to some people for a time . . . If some teacher or preacher tries to convince you that poverty is a sin, that poverty is God's condemnation of you, that you have to give a certain amount of money to worship God, or that poverty excuses your sin, then do not listen to that teacher. Remember Jesus. Jesus & His family were poor, & none of those things were true of Him. Jesus was not in sin. God the Father was well pleased with Him.

**Philippians 2:5-11:** Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a slave, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him & bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven & on earth & under the earth, & every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**e. Jesus had godly parents:** 1) They were told to name Jesus "Jesus", & they did; 2) They were told to circumcise Jesus on the 8<sup>th</sup> day, & they did; 2) They were told to present Jesus to the Lord & offer sacrifice, & they did; 3) V. 39 says: "they performed everything according to the Law of the Lord"! (Parents, you have great influence!)

## **2. The Testimony Of Simeon: Jesus Is The Christ, God's Salvation, Light For Revelation To The Gentiles, The Glory Of Israel, & God's Judgment Stone**

**Luke 2:25-35:** Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, & this man was righteous & devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, & the Holy Spirit was upon him. <sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. <sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple, & when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, <sup>28</sup> he took him up in his arms & blessed God & said, <sup>29</sup> "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; <sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation <sup>31</sup> that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, <sup>32</sup> a

light for revelation to the Gentiles, & for glory to your people Israel." <sup>33</sup> And his father & his mother marveled at what was said about him. <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them & said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, & for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (& a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

**a. Simeon was a godly man:** 1) He was righteous & devout; 2) He was **waiting** for the consolation (comfort; encouragement) of Israel – he trusted God & believe that God would fulfill His promises; 3) We're told the Holy Spirit was upon him, revealed to him, led him; 4) He spoke the truth about Jesus; 5) He's greatly loved by God!

**b. Jesus is God's salvation:** Simeon (God has heard) praises the LORD because he sees God's salvation!

- **Exodus 15:2:** The LORD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation **[Jesus is God!]**

- **Matthew 1:21:** She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.

- **James Edwards:** "*Soterion*" . . . depicts the 1<sup>st</sup> human response to Jesus (Simeon) & the final testimony to Jesus from Paul (Acts 28:28)

Jesus saves from sin – all sins! He saves from the wrath, curse, & judgment of God! He saves from Hell! He saves from a purposeless, meaningless, wasted life! He saves from sadness, depression, suffering, & pain! He saves from all the effects of sin, if not in this life, totally & fully in the life to come! No more sickness, pain, sin, or death!

**Hymn:** We have heard the joyful sound: Jesus saves! Jesus saves! Spread the tidings all around: Jesus saves! Jesus saves! Bear the news to ev'ry land, Climb the steeps & cross the waves; Onward! 'tis our Lord's command; Jesus saves! Jesus saves!

**Charles Spurgeon:** When Simeon could say, "Mine eyes have seen thy salvation," he had PERFECT SATISFACTION in Christ. You observe, he takes Christ up in his arms, and says, "Mine eyes have seen," not, "a part of thy salvation," but "thy salvation." He is not looking to anything else for salvation, but only to that Man-Child, seeing all that this Man-Child will do, & bear, & suffer – recognizing in Him the two natures, the divine & the human – & as he clasps Him to his breast, he says, "Mine eyes have seen thy salvation. It is enough, I have here all that I want. Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." Beloved friends, have you ever done with Christ what old Simeon did? "He took him up in his arms, & blessed God." All that you need to save you, lies in Him. I have known the Lord now for some forty years, or thereabouts. When I first came to Him, I came as a sinner, without any works of my own which I could trust or any experience upon which I could rely. And I just rested my whole weight upon the finished work of Christ. Now, after forty years of service, & nearly forty years of preaching the Gospel, have I any works of my own to add to what Christ has done? I abhor the thought of such a thing. Have I even the weight of a pin's head that I dare put into the scale with my Lord's merits? Accursed be the idea! More than ever do I sing – "Nothing save Jesus would I know," and nowhere would I rest but in Him alone. [If you've seen Jesus, you're ready to die! Have you seen?]

**c. Jesus is a light for revelation to the Gentiles: John 8:12:** I am the light of the world. [Jesus is for all nations!]

- **Psalm 27:1:** The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? **[Jesus is God!]**

- **Acts 13:47-48:** For so the Lord has commanded us, saying, [Isa. 49:6] "I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth." And when the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord, and as many as were appointed to eternal life believed.

