

LUKE: THE SON OF MAN, THE SAVIOR HAS
COME, WEEK 11

TITLE: THE BABY JESUS IS TAKEN TO THE
TEMPLE

TEXT: LUKE 2:22-35

INTRODUCTION: (1) IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE
FALL OF ADAM AND EVE IN THE GARDEN OF
EDEN, GOD PROMISED TO SEND A SAVIOR IN
GENESIS 3:15.

* NOW GOD ALWAYS, ALWAYS, KEEPS HIS
PROMISES. THUS GALATIANS 4:4&5 SAYS:
(QUOTE THEM)

** SO AT THE PROPER TIME, GOD SENT HIS SON
INTO THE WORLD, HE KEPT HIS PROMISE.

*** THEN, THE O.T. SAID THAT THE SAVIOR, THE
MESSIAH WOULD BE A DESCENDANT OF
ABRAHAM AND DAVID AND JESUS WAS, GOD
KEPT HIS PROMISE.

**** THE O.T. PREDICTED IN MICAH 5:2 THAT THE SAVIOR WOULD BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM, AND JESUS WAS, GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE.

(2) THE O.T. PREDICTED THAT THE SAVIOR WOULD BE BORN OF A VIRGIN IN ISAIAH 7:14, AND JESUS WAS, GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE.

* THE O.T. PREDICTED THAT THE SAVIOR WOULD BE PRECEDED BY A FORERUNNER WHOM WOULD PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD, AND JOHN THE BAPTIST DID THAT, SO JESUS WAS PRECEDED BY A FORERUNNER, GOD KEPT HIS WORD.

** THEN THE O.T. PREDICTED THAT JESUS **WOULD BE JEHOVAH'S SUFFERING SERVANT IN** ISAIAH 53, AND JESUS WAS, AGAIN GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE. AND THOSE ARE BUT A FEW OF THE MANY O.T. PROPHECIES AND PROMISES THAT JESUS CHRIST FULFILLED.

*** HOWEVER, DESPITE THE CLEAR TESTIMONY OF THE SAVIOR IN THE O.T., ONLY A SMALL BELIEVING REMNANT IN ISRAEL WERE PREPARED TO RECOGNIZE JESUS WHEN HE CAME, WHEN HE WAS BORN, WHEN GOD BECAME MAN.

**** AND IN OUR STUDY OF LUKE UP TO THIS POINT, WE HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO A FEW PEOPLE THAT MAKE UP THAT REMNANT.

(3) ZACHARIAS, A PRIEST AND HIS WIFE ELIZABETH, WHOM BECAME THE PARENTS OF JOHN THE BAPTIZER, THE FORERUNNER OF CHRIST.

* THEN JOSEPH AND MARY WHO WERE DEVOUT BELIEVERS, WHOM GOD WOULD USE IN A PROFOUND WAY AS MARY BECAME THE MOTHER OF JESUS, A VIRGIN.

** THE SHEPHERDS, WHOM BELIEVED THE ANGEL **OF THE LORD'S** ACCOUNT ABOUT JESUS, AND THEIR FAITH RESULTED IN ACTION, COMING TO SEE THE BABY JESUS, TELLING THOSE AROUND BETHLEHEM ABOUT HIM, AND DEPARTING TO GO BACK TO THEIR SHEEP, GLORIFYING AND PRAISING GOD.

*** AND ALL OF THESE PEOPLE BELIEVED THE PROMISES OF GOD AND TOOK GOD AT HIS WORD, EVEN THOUGH SOME OF THOSE PROMISES AND PROPHECIES APPEARED TO BE BIZARRE AND CRAZY.

**** AND TODAY WE ARE INTRODUCED TO ANOTHER PERSON WHO WAS A PART OF THE BELIEVING REMNANT, A RIGHTEOUS AND DEVOUT MAN NAMED SIMEON.

(4) AND WE ARE INTRODUCED TO HIM AS THE BABY JESUS AT THIS POINT IS A LITTLE MORE THAN A MONTH OLD, TO BE PRECISE 40 DAYS OLD, IS TAKEN TO THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM FOR THE FIRST TIME TO PRESENT HIM TO THE LORD AND FOR THE CEREMONIAL PURIFICATION OF MARY.

* AND AFTER MARY GOES THROUGH THE PURIFICATION AND JOSEPH AND MARY PRESENT JESUS TO THE LORD, THEY MEET THIS MAN OF GOD. AND AFTER HIM ANOTHER ONE OF THE BELIEVING REMNANT NAMED ANNA, WHICH LORD WILLING WE WILL LOOK AT TWO WEEKS FROM TODAY.

** BUT TODAY, OUR STUDY CENTERS ON THE BABY JESUS WHOM IS TAKEN TO THE TEMPLE FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND SOME OF THE EVENTS THAT TRANSPIRE WHILE HE IS THERE.

***** THUS I'VE TITLED OUR STUDY TODAY, "THE BABY JESUS IS TAKEN TO THE TEMPLE."**

***** AND UNDER THAT THEME, WE'LL LOOK AT 5 POINTS.**

(5) NO. 1 THE PURIFICATION OF MARY AND THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS, VV. 22-24; NO. 2 THE PIETY OF SIMEON, VV. 25&26; NO. 3 THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD, THE TIMING FOR SIMEON TO SEE THE BABY JESUS, VV. 27&28; NO. 4 THE PRAISE OF SIMEON AND THE WONDER OF JOSEPH AND MARY, VV. 29-33; AND NO. 5 THE PREPARATION OF MARY FOR HER TO UNDERSTAND HER BABY WAS GOING TO DIE FOR HER, VV. 34&35.

