

Angels & Advent Day 12

The Presentation at the Temple:

Reading: Luke 2:22- 40



Luke 2:22-40:

When the days were completed for their purification^{*} according to the law of Moses, they took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord,^h
23 just as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,”^l 24 and to offer the sacrifice of “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,” in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord. 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel,^{*} and the holy Spirit was upon Him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord.
27 He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him,
28 he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:
29 “Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word,
30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,ⁱ 31 which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.”^k

33The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him;
34and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is
destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be
contradicted 35(and you yourself a sword will pierce)*- so that the thoughts of many
hearts may be revealed." 36There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of
Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years
with her husband after her marriage, 37and then as a widow until she was eighty-four.
She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer.
38And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the
child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.^m

The Return to Nazareth.

39When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the law of the Lord, they returned to
Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth.ⁿ

40The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was
upon Him.^o

Reflect:

“There are some flowers that open only in the evening, Simeon, the old man, was one of those flowers. Imagine the ecstasy of this old man when he embraced the Child, and his first words were ‘now I am ready to die.’ He then speaks to the mother and notice how he looks backwards and forwards; he looks backward to the people of God of which he was a priest and says, ‘this is the glory of thy people Israel, this Babe.’

Then he looks forward, ‘this is the Light which shall give revelation to the Gentiles.’ In other words, he saw in this Babe, the maker of a new covenant, but he also saw in Him a sign to be contradicted by the very people to whom He came to bring salvation. So that this Christ who was born was not just someone who came by surprise, He’s related to all of the people of God through the centuries.”

Archbishop Fulton Sheen, The Bishop Sheen Catechism.