

I. Introduction: Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to dedicate Him to the Lord, and God used Simeon and Anna to confirm again that He was the Messiah, the Savior.

II. The After-Christmas Story (Luke 2:21-40)

A. The Presentation of the Messiah (vv. 21-24).

1. It was a big moment for parents to present their firstborn child to God. For Mary and Joseph, going to the temple to dedicate Jesus would have been a high point.

B. The Prophecy about the Messiah (vv. 25-35).

1. Simeon was a true Jew, who was waiting for Israel's Messiah to arrive. The Holy Spirit had already revealed to him that he would see the Christ before he died.

C. The Praise for the Messiah (vv. 36-40).

1. A prophetess named Anna approached the couple, and began praising God and proclaiming that Jesus would bring redemption to Israel.

III Conclusion: Jesus' life was so amazing that it drew the attention of every devout person. Simeon and Anna confirmed that Jesus was in fact the Messiah, the Savior of all men.

Questions About: The After-Christmas Story

1. What would you like to see God do in 2018? Heal someone who is sick? Help a person who is struggling? Deliver someone in sin? Bring salvation to a family member? Grow in Christ?
2. Why was the temple significant to the Jewish people? Why did Mary and Joseph bring Jesus to the temple? (**Luke 2:21-24**) What other people were dedicated to the Lord in the OT?
3. How long were the “days of her purification”? (**Lev 12:2-5**) What does their sacrifice tell us about Mary and Joseph? (**Lev 12:1-8**) What was their religious duty to God? (**Ex 13:1-12**)
4. Who was Simeon? (**Luke 2:25-35**) How did Simeon know that he would see the Messiah before he died? (**v. 26**) What did it mean that Simeon had seen God’s “salvation”? (**v. 30**)
5. What did Simeon mean when he said “depart”? (**v. 29**) What is something in your life that you want to see before you die? What did Simeon reveal about God’s plan of redemption?
6. What startling revelation did Simeon give concerning the reception of Jesus? (**v. 34**) What did he mean when he told Mary, “a sword will pierce even your own soul”? (**v. 35**)
7. Who was Anna? (**Luke 2:36-38**) Where did she live and what did she do? (**v. 37**) What does this tell you about her life? How did her testimony confirm Jesus’ identity? (**Deut 19:15**)
8. What would you like to see God do next year? What are your spiritual goals for 2018? What will be the guiding principle in your life? God? Money? Bible? Fun? Holy Spirit?

Prayer

1. Will you ask God to give you spiritual goals for you and your family for this year?
2. Will you pray that you and your family would be guided by the Holy Spirit?