* AND WITH THAT OUTLINE AS OUR ROADMAP, **LOOK AT V. 22 PLEASE, WHERE WE'LL START TO** SEE OUR FIRST POINT TODAY, THE PURIFICATION AND PRESENTATION.

I. THE PURIFICATION AND PRESENTATION,
(READ V. 22)

A. NOW AS WAS THE CASE WITH JESUS' CIRCUMCISION, WHICH WE LOOKED AT LAST SUNDAY IN V. 21, MARY'S PURIFICATION AND THE PRESENTING OF THE BABY JESUS WERE DONE STRICTLY IN KEEPING WITH THE LAW OF MOSES.

* AND JOSEPH AND MARY, BEING DEVOUT JEWISH BELIEVERS, A PART OF THE BELIEVING REMNANT, KEPT THE LAW AND FULFILLED THE JEWISH CEREMONIES.

** THEY WERE OBEDIENT TO THE LORD.

*** SO V. 22 BEGINS WITH AND WHEN THE DAYS **OF "THEIR" PURIFICATION ACCORDING TO THE LAW OF MOSES WAS COMPLETED.**

**** **AND THE WORD "THEIR" MERELY REFLECTS THE PRESENCE OF JOSEPH AND JESUS, FOR MARY WOULD GO THROUGH THE PURIFICATION.**

1. AND THE PURIFICATION PROCESS WAS FOR MARY AND IS TALKED ABOUT IN LEVITICUS 12:1-8.

* AND ACCORDING TO THIS TEXT, A WOMAN WHO GAVE BIRTH TO A SON WAS CEREMONIALLY UNCLEAN FOR 40 DAYS AFTER HIS BIRTH.

** AND WHEN THE 40 DAYS WERE UP, SHE WAS REQUIRED TO BRING THE PRIEST A LAMB FOR A BURNT OFFERING AND A PIGEON FOR A SIN OFFERING.

***** AND AS WE'LL SEE IN V. 24, JOSEPH AND MARY COULD NOT AFFORD A LAMB, SO THEY WERE ALLOWED TO BRING A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS.**

**** NOW WITHOUT GOING INTO A LOT OF
DETAIL, THE RITE OF PURIFICATION TOOK AWAY
A WOMAN'S CEREMONIAL UNCLEANNESS AND
WAS A REMINDER OF THE SOBER REALITY THAT
THE CHILD THAT WAS BROUGHT INTO THE
WORLD WAS A SINNER.

2. AND DAVID UNDERSTOOD THIS AS HE SAID IN
PSALM 51:5, (QUOTE IT).

* AND WHAT MADE THE MOTHER IMPURE WAS
BRINGING A SINNER INTO THE WORLD, THE
GUILT OF HER CHILD'S SIN WHICH THEY
INHERITED FROM ADAM.

** SO THERE IS THE JOY OF NEW LIFE, BUT THE
SOBER REMINDER THAT THIS CHILD IS A SINNER
IN NEED OF A SAVIOR.

*** AND ALTHOUGH JESUS WAS NOT A SINNER, MARY AND JOSEPH WOULD NOT SEE AN EXCEPTION CLAUSE FOR THEM TO FOLLOW THE LAW, AND OF COURSE JESUS WOULD BE THEIR SAVIOR AND WOULD BE A HOLY REMINDER TO JOSEPH AND MARY THAT THEIR SON WOULD ONE DAY BE THE BEARER OF THEIR SIN, QUOTE II CORINTHIANS 5:21.

**** SO JOSEPH AND MARY WOULD BE **ULTIMATELY PURIFIED THROUGH JESUS, MARY'S SON, BUT MARY'S PURIFICATION WOULD CERTAINLY POINT TO A SINNER'S NEED OF ULTIMATE PURIFICATION OF SIN.**

3. BUT THERE WAS A 2'D REASON WHY MARY AND JOSEPH TOOK JESUS TO THE TEMPLE AND THAT WAS TO PRESENT HIM TO THE LORD, THE END OF V. 22 AND V. 23. LOOK AT V. 23 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 23. NOW PRESENTING A FIRSTBORN MALE, WHICH JESUS WAS TO MARY AND **JOSEPH WAS A PART OF GOD'S LAW, GOING ALL THE WAY BACK TO EXODUS 13:1&2 WHERE GOD SAID TO MOSES, "CONSECRATE TO ME ALL THE FIRSTBORN, WHATEVER IS THE FIRST TO OPEN THE WOMB AMONG THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, BOTH OF MAN AND OF BEAST, IS MINE."**

* AND WITH THESE WORDS, GOD LAID HIS RIGHTFUL CLAIM TO THE LIFE OF EVERY FIRSTBORN SON IN ISRAEL.

** YET PARENTS WERE STILL ALLOWED TO RAISE THEIR OWN CHILDREN, ALL THEY HAD TO DO **WAS ACKNOWLEDGE GOD'S RIGHT TO THE FIRSTBORN** BY REDEEMING THEIR SONS WITH A SACRIFICE IN EXODUS 13:13-15, WHICH WAS OFFERED NOT LONG AFTER THE CHILDREN WERE BORN.

