

Jesus Presented in the Temple

Luke 2:21-40

by Don Falkos

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When Mary's baby was eight days old, he was circumcised. His parents named him Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.

Mary completed a forty-day period of purification. Then she and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple, in Jerusalem. There they presented Jesus to God in the hope he would serve God throughout his life. Mary offered a sacrifice. But since she and Joseph couldn't afford the standard lamb and pigeon, she brought a less expensive sacrifice known as The Offering of the Poor.

While in the Temple complex Mary and Joseph encountered a man named Simeon who loved God and was waiting for God to save the people of Israel. Seeing Jesus, Simeon praised God, "At last, sovereign God, now I can die in peace. With my own eyes I have seen your salvation."

To Mary he said, "This child of yours will cause many in Israel to fall and others to stand. He will be like a warning sign. Many will misunderstand him. Many will reject him. And like him, you will suffer – as though you had been stabbed with a sword."

Also in the Temple that day was an eighty-four-year old prophetess, a widow named Anna. Anna saw the baby and praised God. She spoke about Jesus to anyone who would listen, "He is God's salvation for the people of Israel."

Mary and Joseph went back home to Nazareth in Galilee. Jesus grew up filled with the power of the Holy Spirit and lived a life that was pleasing to God.