

Sermon

Dr. Leland Eliason

A D V E N T

WAITING WELL

When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every first-born male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

Luke 2:22-24

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Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

Luke 2:25-38

“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

Luke 2:25-38

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

Luke 2:25-38

There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then had been a widow for eighty-four years. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

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Before: Trips to the temple to offer sacrifices were essential.

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After: Neither the temple or additional sacrifices were needed.

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After: The body of every believer is a “temple of God.” Jesus is our great high priest. He constantly intercedes for us. Every believer has full access to God anyplace they may be, anytime of the day or night, in in any circumstance.

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After: Jesus is our Great High Priest; and every believer has complete access to God anytime, anyplace and in any circumstance.

Before: Holy Spirit came upon selected individuals.

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After: Every believer receives the Holy Spirit and is urged to daily “be filled with the Spirit.”

Before: Primary focus upon Israelites.

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After: Primary focus on all people – in Christ there is neither Jew nor Gentile, slave or free, male or female – for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

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- **We must let go of whatever we are holding onto that prevents us from holding onto the Lord and allowing us to sense that He is holding on to us.**
- **Remember how Christ has heals our bruises and restores us when the light in our lives has flickered low. Ask for wisdom to share these experiences with others, especially those who are bruised and in need of hope.**