*** AND WHEN PARENTS PRESENTED THEIR CHILDREN TO GOD, THEY WERE SETTING THEM APART FOR HIS SERVICE. AND OF COURSE JESUS IS PRESENTED TO THE LORD CEREMONIALLY, AND OF COURSE HIS PURPOSE WAS ALWAYS TO DO HIS FATHER **IN HEAVEN'S** WILL, QUOTE JOHN 6:38.

**** NOW AFTER THIS PARENTHESIS, THIS PARENTHETICAL STATEMENT IN V. 23, IN V. 24 LUKE RETURNS TO THE OTHER REASON JOSEPH AND MARY WENT TO THE TEMPLE, HER CEREMONIAL CLEANSING, TO OFFER THE APPROPRIATE SACRIFICE. LOOK AT V. 24 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 24. NOW THE NORMAL SACRIFICE **FOR A WOMAN'S PURIFICATION WAS A ONE** YEAR OLD LAMB FOR A BURNT OFFERING AND A YOUNG PIGEON OR TURTLEDOVE FOR A SIN OFFERING IN LEVITICUS 12:6.

* BUT FOR THOSE WHOM WERE TOO POOR TO AFFORD A LAMB, AN ALTERNATIVE SACRIFICE WAS ALLOWED IN LEVITICUS 12:8, WHICH SAYS: **"BUT IF SHE CANNOT AFFORD A LAMB, THEN SHE SHALL TAKE TWO TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS, THE ONE FOR A BURNT OFFERING AND THE OTHER FOR A SIN OFFERING; AND THE PRIEST SHALL MAKE ATONEMENT FOR HER, AND SHE WILL BE CLEAN."**

** AND OF COURSE JOSEPH AND MARY FOLLOWED THIS PORTION OF THE LAW WHICH WAS AN INDICATION OF THE POVERTY INTO WHICH JESUS WAS BORN, AND THUS A FURTHER REMINDER OF THE HUMILITY OF HIS INCARNATION, THE CONDESCENSION OF THE GOD-MAN, AS THE CREATOR BECAME A PART OF HIS CREATION.

*** SO IN VV. 22-24 WE SEE THE PURIFICATION OF MARY AND THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS, WHICH LEADS US TO THE 4TH PERSON OF OUR STUDY TODAY, GODLY SIMEON. LOOK AT V. 24 **PLEASE WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR 2'D POINT TODAY, THE PIETY OF SIMEON.**

II. THE PIETY, (READ V. 25)

A. NOW SIMEON WAS A PIOUS GODLY MAN WHO LIVED IN JERUSALEM AND THE WORD PIETY HAS TO DO WITH A REVERENCE FOR GOD AND GODLINESS.

*** AND 4 THINGS DECLARE SIMEON'S PIETY IN V. 25.**

** NO. 1 HE WAS RIGHTEOUS OR JUST MEANING THAT AS A JEWISH MAN HE WAS CONFORMING TO THE LAW, HE WAS CAREFUL ABOUT HIS RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE LAW AND CONSCIENTIOUS ABOUT HIS SERVICE TO GOD.

*** NO. 2 VERSE 25 SAYS HE WAS DEVOUT WHICH LIT. MEANS HE WAS A GOD-FEARING MAN, ONE WHO REVERENCED GOD.

**** AND IN A SENSE, RIGHTEOUS DESCRIBES **MORE OF SIMEON'S OUTWARD LIFE WHILE** DEVOUT DESCRIBES HIS INNER LIFE, HE WAS A JEWISH MAN THAT CERTAINLY WAS IN A MINORITY IN THAT DAY, A PART OF THE REMNANT IN ISRAEL THAT HAD NOT APOSTATIZED.

1. BUT NOT ONLY WAS SIMEON RIGHTEOUS AND DEVOUT, BUT NO. 3, HIS GODLINESS IS SHOWN **BY THE STATEMENT THAT HE WAS "LOOKING FOR THE CONSOLATION OF ISRAEL."**

* AND BASICALLY THE PHRASE LOOKING FOR THE CONSOLATION OF ISRAEL MEANS THAT SIMEON WAS LOOKING FOR THE COMING OF **ISRAEL'S MESSIAH PROPHESED TO THEM IN THE O.T.**

** IT WAS THE HOPE, THE COMFORTING THOUGHT THAT THE MESSIAH WOULD COME.

*** AND WARREN WEIRSBÉ IN HIS BIBLE EXPOSITION COMMENTARY VOLUME ONE SAID: ONE OF THE TRADITIONAL JEWISH PRAYERS WAS IN THAT DAY, **"MAY I SEE THE CONSOLATION OF ISRAEL."**

**** AND BELOVED, SIMEON HAD NOT LOST THAT HOPE, HE WAS LOOKING FOR THE **MESSIAH'S COMING AND THE COMFORT AND JOY** OF THAT REALITY WAS SOMETHING HE HAD FAITH TO SEE.

***** AND THEN A FOURTH THING IS SAID ABOUT SIMEON THAT COMMUNICATES HIS PIETY IS THE **"HOLY SPIRIT WAS UPON HIM."**

2. AND THAT SIMPLY MEANS HE WAS BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT AS AN O.T. TYPE OF BELIEVER THAT LOOKED FORWARD TO THE **MESSIAH'S COMING.**

* AND SIMEON WAS INFLUENCED AND LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD, HE WAS DIRECTING SIMEON IN THIS IN-BETWEEN PERIOD BEFORE PENTECOST WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD COME IN FULLNESS.

