



Today's Message

Date: December 15, 2020
Speaker: Pastor Steven Thomas
Title: *The Child Who Brings Comfort*

Text: Luke 2:22–40 (ESV)

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” ²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation
³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day.

³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Introduction: Joseph and Mary took Jesus along to the Temple when they presented themselves for prescribed rituals that followed the birth of a child. On their way into the courtyard, they encountered two people who, empowered by the Holy Spirit, gave testimony of Jesus' identity and mission.

I. Through Jesus, God fulfilled His promises to Israel.

- A. He is Israel's consolation. 25
- B. He is Israel's salvation. 30
- C. He is Israel's redemption. 38

II. Through Jesus, God supplies deliverance to the world. 29-32

- A. God prepared Jesus for a global mission. 31
- B. God prepared Jesus to be a light . . . 32
 - 1. to reveal truth to the Gentiles.
 - 2. and to restore glory to Israel.

III. Through Jesus, God exposes the condition of every heart. 34-35

- A. All people divide over Jesus . . . 34a
- B. some people oppose Jesus. . . 34b-35a
- C. but every person's response to Jesus reveals what is in the heart. 35b

Today's take-home truth: "The word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18)