

Lessons in Luke -- Lesson 1 – “Jesus -- What Will He Do?”

Introduction:

In these lessons we will look at the ministry of Jesus found in the Gospel of Luke. One major theme in Luke is that Jesus came to help the weak and the broken. We will see how Jesus does this throughout Luke. While Jesus lifts the broken, He at the same time brings down the proud. In this first lesson from Luke 2, we will see how a prophet, Simeon, told His parents about this.

Read this passage at least five times, then answer the questions as best you can:

²² Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present *Him* to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who 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 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name *was* Simeon, and this man *was* just 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 So he came by 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 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, ³² A light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."

³³ And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. ³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this *Child* is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against ³⁵ "(yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." (Luk 2:22-35 NKJ)

Luke explains to us what “consolation of Israel” (verse 25) means with the phrase “Lord’s Christ” (verse 26). “Christ” means “God’s anointed King on the throne of David” who will deliver His people from their enemies. What does Simeon call this baby in verses 29-30? Who will find out this and be blessed by it (verses 30-32)?

How did Joseph and Mary react to this (verse 33)?

What is the destiny of this Child (verses 34-35)? What does it mean? Who will rise? Who will fall?

What does Simeon mean when he says to Mary “yes, a sword will pierce through your own soul also” (verse 35)? See John 19:25 for the fulfillment of this prophecy.

What does Luke mean when he says “that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed”?