**** AND WE SEE THE HOLY SPIRIT'S INFLUENCE AND DIRECTION IN SIMEON'S LIFE EVEN MORE CLEARLY IN V. 26. LOOK AT V. 26 PLEASE.**

B. READ V. 26. NOW THE HOLY SPIRIT REVEALED, MADE KNOWN TO SIMEON THAT HE **WOULD SEE THE LORD'S CHRIST, LIT. THE LORD'S ANOINTED ONE, THE LORD GOD'S MESSIAH** BEFORE HE WOULD DIE, IN HIS LIFETIME.

* SIMEON RECEIVED A REVELATION FROM GOD WHICH THE SPECIFICS ARE NOT GIVEN IN WHAT WAY THIS REVELATION CAME THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT ITS FULFILLMENT WOULD HAPPEN BEFORE HIS DEATH.

** SO THIS PIOUS GODLY MAN LIVED WITH DAILY HOPE. AND HOW LONG HE HAD WAITED FOR THE HOPE AND CONSOLATION OF ISRAEL IS NOT REVEALED.

*** BUT PROBABLY DAY BY DAY HE LONGED AND LIVED FOR THE TIME WHEN THIS REVELATION WOULD BE REVEALED.

**** AND I CAN LIKEN IT TO THE LORD GOD REVEALING TO US THAT WE WOULD SEE JESUS RETURN BEFORE WE DIE, AND IF THAT WERE TO HAPPEN, WE WOULD WAKE UP EACH DAY, THINKING, PERHAPS TODAY, PERHAPS TODAY JESUS WILL RETURN. THERE WOULD BE GREAT ANTICIPATION.

1. AND OF COURSE, ONE DAY HE WILL RETURN AND WE SHOULD LIVE IN LIGHT OF HIS COMING WITH HOPE THAT HELPS AND THAT CHANGES OUR LIVES, IT HAS A PURIFYING EFFECT, QUOTE I JOHN 3:2&3.

* AND SIMEON NO DOUBT LIVED IN HOPE THAT IMPACTED HIS LIFE THAT IT COULD BE SAID HE WAS RIGHTEOUS AND DEVOUT AND MAY THAT BE SAID ABOUT US.

** MAY THERE BE A GODLY PIETY IN OUR LIVES AS THERE **WAS IN SIMEON'S** – LIVING IN HOPE.

*** AND WITH THAT SAID, WE MOVE FROM **SIMEON'S PIETY TO THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD IN** FULFILLING HIS HOPE, LOOK AT V. 27 PLEASE **WHERE WE'LL START TO SEE OUR 3'D** POINT TODAY, THE PROVIDENCE.

III. THE PROVIDENCE, (READ V. 27)

A. NOW PROVIDENTIALLY AND BY THE SPIRIT'S GUIDANCE SIMEON'S SURE HOPE BECAME A REALITY.

* FOR ONE DAY HE WAS LED TO GO TO THE TEMPLE IN HIS HOMETOWN IN JERUSALEM, IN OTHER WORDS, THE SPIRIT PROVIDENTIALLY PROMPTED HIS HEART AND SIMEON KNEW IT WAS EXACTLY THE RIGHT TIME TO GO TO THE TEMPLE.

** AND THE WORD TEMPLE HERE MAKES REFERENCE TO THE TEMPLE COURTS, MOST LIKELY THE COURT OF WOMEN, THE OUTSIDE COURTYARD THAT WAS THE ONLY TEMPLE RELATED PLACE MARY COULD GO.

*** **FOR IN GOD'S PERFECT PROVIDENCE** AND TIMING, WHEN SIMEON GOES TO THE TEMPLE, WHO IS THERE?

**** THE ANSWER, JOSEPH AND MARY, THE PARENTS OF THE BABY JESUS.

***** FOR GOD ORDAINED AND APPOINTED A TIME AND PLACE FOR SIMEON AND THE CHRIST TO MEET.

1. AND IT WAS NOT AN ACCIDENT OR A COINCIDENCE BUT DIVINE PROVIDENCE THAT JOSEPH AND MARY WOULD BE AT THE SAME PLACE AT THE SAME TIME.

* FOR ALTHOUGH SIMEON LIVED IN JERUSALEM, JOSEPH AND MARY DID NOT, THEY WOULD HAVE TO MAKE A TRIP THERE WITH THE BABY JESUS.

** AND GOD USED THE LAW OF PURIFICATION AND PRESENTATION TO BRING JOSEPH AND MARY TO THE TEMPLE WHEN JESUS WAS APPROXIMATELY 40 DAYS OLD AND THE HOLY SPIRIT WOULD PROMPT SIMEON TO BE AT THE TEMPLE AT THE EXACT SAME TIME.

** AND CLEARLY THIS IS DIVINE PROVIDENCE. AND I LOVE THE WORD PROVIDENCE, WHICH **HAS TO DO WITH GOD'S GUIDANCE IN DIRECTING** OUR LIVES, HIS DIVINE CARE AND DIRECTION OF OUR LIVES, HIS MANAGEMENT OF OUR LIVES.

*** AND IN APPLICATION AS I LOOK AT THE EVENTS OF MY LIFE UP TO THIS POINT, I SEE **GOD'S INVISIBLE HAND, HIS UNSEEN** HAND BEHIND EVERYTHING THAT HAS EVER HAPPENED TO ME.

