

THE EARLY DAYS OF YESHUA

Luke 2:21-38 / Yeshua §§12-13

Next Week: Matthew 2:1-12 / §14

When the doctor says “we can repair it”, there is always a sense of relief and future hope. However, there is almost always a caveat included. Pain, surgery, physical therapy and possible complications, are often what must be dealt with before the promised “repair” work is complete. As we look into our passage today, we will see, that although there is a number of promises and blessings regarding what this Yeshua will be and do, there are also some hard truths about him, both for Jews and Gentiles, as well as for his mother Mary.

OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW (LUKE 2:21-24)

Once again we see the righteousness of Mary and Joseph as they fulfilled the requirements of the Mosaic Law. Luke records three specific legal ceremonies in these first few verses, which span the first 40+ days of Yeshua’s life. Yeshua was circumcised and named on the 8th day after he was born. The ceremony of circumcision was required under the Abrahamic covenant as well as the Mosaic Law (Genesis 17:11-12; Leviticus 12:3). Secondly, Mary needed to go through the purification ceremony required of Jewish women who had given birth to a male child. (Leviticus. 12:2-8) The sacrifice that Mary and Joseph brought for this purification (Lk. 2:24) revealed their low financial situation. Lastly, Mary and Joseph had come to Jerusalem to present and consecrate Yeshua to the Lord (Exodus 13:2,12). This section shows us that Mary and Joseph are devout believers in God and his Law. They have done all that is required of them to have a right standing before God, and once their purification and presentation are completed, they are introduced to a prophet named Simeon and a prophetess named Anna. It is from these two mouthpieces of God that Mary and Joseph will receive both encouraging and sobering news.

INTRODUCTION TO SIMEON (LUKE 2:25-26)

Here we are introduced to Simeon. This man is not explicitly called a “prophet” by Luke, but certainly is described as one. He was a righteous man who had the Holy Spirit indwelling him, who had received a direct promise from God that he wouldn’t die until he had seen the Messiah, who now is being led by the Holy Spirit, into the temple where he will meet this promised “consolation of Israel” and will give a prophecy to Mary and Joseph regarding their new born son.

SIMEON’S MESSAGE (LUKE 2:27-35)

It is in the temple, the center of Jewish religious and communal life, that Simeon will share his message of hope and encouragement, as well as his sobering revelation, for both the nation of Israel and for Mary. He recognized that the promise to him was fulfilled, and that this Yeshua, was indeed the promised Messiah King. He prophesied about the two fold mission of Yeshua; to the Gentiles, and to the Jews. This is the first recorded time that Mary and Joseph had heard about the Gentile mission their son would have, and are astonished by it. Simeon then addressed Mary directly with his sobering message. He seems to be drawing on the picture of “God’s Stone” which on one hand, would be built upon and become the foundation of God’s people, but on the other, men would stumble or fall over it (Isaiah 8:14; 28:16). In this way, Simeon prophesied that this boy would bring about both establishment and destruction; allegiance and opposition. Yeshua’s words and works would reveal the thoughts and hearts of all who hear and see him.

There was also a hard personal message for Mary in Simeon’s prophecy. Not only would her son divide the nation of Israel and the Gentile world, but his life would be a sword that pierces her soul. From our position looking back on the whole story, it is easy to see how this would be true. Her son was

Part 1.	The Coming of the King <i>The Early Days Of Yeshua</i>
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misunderstood, rejected, mocked, lied about, and eventually gave his life up. Mary would be a witness to all this and much more. But at that moment in the temple, as Simeon handed her back her son, we can only imagine how Mary and Joseph are feeling. It is then that Anna, an old prophetess, comes into the scene.

INTRODUCTION TO ANNA (LUKE 2:36-37)

Anna was married for seven years before her husband died. She is described by Luke as a woman who spent her days in the temple, fasting and praying. She was at least 84 years old when she came over to see the baby Messiah King. As a prophetess, she would have had direct revelation from God, which she would relay as God directed. This woman was a woman of great faith and devotion to God, and as Luke describes her message, we see the prophecy spoken of by Simeon begin to be fulfilled.

ANNA'S MESSAGE (LUKE 2:38)

Unlike with Simeon, there are no recorded words shared between Anna and Mary and Joseph, her response was to turn and give thanks to God. She recognized who this child was and not only was full of thanksgiving toward God, but also had a message about this baby, for the people around her. Luke describes her as speaking her message of thanksgiving and truth about Yeshua "to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem". Even here, although the infant Messiah King is just over a month old, we begin to see, that the message about him is divisive and exclusive. Anna's message was only for those who were ready to hear, only for those who "were waiting". Simeon's prophecy, building upon the Old Testament prophecies, had already begun to be fulfilled. This infant had begun to reveal the thoughts and hearts of all who hear about him. And for those who were open to what God was revealing, salvation had come, both to the Jews and to Gentiles.

Grace News and Notes

Grace Membership Class: March 31st @ 8:30am in Youth Room

Women's Ministry Brunch: March 30 @ 9:30am, Sign Up on Patio

Walk For Life: April 27th, 8:30am @ Collier Park: Sponsorship Information on Patio