

## Simeon

Luke 2:21-35

As far as the world around could see, it was  
an ordinary scene on  
an ordinary day.

Peasant parents had brought their newborn to the temple  
to do what the law of God required.

Jesus had been named on the eighth day,  
and His circumcision had marked His belonging to God's covenant people.

Now, after forty days, they had come  
to offer a sacrifice for Mary's cleansing (Leviticus 12:6-8) and  
to present Jesus to God.

From the time of the Exodus,  
when God saved Israel's firstborn sons from the destroying angel,  
God had claimed every firstborn son as His own  
(Exodus 13:2, 12; Numbers 3:13; 8:17).

Each could be redeemed for five shekels.

But since Luke mentions no redemption,  
it's possible that Jesus was not redeemed.  
He was likely given back to the Lord for His service,  
as Samuel had been.

Unlike the birth, there was  
no angel choir,  
no spectacular vision.

But the Holy Spirit faithfully witnessed to the infant Messiah,  
as He always does:

*"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you." (John 15:26; 16:14, NIV)*

Already the Spirit had witnessed to Jesus  
through Elizabeth and the unborn John the Baptist (Luke 1:41-42) and  
through John's father, Zechariah (Luke 1:67).

Now the Spirit spoke through the righteous Simeon.  
Waiting, longing, and expecting, Simeon needed only  
the quiet, inner prompting of the Holy Spirit.

God allowed him to  
hold the infant Messiah and  
participate in a once-in-history move of God.

Through Simeon and

through the ceremonies of God's law,  
Jesus was received into God's faithful people.  
Those near Him,  
those who recognized Him as Messiah,  
like Simeon, Elizabeth, Zechariah, Mary, and Joseph,  
would be God's servants to  
welcome Him,  
nurture Him,  
train Him,  
support Him, and  
spread the word about Him.  
They would share His suffering and  
be honored with a place in His timeless story.

Be like Simeon.  
Keep your eyes,  
your heart,  
your hope  
fixed on God.  
See Him move...  
and be ready to participate!

**Hymn: Simeon**

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