**** I SEE DIVINE ENCOUNTERS, I SEE PROTECTION, I SEE GUIDANCE, I SEE MEETINGS AND TIMING AND EVENTS AND PEOPLE THAT HE ORCHESTRATED AND SUPERINTENDED IN MY LIFE.

3. AND WITH THAT GUIDANCE AND TIMING HE MANIFESTS HIS SOVEREIGN CONTROL OVER EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE FROM A PHONE CALL TO A LETTER, TO A MEETING, TO THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF PREPARING ME TO BE A PASTOR, AND EVEN MEETING BETH. (ILLUST. BETH AND MY DAD).

* AND BELOVED I HAVE SAID ALL THAT TO SAY THIS, PRAISE GOD FOR HIS UNSEEN HAND IN OUR LIVES THROUGH HEARTACHE AND HAPPINESS. HE REIGNS, HE RULES, HE WORKS IN ALL THINGS, GOOD AND BAD, FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE WHICH IS FOR OUR GOOD AND **GOD'S GLORY.**

** AND HERE WE SEE HIS GOOD WORK FOR SIMEON AND JOSEPH AND MARY, IN HIS UNSEEN HAND OF PROVIDENCE IN THEIR LIVES - BRINGING THEM TOGETHER.

*** **AND THIS JOY OF GOD'S TIMING LEADS** SIMEON TO DO SEVERAL THINGS, THE FIRST ONE TALKED ABOUT IN V. 28. LOOK AT V. 28 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 28. NOW WHEN SIMEON SEES THE BABY JESUS, JUST 40 DAYS OLD, HE TAKES HIM INTO HIS ARMS AND BLESSES GOD FOR THAT PRIVILEGE AND JOY AND HONOR.

* AND WHAT A JOY TO HOLD A BABY, ESPECIALLY ONES THAT ARE NEWBORN OR VERY YOUNG, THEY ARE SO TINY, TINY LITTLE HUMAN BEINGS, MIRACLES **FROM GOD'S HAND.**

** BUT THE BABY THAT SIMEON IS HOLDING IS NOT ONLY A LITTLE HUMAN BEING, BUT GOD!

*** SIMEON IS HOLDING GOD THE SON, IMMANUEL, GOD WITH US! SIMEON IS HOLDING THE MESSIAH, THE ANOINTED ONE OF GOD, THE CONSOLATION OF ISRAEL SO HE BLESSES GOD, HE GIVES PRAISE TO GOD FOR THE GREAT JOY AND PRIVILEGE.

**** AND HIS PRAISE IS RECORDED FOR US IN VV. 29-32 WHICH IS OUR 4TH POINT TODAY, THE PRAISE. LOOK AT V. 29 PLEASE.

IV. THE PRAISE, (READ V. 29)

A. NOW SIMEON'S PRAISE ACCORDING TO SOME - SIMEON'S SONG IS KNOWN IN LATIN AS THE NUNC DIMITTIS (NOONC DIM-MIT-TIS) TAKEN FROM THE TWO OPENING WORDS OF V. 29, "NOW LORD" MEANING NOW DISMISS, NOW ALLOW ME TO DIE IS SIMEON'S RESPONSE, NOW LORD LET ME DIE FOR I HAVE SEEN YOUR SALVATION, LET ME DEPART.

*** FOR V. 29 COMMUNICATES SIMEON'S AFFIRMATION THAT GOD WAS LETTING HIM DEPART IN PEACE WHICH WAS A JEWISH EXPRESSION THAT HE WAS READY TO DIE!**

**** SIMEON HAD LIVED TO SEE WHAT GOD HAD PROMISED HIM.**

*** IN FACT, VERSE 29 BEGINS IN THE NIV WITH SOVEREIGN LORD, FOR SIMEON **SEES GOD'S** SOVEREIGN TIMING AND GOD HAD KEPT HIS WORD TO HIM AS HE ALWAYS DOES, SO HE WAS READY TO DEPART IN PEACE.

**** AND THE WORD DEPART HAS TO DO WITH GOING TO HEAVEN AND WAS USED TO TALK ABOUT RELEASING A PRISONER, TO UNTIE A SHIP, TO SET SAIL, TO TAKE DOWN A TENT, TO UNYOKE A BEAST OF BURDEN.

1. AND ALL OF THESE IDEAS COMMUNICATE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A TRUE BELIEVER DIES OR DEPARTS TO BE WITH THE LORD. WE ARE RELEASED FROM THE BONDAGE OF OUR TEMPORAL DECAYING BODY, WE ARE LET LOSE, WE SET SAIL TO GLORY, WE ARE UNYOKED FROM THIS WORLD, THE IDEA OF PHILIPPIANS 1:23 (QUOTE IT.)

* AND SIMEON IS TALKING ABOUT DYING, DEPARTING IN PEACE, GOD HAS KEPT HIS WORD, AND HE COULD DIE IN PEACE BECAUSE OF WHAT HE SAYS IN V. 30. (LOOK AT V. 30 PLEASE.)

B. READ V. 30. NOW THIS IS GREAT, WHY COULD SIMEON DIE IN PEACE? BECAUSE HE **WAS LOOKING AT GOD'S SALVATION.**

* I MEAN SIMEON IS HOLDING IN HIS ARMS AND SEEING WITH HIS EYES NOT JUST A LITTLE BABY, BUT SALVATION!

