



## The DAILY JESUS NEWS #018

### Simeon Confirms That Jesus is the Messiah

LK 2.21-35

=====

21 On the eighth day, when the time had come to circumcise him, Joseph named him Jesus, the name the angel had given him before the baby had been conceived.

22 When the time had been fulfilled for their purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 just as it stands written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male must be consecrated to the Lord," (Ex. 13.2, 12, 15), 24 and to offer a sacrifice in accordance with what had been spoken in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." (Lev. 13.7)

25 Look! There was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the comfort of Israel (the coming of the Messiah), and the Holy Spirit was resting on him. 26 It had been made fully known to him by the Holy Spirit that he would certainly not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

27 Zechariah came into the temple courts under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 29 "Sovereign Lord, you may now dismiss your servant in peace, according to your promise. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations, 32 a light of revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel."

33 The child's father and mother kept marveling marveled at what was being said about him. 34 Then, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "Look! This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the secret thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul, too."

=====

NOTE: We use superscript identification of the source gospel in "blended texts" as follows: Matthew = <sup>MT</sup>, Mark = <sup>M</sup>, Luke = <sup>L</sup>, John = <sup>J</sup>, Acts = <sup>A</sup>. This "superscript ID" is inserted at the beginning of the quoted text, identifying that Bible book until a different superscript appears. In addition, *red italics identify the words of Jesus*.

	CONTEXT DIGEST
Location	The Temple in Jerusalem
Time	8 Days After Jesus was Born
Stage of Jesus' Life	Stage II: His 30 Years of Preparation for Ministry

Chapter 3	The Birth of Jesus
Section #018	Simeon Confirms that Jesus is the Messiah

Another powerful confirmation of the person and work of Jesus as Messiah was given to us through the witness of Simeon. Note that it came when Joseph and Mary had fulfilled their ceremonial obligations under the law of circumcising Jesus (2.21), and giving the offering prescribed for first-born sons (2.22-24). Obedience leads to new revelation from God; disobedience blocks us off from further growth, and puts us under God's discipline.

Jesus was born under the law, to redeem those under the law (Galatians 4.4-5). He is the only person in history who has fulfilled every jot and tittle of the ceremonial, moral, spiritual, and civic laws of the Old Covenant perfectly. Joseph and Mary fulfilled their parental role in his obedience. This was part of why they were chosen to provide a home for the Messiah.

Simeon was a man with a very unusual intimacy with the Holy Spirit for his day. This prefigured Jesus' Messianic work of imparting the fullness of the Spirit to all who believe in him. The Spirit continually guided Simeon, and had given him a life-changing revelation: he would actually see the Messiah before he died!

Every day Simeon came to the Temple looking for the Messiah. On this particular day, the Holy Spirit led him in a special way. When Simeon saw the baby Jesus, the Spirit clearly spoke to him: "THIS baby is the Messiah!" I doubt that Simeon was expecting to see the Messiah as a mere babe. However, he recognized by the Spirit that in this tiny new life, he was actually seeing the very salvation of God! Remember...salvation is not a thing, it is God Himself.

Luke, a Gentile, was keen to note that Simeon therefore prophesied that this salvation (Jesus) was *"prepared in the sight of all nations: a light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."* (2.31-32) God loves the whole world.

Jesus was sent under the law, to redeem those under the law, because His mission was to be the Savior of the world. His Messianic mission included the Jews, but was not limited to the Jews... it was for all Gentiles, too. This kind of insight about the ministry of the Messiah was totally different from popular Jewish expectations, and could only come through the bonafide revelation and leadership of the Spirit in Simeon's life. It was yet another confirming sign.

It is truly amazing how the birth of Jesus was confirmed as the coming of God in human flesh by so many confirming words and events!

#### APPLICATION:

It is still the ministry of the Holy Spirit to reveal, make known, and glorify Jesus, even as He did for Simeon. In fact, we today can understand and personally experience SO much more about Jesus than Simeon could begin to conceive! That is why we are on this journey in the DAILY JESUS NEWS through the life of Jesus, one day at a time. But we need to be as filled and guided by the Holy Spirit as Simeon was, in order to fully experience Jesus as our salvation, and glorify Him.

*Are you as full of the Holy Spirit as God's grace can enable you to be?*

*What, if anything, is limiting the Spirit's work and fruit in your life right now? What are you going to do about that today?*