

CHRISTMAS SERIES
“THE UNFOLDING TESTAMENT OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST”
PART FOUR
“THE TESTAMENT OF CHRIST’S PRESENTATIONS”
LUKE 2:21-39

INTRO: Over the past three weeks we have been involved in a CHRISTMAS SERIES entitled “**THE UNFOLDING TESTAMENT OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST.**” The purpose of the series has been to lay the biblical foundation of the incarnation of our Lord by studying a familiar passage of scripture concerning Christ’s birth, Luke chapter 2. Theoretically, we are very familiar with this chapter, but practically I believe there are many “golden nuggets” within the text that we often overlook and thus we miss out on a lot of truth concerning Christ’s birth. It has been the purpose of this study to bring out some of those “golden nuggets.” Today we will conclude the series by observing “**THE TESTAMENT OF CHRIST’S PRESENTATIONS,**” and will note from Luke 2:21-39 the three times Christ was presented after His birth and what each presentation reveals about our Lord and how we should respond.

I. CHRIST’S PRESENTATION TO GOD – VSS. 21-24

A. By way of His Circumcision – Vs. 21

1. Circumcision was the sign and seal of the covenant God made with Abraham in Genesis 17, originally given in Genesis 12 that symbolized the relationship between God and Abraham’s descendants, Israel. The parents of every Jewish male were to circumcise their son 8 days after birth. Mary and Joseph had Jesus circumcised as an act of dedicating Him to Father God for service, which service He performed on the Cross.

2. At his circumcision, Christ was officially named **JESUS** which means “**JEHOVAH IS SALVATION.**” Cp. Matthew 1:21. Jesus **Christ came into the world to provide salvation to all humanity that was symbolized through His circumcision.**

B. By way of His “Presentation to the Lord.” – Vss. 22,23

1. This was an act to be done according to Leviticus 13:2 when the first-born child was a son. It was a witness to the concept that the first-born male had leadership duties in the Jewish family. At that time, a sacrifice of a lamb was to be rendered by the family unless they were poor. Mary and Joseph were poor and thus were allowed by the law to offer **a pair of turtle doves and two young pigeons.**

2. In reference to Jesus, He had the responsibility of spiritual leadership in providing redemption through His cross.

APPLICATION: From His birth, Jesus Christ was set apart by His parents to be special unto God as the **REDEEMER.** The fact that He was born into a **POOR FAMILY,** illustrates how Christ humbled Himself in coming into the world to provide redemption – **Philippians 2:7,8**

II. CHRIST’S PRESENTATION TO SIMEON – VSS. 25-35

A. Simeon was a godly, Spirit led man who was looking for the “**CONSOLATION OF ISRAEL,**” **THE COMING OF THE MESSIAH.** Tradition says he was 113 years old.

B. Simeon came into the temple as Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to be presented to God and recognized Him as the Messiah. – Vs. 27

C. Simeon gave testimony of Christ’s **REDEMPITIVE** ministry – Vss. 28-32

1. Christ would bring **SALVATION** – Vs. 30 (Christ is the **ONLY SAVIOR**).

2. Christ would bring **SALVATION** for all people – Vs. 31

3. Christ's work of **SALVATION** would benefit both Gentile and Jews – Vs. 32

D. Simeon prophesied of the **EFFECT** of Christ upon Israel – Vs. 34a

1. Some of Israel would reject Christ – “**Set for the fall.**”

- Most Jews rejected Christ as Messiah – John 1:11

2. Some of Israel would receive Christ – “**Rising of many.**”

- Some Jews received Christ as Messiah – John 1:12

E. Simeon proclaimed two great realities. Vs. 34b

a. That Christ’s work would be a “**SIGN**” that He was the **TRUE MESSIAH**.

Cp. John 20:30,31

b. That Mary would be filled with **GREAT SORROW** over Christ’s treatment.

1. The word for “**SWORD**” described **A LARGE BARBARIC SWORD**, which would cause a lot of **pain**, not just a short sword used by Roman Soldiers.

2. The word “**PIERCE**” is in the Greek tense that means “**TO CONSTANTLY KEEP ON PIERCING**” to show how Mary’s heart was sorrowful over the way people treated Christ during His ministry culminating on the cross.

APPLICATION: From Simeon’s testimony it is clear that Jesus Christ is the **TRUE MESSIAH** for the Jewish people and also the **TRUE AND ONLY SAVIOR** of the world.

III. CHRIST’S PRESENTATION TO ANNA – VSS. 36-38

A. Anna was a godly, prophetess, from the tribe of Asher, and spoke for the Lord (she did not foretell the future) at a time when such teaching was rare – Vs. 36

B. Anna was very old. She was probably about 111 years old.

-Married at 20 -Married for 7 years -Widowed for 84 years = 111 years old

C. Anna lived in the Temple and devoted her life to serving the Lord – Vs. 37

D. Anna recognized who Jesus was and **proclaimed Him as the PROVIDER OF REDEMPTION TO ALL WHO WOULD RECEIVE HIM** – Vs. 38

APPLICATION: From Anna’s testimony it is clear that Jesus Christ is the **ONLY REDEEMER OF THE WORLD**.

LESSON AND APPLICATION

The presentations of Christ reveal that He Humbled Himself to great poverty to provide **SALVATION** for all people whose name and ministry **MUST** be presented to the entire world. **CHRISTMAS SHOULD BE A TIME OF PRAISE, WORSHIP AND EVANGELISM.**