** HE WAS LOOKING AT THE SAVIOR, JEHOVAH IS SALVATION, JESUS, THE MEANING OF THE NAME OF THE BABY HE WAS HOLDING, WHICH POINTS **TO THE PURPOSE OF CHRIST'S BIRTH,** GOING BACK TO MATTHEW 1:21 AND LUKE 2:11.

*** AND AS WE GO BACK TO SIMEON, CAN YOU IMAGINE THE THRILL IT WAS FOR HIM TO HOLD THE ONE THAT WAS HIS SAVIOR!

**** AND AN AMAZING THING IS BROUGHT OUT **ABOUT GOD'S SALVATION**, IN THAT THIS SAVIOR WILL SAVE ALL KINDS OF PEOPLE, NOT JUST JEWS, LOOK AT V. 31 PLEASE.

C. READ V. 31. **NOW SIMEON'S WORDS HERE** AND IN V. 32 WERE TRULY ASTONISHING COMING FROM A JEWISH MAN.

*** FOR MOST JEWISH PEOPLE IN SIMEON'S DAY** BELIEVED SOMEONE WOULD COME AS THEIR MESSIAH SOME DAY, BUT NOT AS A SAVIOR FOR GENTILES, FOR ALL PEOPLES, ALL NATIONS, ALL TONGUES, ALL TRIBES OF THE EARTH - THE EXPRESSION **"THE WORLD" IN SCRIPTURE**.

**** FOR GOD'S SALVATION WAS PREPARED, WAS** MADE READY, WAS ORDAINED FOR THE PRESENCE, LIT. THE SIGHT OF ALL PEOPLES, ALL NATIONS, NOT JUST JEWS, THE WORLD!!

*** AND LUKE 2:31 ECHOES THE TRUTH OF **ISAIAH 52:10 WHICH SAYS: "THE LORD HAS BARED HIS HOLY ARM IN THE SIGHT OF ALL THE NATIONS, THAT ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH MAY SEE THE SALVATION OF OUR GOD."**

**** AND LUKE 2:31 ALSO ECHOES PSALM 98:3 **WHICH SAYS: "HE HAS REMEMBERED HIS LOVINGKINDNESS AND HIS FAITHFULNESS TO THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL; ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH HAVE SEEN THE SALVATION OF OUR GOD."**

1. AND BELOVED, THE SALVATION SIMEON IS HOLDING AND LOOKING AT WILL BE A SAVIOR TO THE WORLD-ALL NATIONS, ALL TRIBES, ALL TONGUES, TO GENTILES, NOT JUST JEWS, QUOTE JOHN 1:29 AND JOHN 3:16.

* AND THAT THIS IS THE MEANING, THAT JESUS WILL BE A SAVIOR TO GENTILES, ALL PEOPLES, IS ALSO IS BROUGHT OUT IN V. 32. LOOK AT V. 32 PLEASE.

D. READ V. 32. NOW JESUS WOULD BE A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, AND BASICALLY THE GENTILES WERE LIVING IN DARKNESS WITH NO HOPE. BUT CHRIST THE SAVIOR WOULD BRING HOPE TO GENTILES, WHO NOT ENTIRELY, BUT ON THE WHOLE IN THE O.T., WERE NOT BELIEVERS AS ISRAEL FAILED TO BE A LIGHT TO THE NATIONS.

* BUT CHRIST WOULD BE A LIGHT TO THE GENTILES AS MANY GENTILES HAVE BELIEVED AND WILL BELIEVE.

** BUT NOT ONLY IS JESUS A SAVIOR TO **GENTILES, BUT ALSO IS A GLORY TO SIMEON'S** PEOPLE ISRAEL, TO JEWS.

*** AND JESUS HAS SAVED JEWS WHO ARE BLINDED IN PART NOW, BUT WILL SAVE MANY JEWISH PEOPLE IN THE TRIBULATION AND AS CHRIST RETURNS TO THE EARTH AT THE END OF THE TRIBULATION.

**** FOR ROMANS 11:25-27 SAYS:

V. 25 – FOR I DO NOT WANT YOU, BRETHREN, TO BE UNINFORMED OF THIS MYSTERY – SO THAT YOU WILL NOT BE WISE IN YOUR OWN ESTIMATION – THAT A PARTIAL HARDENING HAS HAPPENED TO ISRAEL UNTIL THE FULLNESS OF THE GENTILES HAS COME IN; (THE FULL NUMBER OF GENTILES THAT GOD HAS ORDAINED TO BE SAVED, WILL BE SAVED. ELECT JEWS WILL COME TO SALVATION.)

V. 26 – AND SO ALL ISRAEL (ALL ELECT JEWS) WILL BE SAVED; JUST AS **IT IS WRITTEN, “THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.”**

V. 27 – **“THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.”**

1. NOW AS WE GO BACK TO SIMEON, IN HIS PRAISE TO GOD FOR A SAVIOR, HE PROPHESES AND REINFORCES **O.T. PROPHECY ABOUT GOD’S** DIVINE PLAN TO SAVE ALL KINDS OF PEOPLES, NOT JUST JEWS.

