

§9: THE CIRCUMCISION AND PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE—SIMEON AND ANNA

Luke 2:21–39a

Circumcision and Naming of Jesus

2:21

21 And when eight days were completed so as to circumcise Him,
(and) His name was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

2:22–23

22 And when the days for their purification according to the Law of Moses were completed,
they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord,

23 as it is written in the Law of the Lord: Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;

The Purification of Mary

2:24

24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord:
A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.

Simeon Introduced

2:25–26

25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon;
and this man was righteous and devout, waiting in anticipation for the consolation of Israel;
and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

26 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.

Simeon Enters the Temple

2:27–28

27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple;
and when the parents brought in the child Jesus so that they could do for Him according to the custom of the Law,
28 then he took Him into his arms, and he blessed God and said:

Simeon's Blessing

2:29–32

29 Now You [can] let Your servant depart, O Master,
according to Your word, in peace;

30 for my eyes have seen Your salvation,

31 which You have prepared in the presence of all the peoples,

32 a light unto revelation for the Gentiles [lit. of Gentiles],
and a glory for Your people Israel [lit. of Your people Israel].

Simeon Blesses Joseph and Mary

2:33–35

33 And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him.

34 And Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother:
Behold, this one is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel,
and for a sign that is opposed [or, spoken against]—

35 and a sword will pierce even your own soul—
in order that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.

Anna, the Prophetess

2:36–38

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna [or, Hannah], the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in many days [i.e. quite old], having lived with a husband seven years from the time of her virginity.

37 And she was a widow up to eighty-four years [i.e. to the age of eighty-four], who did not leave the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.

38 And at that very hour she came up and was giving thanks to God and speaking of Him to all those waiting in anticipation for the redemption of Jerusalem.

Joseph and Mary Complete the Temple Requirements

2:39a

39a And when they had completed everything according to the law of the Lord...

Notes

1. **Circumcision** (2:21). See the original law given in Gen. 17 and repeated in the Law of Moses in Lev. 12:3. The naming of the newborn at circumcision is recorded also in the account of John's birth in Lk. 1:59.
2. **Present** (2:22). See Ex. 13:2,11–16; Num. 18:15–16.
3. **Purification** (2:22). See Lev. 12:1–8; 5:11; Num. 6:10. Note how this information sheds light on the social status of Mary.
4. **Tribe of Asher** (2:36). See a genealogical chart of the family of Abraham. Asher belonged to the northern kingdom of Israel which was taken into captivity ca. 721 B.C. by the Assyrians. Although the 10 northern tribes were dispersed as a result of this captivity, they were not entirely "lost" since Anna's genealogy is still known.