

After Christmas

Luke 2:21-38; Matthew 2:10-15

*On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived. **Luke 2:21***

*When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord **Luke 2:22***

*(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn 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 2:23-24***

*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 upon him. **Luke 2:25***

*It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. **Luke 2:26***

*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 2:27-28***

*“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, **Luke 2:29-31***

*a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him. **Luke 2:32-33***

*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 2:34-35***

*There was also a prophetess, 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, **Luke 2:36***

*and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. **Luke 2:37***

*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. **Luke 2:38***

*the star they had seen in the east went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **Matthew 2:10***

*On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. **Matthew 2:11***

*When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” **Matthew 2:13***

*So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. **Matthew 2:14-15***

Four lessons to learn from the first Christmas

1. There is no such thing as a _____ Christmas.

2. God’s people are often called upon to _____ for God’s timing.

But those who wait on the Lord Shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31 (NKJV)

3. Our primary task is to be _____—even though that may be emotionally difficult.

4. The joy of Christmas is not about today—the joy of Christmas is about _____.

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you,

1 Peter 1:3-4

*Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. **1 Thessalonians 4:13***

*We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. **1 Thessalonians 4:14***

Key: perfect, wait, obedient, forever