* AND TECHNICALLY **SIMEON'S PRAISE ENDS IN V. 32, BUT IN V. 33 WE SEE JOSEPH AND MARY'S RESPONSE TO SIMEON'S PRAISE, SO I HAVE INCLUDED V. 33 UNDER THE POINT OF PRAISE, LOOK AT V. 33 PLEASE.**

E. READ V. 33. NOW AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT TO JOSEPH IN MATTHEW 1 ABOUT CHRIST BY THE ANGEL OF THE LORD AND TO MARY IN LUKE 1 BY GABRIEL AND BY THE SHEPHERDS IN LUKE 2 STILL LED JOSEPH AND MARY TO BE FULL OF WONDER AND AMAZEMENT ABOUT JESUS. BUT ALSO NOTE MARY IS THE REAL MOTHER OF JESUS, AND JOSEPH IS THE LEGAL FATHER, NOT THE NATURAL FATHER, FOR REMEMBER MARY WAS A VIRGIN AND THE CHILD CONCEIVED IN THE WOMB WAS BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, A MIRACLE OF GOD.

* AND I BRING THAT UP HERE FOR SOME TRANSLATIONS IN V. 33 READ, "AND JOSEPH AND HIS MOTHER" AND OTHERS "HIS FATHER AND MOTHER," **IN THE NAS.** BUT CALLING **JOSEPH JESUS' FATHER DOES NOT COMMUNICATE THAT HE WAS CHRIST'S** PHYSICAL FATHER, BUT HIS LEGAL FATHER UNDER JEWISH LAW, IT DOES NOT DISREGARD THE VIRGIN BIRTH OR DIMINISH ANYTHING.

** NOW WITH THAT SAID, JOSEPH AND MARY WERE AMAZED BY THE THINGS SAID ABOUT JESUS BY SIMEON.

*** AND THE WORD AMAZED OR MARVELED OR WONDER POINTS TO THE FACT THAT ALL THESE THINGS WERE MIND-BOGGLING TO THEM, AND NO DOUBT THEY BELIEVED THESE THINGS, BUT **EVEN 40 DAYS AFTER CHRIST'S BIRTH IT WAS** HARD TO TAKE ALL THESE THINGS IN AND DIGEST THEM.

**** JESUS WAS A WONDER FROM THE BEGINNING TO JOSEPH AND MARY AND THESE THINGS WERE HARD TO GRASP.

1. BUT GET THIS, SIMEON WILL MOVE FROM HIS **OWN PRAISE AND JOSEPH AND MARY'S** AMAZEMENT TO A PROPHECY THAT WILL **PREPARE MARY FOR HER SON'S DEATH BEFORE** HERS.

*** LOOK AT V. 34 WHERE WE'LL QUICKLY START** TO SEE OUR LAST POINT TODAY, THE PREPARATION. LOOK AT V. 34 PLEASE.

V. THE PREPARATION, (READ V. 34)

A. NOW SIMEON BLESSES JOSEPH AND MARY AS THEY ARE USED BY GOD IN HIS SALVATION PLAN.

* BUT AFTER HE BLESSES BOTH OF THEM, HE SPEAKS TO MARY.

** NOW WHY JUST TO MARY? WELL, JOSEPH WOULD NOT BE PRESENT FOR THE **CULMINATION OF JESUS' MINISTRY.**

***** FOR AFTER JESUS' ENCOUNTER WITH THE** JEWISH TEACHERS IN THE TEMPLE WHEN HE WAS 12, JOSEPH DISAPPEARS FROM THE RECORD, **WE DON'T HEAR ANYTHING MORE** ABOUT HIM. HE MIGHT HAVE DIED EVEN BEFORE JESUS BEGAN HIS EARTHLY MINISTRY AT APPROXIMATELY 30 YEARS OF AGE, WE DO NOT KNOW FOR SURE.

**** BUT MARY WILL BE AROUND, AND SHE WILL SEE THE HIGHS AND THE LOWS OF, RESPONSES TO JESUS WHOM WILL BE A GREAT DIVIDER AND EVENTUALLY DIE FOR THE SINS OF HIS PEOPLE.

1. SO SIMEON TELLS MARY THAT HER CHILD IS APPOINTED FOR THE FALL AND RISE OF MANY PEOPLE IN ISRAEL.

* MEANING JESUS WAS DESTINED IN THE PLAN OF GOD TO SAVE PEOPLE AND JUDGE PEOPLE.

** FOR MANY IN ISRAEL, WITH THEIR PRIVILEGE OF THE LAW AND COVENANTS AND PROMISES WOULD RESPOND POSITIVELY AND RISE TO THE GLORIES OF SALVATION.

*** BUT OTHERS WOULD RESPOND NEGATIVELY AND FALL INTO THE DESPAIR OF ETERNAL JUDGMENT.

**** JESUS WOULD BE A STUMBLING STONE, A ROCK OF OFFENSE TO MANY JEWS AND WOULD LEAD TO THEIR ULTIMATE FALL AND CONDEMNATION.

2. BUT ALSO JESUS WOULD LEAD MANY TO SALVATION IN ISRAEL WHEN THEY WILL RISE AND BE RESURRECTED TO NEW LIFE IN CHRIST ALONE, THEIR MESSIAH, THE ANOINTED ONE GOD.

* AND THEN AT THE END OF V. 34 SIMEON SAYS: "JESUS WILL BE A SIGN TO BE OPPOSED."

** MEANING: JESUS THE ULTIMATE SIGN TO **ISRAEL, THE VISIBLE AFFIRMATION OF GOD'S** DECLARED INTENTIONS, A MIRACLE, A **DEMONSTRATION OF GOD'S POWER AS A** REVELATION OF HIS TRUTH.

