

Luke 2:22-40 New Living Translation (NLT)

22 Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. **23** The law of the Lord says, “If a woman’s first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the Lord.”^[a] **24** So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord— “either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”^[b]

The Prophecy of Simeon

25 At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him **26** and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. **27** That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required, **28** Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

29 “Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace,
as you have promised.

30 I have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared for all people.

32 He is a light to reveal God to the nations,
and he is the glory of your people Israel!”

33 Jesus’ parents were amazed at what was being said about him. **34** Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby’s mother, “This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, but he will be a joy to many others. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him. **35** As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul.”

The Prophecy of Anna

36 Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years. **37** Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four.^[c] She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer. **38** She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

39 When Jesus’ parents had fulfilled all the requirements of the law of the Lord, they returned home to Nazareth in Galilee. **40** There the child grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom, and God’s favor was on him.

Footnotes:

a 2:23 Exod 13:2.

b 2:24 Lev 12:8.

c 2:37 Or *She had been a widow for eighty-four years.*

Questions:

1. Why did Joseph and Mary take Jesus to Jerusalem in v22?
2. What was Simeon waiting for v25?
3. What had been revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit in v26?
4. What did Simeon say Jesus would be for the Gentiles in v32?
5. What did Simeon say Jesus would be for Israel in v32?
6. What was Mary & Joseph's response to Simeon's words in v33?
7. What was Simeon saying about Jesus in v34.
8. What was Ana's response to seeing Jesus in v38?
9. What town was Joseph and Mary from in v39?
10. Explain how Jesus grew in v40?
11. How can you grow in wisdom? Explain
12. As a Christian is the favor or grace of God on you?

What is your response to this favor or grace? Explain