

The Birth of Christ

Lesson 4

Luke 2:22-52

December 27, 2020

A Light to the Gentiles

Introduction

Jesus was born into a time of tumult, strife, hope, and expectation for those waiting for the Messiah. Prophets and Scripture had been pointing to Israel's coming savior for hundreds of years. Old Testament authors described a coming Messiah that would fulfill God's promises, redeem the nation, and bring a new covenant.

The birth of Jesus was the most significant event to happen in human history up to that point, and it was the start of a new covenant between God and His people. Simeon and Anna had been waiting for this new savior their entire lives and bluntly stated the significance of the infant Messiah to His parents and Israel. The coming of Jesus initiated not only a new covenant between God and Israel but also a new relationship between God and the Gentiles.

In the same way that Jesus fulfilled the promises of God to Israel and became a light to the Gentiles, He also fulfills God's promises to us. When we enter into a relationship with Jesus and allow Him to brighten the darkest corners of our lives, we also learn to rest in God's promises and grace.

Memory verse: "For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles."—Luke 2:30-32a

Pray and read Luke 2:22-52. What questions or observations do you have about these passages?

What does the passage say?

1. What was the purpose of Jesus' family trip to Jerusalem? (Luke 2:22-23)
2. Who was with Simeon? (Luke 2:25-26)
3. What do we know about Simeon's relationship with the Lord? For what was Simeon waiting? (Luke 2:25-28)
4. What did Simeon say that Jesus had come to do? (Luke 2:29-35)
5. What did Simeon declare that he had seen? (Luke 22:30-32)
6. What did the prophet Anna do when she met Jesus? (Luke 2:38)
7. Where did Joseph and Mary find Jesus? (Luke 2:46)
8. What did Jesus call the Temple? (Luke 2:49)

What does the passage mean?

1. What do we know Jesus' role would be in the world from the things that Simeon said when he met Jesus? (Luke 2:26, 30, 32)
2. How did Jesus become the light to the Gentiles? (Psalm 98:2-3; Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 2:32, 24:46-47; Ephesians 2:13)
3. Anna was one of only four women in the Bible who was called a prophet (or prophetess). Why did she speak about the redemption of Israel when she met Jesus? (Psalm 130:7-8; Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 2:36-38)
4. What can we tell about Jesus' priorities after the Festival of the Passover? (Luke 2:43, 49)

5. How is it possible that Jesus grew in knowledge and wisdom as a child? If He is God Incarnate, why did Jesus not have perfect and complete wisdom from birth? (Luke 2:40, 52)

Applying the passage

1. Traditions and worship were clearly a part of Jesus' upbringing. Were tradition and worship an essential part of your childhood? If so, how did those traditions affect the way that you worship today? (Luke 2:21-24, 39-40)

2. The appearance of the infant Jesus was the culmination of thousands of years of waiting and expectation. Simeon himself had waited his entire life to see the Messiah. Think for a few minutes, then write down the names of a few people that you believe are waiting to meet Jesus. Pray for a few minutes for these people.

3. Simeon prophesied that a great deal of strife and anxiety would come and that many hearts would be revealed because of the baby Jesus. Think and pray for a few minutes, then write down three times that you've experienced anxiety or heartache because you are a Christ-follower. How did this experience affect your relationship with Jesus? (Luke 2:33-35)