**d. Jesus is the glory & consolation of Israel: Isaiah 40:1-2; 49:13:** Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned . . . <sup>49:13:</sup> Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! for the LORD has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted. **[Jesus is God!]**

**e. Jesus is God's judgment stone: Vs. 34-35:** And Simeon blessed them & said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, & for a sign that is opposed <sup>35</sup> (& a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

1) Jesus is appointed for the fall & rising of many in Israel: (Fall/Rise: same group?) **Grudem/Schreiner:** Fall refers to the judgment of the haughty & arrogant (**Luke 1:51-52:** he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts; he has brought down the mighty from their thrones); rising refers to the salvation of the humble & meek (**Luke 1:52-53:** & exalted those of humble estate; he has filled the hungry with good things, & the rich he has sent empty away.)

- **Isaiah 8:13-14:** But the LORD of hosts, him you shall regard as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. <sup>14</sup> And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

- **1 Peter 2:6-9:** For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen & precious, & whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." <sup>7</sup> So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," <sup>8</sup> & "A stone of stumbling, & a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. **[Jesus is God!]**

- **1 Samuel 2:7:** The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low and he exalts.

- **Psalms 75:6-7:** For not from the east or from the west and not from the wilderness comes lifting up, but it is God who executes judgment, putting down one and lifting up another. **[Jesus is God!]**

2) Jesus is a sign that will be opposed: Jesus was opposed all of his life! Herod; Pharisees; Romans; Satan! Cross!

3) Through Jesus the thoughts from many hearts will be revealed: Jesus is God's judgment stone! What you think about Jesus determines everything that matters about you! What you think & feel about Jesus determines whether you are righteous or wicked. Whether you trust in & delight in Jesus or not determines whether you go to heaven or hell!

**John MacArthur:** I remember reading years ago about a guy who took a friend on a tour through Paris, took him to the Louvre and showed him all the pictures, and took him to a concert hall in Paris that night to hear a great symphony. At the end of the day he said, "What do you think?" And he said, "I wasn't that impressed." To which his friend said, "If it's any consolation to you, the museum and its art were not on trial and neither was the symphony. You were on trial. History has already judged the greatness of those works of art and the greatness of that music. All that is revealed by your attitude is the smallness of your own appreciation." Jesus isn't on trial, but every soul is. And what happens is, He's raised up as a sign, and by opposing Him, the wickedness of the heart is surfaced.

4) A sword will pierce through Mary's heart: What a pain it was for Mary to see her Son suffer & die the way He did!

Jesus is the perfect God-Man, the Christ, God's salvation, the light of the world, the glory of Israel, the redeemer of Jerusalem, & God's judgment stone Who humbled Himself, died on that cross, & rose from the dead to save His people from their sins. (Jesus is everything you need & all you've been waiting for!)

### **3. The Testimony Of Anna: Jesus Is The Redeemer Of Jerusalem**

**Luke 2:36-38:** And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, <sup>37</sup> & then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting & prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup> And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God & to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

**a. Anna (grace) was a godly woman: Phil Ryken:** Her father's name "Phanuel" means "face of God". She was seeking the face of God. [She was an older woman who basically lived in the temple, worshiping God by fasting & praying day & night! She gave thanks to God for Jesus! And she spoke of Jesus to all who were waiting for Him!]

**b. Anna says Jesus is the redemption of Jerusalem:** Jerusalem is simply another way of saying Israel. Here Jerusalem, the capitol city, stands for the whole nation. Jesus is the redemption of Israel!

- **Psalm 130:7-8:** O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, & with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

- **Isaiah 41:14:** Fear not, you worm Jacob, you men of Israel! I am the one who helps you, declares the LORD; your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel.

- **Galatians 3:13:** Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us – for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree" **[Jesus is God!]**

Jesus is the perfect God-Man, the Christ, God's salvation, the light of the world, the glory of Israel, the redeemer of Jerusalem, & God's judgment stone Who humbled Himself, died on that cross, & rose from the dead to save His people from their sins. (Jesus is everything you need & all you've been waiting for!)

Christ Jesus Is The Perfect Incarnation  
God Come In The Flesh Who's The Great Salvation  
Obeyed God's Law With Perfect Dedication  
Conquered Every Obstacle And Temptation  
He's Christ The King, Heaven's Royal Coronation  
He's The Light Of The World, To Gentiles Revelation  
He's The Glory Of Israel, Our Redeemer And Liberation  
He Died And Then Rose To Save From Every Nation  
Delivers From All Damnation And Condemnation  
Through His Propitiation And Justification  
He's Israel's Consolation And Majestic Demonstration  
Of God's Wisdom And Favor Amalgamation  
So We Trust And Worship Him In Holy Adoration  
As Our Preoccupation And Fascination  
Who Causes Glorious Intoxication  
More Than Anything Else In All Of Creation!