

"No Greater Gift"
Luke 2:21-38

1. "Jesus" is the Greek form of the Hebrew name Joshua which means "Yahweh is salvation". Read Leviticus 12 and Leviticus 5:7. As was the custom, Jesus was circumcised on the 8th day (perhaps in Bethlehem) and after 33 days, "when the days of (Mary's) purification are completed" (Lev. 12:6), Jesus was brought by His parents to Jerusalem. What did Mary and Joseph's humble offering reveal about this young family?
2. The theme of "amazement" at the proclamation of Messiah runs throughout the book of Luke. Even Christ's own father and mother marvel in verse 33 when Simeon gives a psalm of praise to God for this special child who would fulfill God's promise by bringing salvation. Perhaps they had not fully comprehended the scope of His ministry to the entire world.

How was Simeon different from the religious leaders of that day? (see verse 25)

What's the response of godly people toward the Messiah throughout the book of Luke?

3. What did the Holy Spirit reveal to Simeon (verse 26)?
4. Simeon notes that Messiah was to be for the Gentiles (non-Jews) as well as for Israel (an idea that is set forth many times in Luke). What do Simeon's words reveal to Mary about herself, her son's ministry, and those who would follow Christ and those who did not believe (verses 34 & 35)?
5. There is also a prophetess there at the temple named Anna, a godly 84-year-old woman, who continued the work that Simeon started by announcing that Messiah had come.

What do we learn about Anna's devotion to God in verse 37?

What aspects of this devoted woman can we emulate in our own relationship with the Lord (v.38)?