*** THIS SIGN, JESUS, WILL BE OPPOSED BY MANY IN ISRAEL, MANY WILL SPEAK AGAINST HIM AND HATE HIM.

**** JESUS WILL BE A GREAT DIVIDER OF PEOPLE AND MANY WOULD AND DID OPPOSE HIM.

3. FOR THE OPPOSITION STARTED WITH INDIFFERENCE AND PROGRESSED TO HATRED, PLOTTING, INSULT, MOCKERY, VERBAL ABUSE, PHYSICAL TORTURE AND IT ENDED WITH CRUCIFIXION.

* SO SIMEON IS PROPHECYING: MARY, YOUR BABY IS GOING TO CAUSE THE RISE AND FALL OF MANY, YOUR SON IS GOING TO BE A LIGHTNING ROD AND TO PREPARE HER, MARY, PEOPLE ARE GOING TO HATE HIM AND ULTIMATELY KILL HIM, WHICH IS THE PLAN OF GOD, LOOK AT V. 35 PLEASE.

B. READ V. 35. NOW SIMEON PROPHESED AND TOLD MARY THAT A SWORD WOULD PIERCE HER SOUL.

* AND THIS PROPHECY IS GIVEN TO PREPARE MARY FOR THE CROSS. FOR A LARGE BROAD SWORD IS USED HERE AS A SYMBOL OF INTENSE PAIN, OF FRIGHTFUL AND PIERCING ANGUISH.

** FOR BELOVED, IN JOHN 19:25-27, MARY WILL BE STANDING BY THE CROSS OF HER SON AS HE WOULD BECOME THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE FOR SIN AND BECOME HER SAVIOR.

*** BUT IT WOULD BE GUT-WRENCHING TO SEE YOUR SON DIE THAT WAY AND BE TREATED THAT WAY.

**** SO A **SWORD WILL PIERCE MARY'S SOUL** ONE DAY AND SIMEON PREPARES HER FOR THAT.

1. BUT LAST OF ALL HE SAYS: "TO THE END THAT THOUGHTS FROM MANY HEARTS MAY BE REVEALED."

* AND UNDERSTAND CHRIST IS NOT ONLY THE GREAT DIVIDER BUT THE GREAT REVEALER.

** AND HERE WE HAVE A CONSEQUENCE OF THE BABY JESUS WHO WILL BE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, THE LIGHT TO GENTILES.

*** FOR LIGHT EXPOSES THINGS, IT BRINGS DARK **THINGS TO LIGHT. AND MANKIND'S** WICKEDNESS AND SIN WAS BROUGHT TO LIGHT, HEARTS WERE REVEALED BY THEIR RESPONSE TO CHRIST. THE EVIL OF THE HUMAN HEART WAS EXPOSED BY THE LIGHT – JOHN 3:19.

**** AND THE DARKNESS OF MANKIND AND HIS SIN IS REVEALED AT THE CROSS, BUT THE **MERCY OF GOD'S REDEEMPTIVE PLAN IS** FULFILLED AT THE CROSS AND LIGHT OVERCOMES DARKNESS FOR THE PEOPLE JESUS WILL SAVE.

AS I WRAP UP THINGS TODAY: (1) WE SEE THE **REPETITIOUS TRUTH OF CHRIST'S BIRTH** PURPOSE TODAY, JESUS WAS BORN TO DIE.

* THIS WAS THE PLAN AND WILL OF GOD.

**** THE CAROL "RING THE BELLS" SAYS** - BORN TO DIE THAT MAN WOULD LIVE, CAME TO EARTH NEW LIFE TO GIVE, BORN OF MARY, BORN SO LOW, MANY YEARS AGO.

******* GOD THE FATHER GAVE HIS SON , GAVE HIS OWN BELOVED ONE, TO THE WICKED, SINFUL EARTH, TO BRING MANKIND HIS LOVE, NEW BIRTH.

******** RING THE BELLS, RING THE BELLS, LET THE WHOLE WORLD KNOW, CHRIST THE SAVIOR LIVES TODAY, AS HE DID SO LONG AGO.

(2) BELOVED, A MAJOR PART OF OUR STUDY TODAY WAS THE RESPONSE OF SIMEON TO THE BABY JESUS.

*SO I ASK, WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE?

****** SALVATION COMES THROUGH CHRIST ALONE BY FAITH ALONE IN HIM BY SOVEREIGN GRACE ALONE.

******* SALVATION HAD COME AND SIMEON COULD DIE IN PEACE.

**** HIS TASK, THOUGH BRIEF AND CONTAINED IN A SMALL SEGMENT OF SCRIPTURE, WAS OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE.

(3) GOD USED SIMEON TO GIVE A POWERFUL AFFIRMATION TO THE TRUTH THAT THE BABY JESUS WAS THE PROMISED CHRIST AND SAVIOR.

* SO I ASK, DO YOU KNOW HIM AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR TODAY? IF NOT TURN TO HIM IN REPENTANT FAITH AND RECEIVE HIM AS YOUR SAVIOR AND LORD TO BE FORGIVEN OF YOUR SIN AND THEN ONE DAY YOU CAN DIE IN PEACE, YOU WILL BE READY TO DEPART, PREPARED TO MEET GOD.

** IF YOU DO KNOW CHRIST, FOCUS ON THE REASON HE CAME, AND PRAISE HIM AND LIVE WHOLLY FOR HIM. QUOTE II CORINTHIANS 9:15.

(LET'S PRAY)