

THE COMING OF MESSIAH

Anticipation of Advent

Discussion Guide
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Sermon Title **Jesus—A Light For Revelation** by Paul R. Martin

Luke 2: 21-40

Introduction: The Gospels record many interesting facts about the birth of Jesus. Each one of them fits into God's overall plan for redemption and not only fulfills prophecy, but proves beyond any reasonable doubt that Jesus is the promised Messiah. In this message we go with Joseph and Mary to the temple to dedicate their first born son: the God of the universe in a tiny infant body! Amazing!

Sermon Outline

I. Devoted to God

In this passage there is recorded an amazing series of events that coincide to provide evidence that Jesus is the long awaited Messiah. The passage reveals to us the devotion of Joseph and Mary as willing servants of God, and of Simeon and Anna whose walk with God allowed them to receive very special promises and blessings. We also learn that Jesus was dedicated to God by his earthly parents and immediately recognized as the long awaited Savior of all the world.

- A. Joseph and Mary, devoted servants of God
 - 1. Obedient to the laws and customs
 - 2. Going the "extra mile" to the temple
 - 3. A special act of dedication
- B. Simeon and Anna, devoted worshipers of God
- C. Jesus, devoted Messiah from God
 - 1. Offered back the Lord
 - 2. Recognized by those with spiritual sight

II. Promised Messiah for All People

It is interesting that Simeon, a devoted Jew, recognized that Jesus was appointed to be the Savior of all the world, Jews and Gentiles alike; yet this is what we would expect from one who was clothed with the Holy Spirit of God. His recognition and prophetic announcement is remarkable:

- A. A Light of Revelation to the Gentiles—Their eyes will be opened to the truth
- B. The Glory of Israel—the Shekinah returns to the Temple
- C. Appointed for the rise and fall of many—He is not neutral, you will either love and serve Him or you will hate Him and rebel, but there is no neutral ground of indifference with Jesus.

III. The Silent Years of Anticipation

- A. Returning to Nazareth
- B. Increasing in wisdom
- C. The grace of God upon Him

Conclusion: God always has the last Word in the flow of history. Those who walk closely with Him become privileged to know what He is doing. Jesus is the fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies: fully God and fully man. He is a Light of revelation to the Gentiles and the Glory of God's people Israel.

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 first-born MALE THAT OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD"), 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." ²⁵ And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking 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.

Luke 2: 22-26 (NASB)

Discussion Questions

1.) xx

2.) xx

3.) xx

4.) xx

27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, 28 then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, 29 "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation, 31 Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32 A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel." 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 Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed-- 35 and a sword will pierce even your own soul-- to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

Luke 2: 27-35 (NASB)

5.) xx

6.) xx

7.) xx

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. ³⁸ At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Luke 2: 36-40 (NASB)

God's Vision and Mission for the Alliance Bible Church

The Alliance Bible Church is a multi-cultural church celebrating the life of Christ in us by:

- Proclaiming the full message of God's Good News to the diverse cultures of McHenry and surrounding communities,
- Discipling believers in living the deeper Christian life,
- Equipping His people for the work of ministry, and
- Demonstrating the unconditional love of Jesus to our community through meaningful acts of service.

NOTES:

Prayer Requests:

The Mission of the Small Groups Ministry

We are a church of connected small groups that meet purposefully on a regular basis to equip one another for ministry, to love and build up one another in Christ, to know Him intimately, and to reach out to a lost and dying world in obedience to the Great Commission.

