

“Waiting for the Consolation of Israel”

*A Sermon in Honor of
National Sanctity of Human Life Sunday
Sermon Notes*

- **Abortion is a stunning atrocity against any child, but imagine for moment if it was against the Christ child**

**If Mary aborted Jesus...*

1. ...we would today be _____, _____ under the _____ of Moses (vv.21-24)

2. ...we would today be _____, Jews without _____ and Gentiles in utter _____ (vv.25-38)

3. ...we would today know _____ of the _____ of God in _____ (vv.39-40)

Next Week: Luke 2:41-52 - “Did You Not Know That I Must Be in My Father’s House?”

Community Group Study Guide
For the Week of January 15th - 21st

Please read Luke 2:22-40.

1. What is the purification ritual for? (See Leviticus 12:1-4).

Who needed to be purified: an individual or the whole family? If for an individual, why does the text mention “their purification”? (Luke 2:22)

What was the cause of the impurity?

When is the purification ritual supposed to take place?

Is it the same time prescribed for circumcision?

Do you think the prohibition against touching something holy may have been a problem during this period? (See Leviticus 12:4) Why?

2. What was the normal sacrifice for purification? (See Leviticus 12:6-8)

What does the sacrifice made at in Luke 2:24 suggest about the financial status of Mary and Joseph?

Could the visit of the wise men mentioned in Matthew 2:11 have happened yet?

Luke says that the Holy Family returned to Nazareth after Jesus' presentation in the temple.

When did the flight to Egypt take place? (See Matthew 2:7-22)

3. Compare the presentation of Jesus in the temple with that of Samuel (1 Samuel 1).

Was it necessary for the presentation to take place in the temple? Please explain. (See Exodus 13:1-2, 12-15; Nehemiah 10:35-36)

Were the Levites supposed to be substituted for the firstborn of Israel according to Numbers 3:11-13, 40-51; 18:15-16? Why or why not?

Was another king presented in the temple? (See 2 Chronicles 22)

Compare what Luke says about John the Baptist's (Luke 1:80) childhood with what he says about the childhood of Jesus (Luke 2:40). What are some similarities or differences?

Does this indicate a comparison with John? Please explain. How does strength of spirit compare with wisdom?

Also, compare this with what is said about Samuel's childhood (1 Samuel 2:26; 3:19).

4. What was the consolation of Israel that Simeon was waiting for (Luke 2:25)? (See Isaiah 39:5-40:11; 49:13-26; 51:3-6; 52:9-10; Luke 1:68-75)

What does the term “Christ” mean?

Who is the Lord's Christ (Luke 2:26)? (See 1 Samuel 24:5-11; Luke 9:20; 23:35).

Was Saul also the Lord's Christ? Explain.

Does the Lord refer to Jesus or his Father? Please explain.

5. When Luke refers to Joseph and Mary as Jesus' parents, does that mean he didn't know about the virgin birth? Why or why not?

Are the words in Luke 2:29-32 the blessing mentioned in Luke 2:28, or are they in addition to the blessing?

What is it that Simeon has seen that others can't? (See Psalm 50:23)

Who are represented by "all peoples" in verse 31? Does it include only Jews, or Gentiles as well? (See Isaiah 52:10 and the following verse)

6. What does it mean that Jesus will be a light for revelation to the Gentiles? (See Isaiah 49:6; John 1:4-9; 8:12; 12:46)

Is the extension of the salvation of Israel to the Gentiles a theme for Luke?

Why did Joseph and Mary marvel at Simeon's prophecy?

What did they learn that was new?

From what is Simeon being dismissed?

Is Simeon's blessing of Mary and Joseph similar to the blessing of Eli for Hannah and Elkanah in 1 Samuel 2:20)? Why or why not?

7. Simeon prophesies that the Messiah's ministry will have a dual effect: some will fall, others will rise.

Was this anticipated in the Old Testament? Please explain. (See Isaiah 8:14-15)

Why is only Mary in view in the prophecy about the piercing of the soul?

Does this indicate that Joseph died before the predicted sorrow? Explain.

Could it indicate tension between Jesus and his own family? Why or why not? (See Luke 8:19-21)

8. Do you think Anna had a place to live in the temple? Explain.

When it says in verse 38 that Anna spoke of "him," is she referring to God?

Were the ones she spoke to present at the time of Jesus' presentation? Please explain.